

Winnipeg, where he has farmed for the last 8 years. Receding from the river the soil is good—a mixture of mould and clay without a boulder. Ploughs that go through it are hard to clean. Has been to Lake Manitoba and seen the Salt Licks, which are 4 or 5 acres as a rule. Timothy grows well, but the dry springs are against the growth of clover. He has seen clover stand for years. The wheat crops are not injured by cold winds or by mildew. He has seen the harvest as early as the first week in August. Frost takes possession of the ground about the 15th October, and farming commences again on the 15th of April. The grass is very rank, and cattle eat the grass as soon as the snow is off the ground, on April 1st. He has learnt from persons beyond Portage La Prairie and north of the Saskatchewan, that the country west of Portage La Prairie to Fort Ellice, and up to the Qu'Appelle, is admirable for agricultural purposes—in fact it has always been considered the finest portion of the country. He raises wheat; gets 22 to 25 bushels return for one sown. Oats are a safe crop, and yield 55 bushels to the acre. He thinks the country favourable for immigrants. He never knew one more favourable for farming. He has heard it stated that by the Mackenzie River, in the more distant North-West, the spring is a fortnight earlier than with them, and that it is the finest part of the country for settlement. He has seen coal from the upper part of the Assiniboine, 3 days journey, or 80 or 90 miles from Portage La Prairie. House building is about twice as dear in Red River as Canada. Timber is more expensive, and nails are 20 cents a pound. Lumber is \$40 a thousand, lime is 18 cents a bushel, and labour in proportion. Shingles are \$4 per M. Stoves are chiefly imported from Canada and dear. He paid £14 stg. for one which he could have bought for \$50 or \$55 in Ontario. Boots, shoes and woollen goods, come from Canada in bond. Rate of carriage from St. Cloud is 16s. a cwt. to the settlement. At Winnipeg a tax of 4 per cent. is levied on all goods. Tavern keepers license is £10 stg. per annum. An emigrant should buy a waggon and horses at St. Pauls, to transport himself and his family, and his plough and agricultural instruments that he must take with him. A light steel plough is the best for the soil. It might be better to take oxen, as they are always worth their price. Best time to go is latter part of May and month of October. It would take a team about 20 days from St. Cloud. By going in May he can build a house and plough the ground ready for spring. They do not plough deep. Carpenters are in demand. They have been getting 10s. a day. Plasterers the same. For stone masons there is no demand. Immigration has been increasing since he went there. The educational facilities are good. He should think the 12,000 population in the Red River country might be divided into one-third French, and two-thirds English speaking.

CHARLES MAIR'S EVIDENCE.

Charles Mair examined—Is a native of Lanark, Canada. Went to Red River two years ago, as paymaster on the Fort Garry section of the Red River road. He is familiar with the country from a point 60 miles east from Fort Garry, to 120 or 130 miles west. He has crossed the Assiniboine at two different points—one 130 miles west from Fort Garry—and knows the country between that river and Pembina and St. Joseph—half-breed settlements on the frontier. It is a beautiful rolling country, and well timbered. Receding from the rivers the country is rich. There is wood enough for ordinary purposes. One-tenth of the land is covered with wood though it is small. The country is not well watered. There are not many lakes or streams. But they could always get water by travelling for it. Waggon could be taken over every part of it. There are plenty of birds. All the Canadian birds, besides the magpie, which is very common. There is a species of small hare in the country. There are geese including the white Arctic goose. Has seen all the aquatic and land birds except woodcock and quail. There are squirrels, but they are smaller than in Canada. He has been over the country between Manitoba Lake and the Assiniboine. It is a fine country. He has taken up handfuls of vegetable loam at a depth of 6 feet on the prairies. He has seen coal deposits. It is used at Fort Edmonton and at Fort Garry in the forges; it appeared friable, when I looked at it, from exposure. The deposits have been on fire several times. It is considered good coal. It is brought from the Souris River, 180 miles west. The Assiniboine is navigable as far as Portage La Prairie by steamboat. But it is shallow and bed sandy and shifting. It might be dredged. He has known as many as 65 or 70 bushels of wheat grown to the acre; the average yield, I have heard, placed at 40. I may say that a farmer going from Canada to Red River considers he has found a better country than he has left. On the other hand, a Red River farmer is disappointed with the soil of the Western States; he considers it thinner and poorer. He has known wheat grow on the same soil for 40 years and succeed. The farmer never use manure. Fish are plentiful. He did not find the cold affect him so much as in Canada. He intends to return to the country. There would be no difficulty in opening a railway from Fort Garry to St. Pauls. The country is admirably adapted for sheep. There is no danger from wolves or other wild animals.

ROUTE THITHER BY THE LAKES.

The Chairman submitted a letter from Mr. Cumberland, Managing Director of the Northern Railroad, in which he stated:—

We have, in connection with this railway, a "Lake Superior Royal Mail Line" of side-wheel steamers, leaving Collingwood (our northern terminus) on the 5th, 10th, 15th, 20th, 25th and 30th of each month (i. e., every five days) on the arrival of our morning trains, so that the passenger proceeds direct from the train to the steamer without delay.

The distance from Toronto to Fort William may be stated at 800 miles, of which 94 is by railway, and the balance by steamer. Emigrants arriving from the eastward connect direct with our trains, either from Grand Trunk Railway or by the Lake steamers.

The time from Toronto to Fort William may be stated on the average as four days; the journey from Collingwood to the Sault Ste. Marie being entirely in sheltered waters.

The rate for passage of emigrants will, during this season, be \$7 (seven dollars) from Toronto to Fort William, either singly or in numbers—one rate all round, in consequence of the great difficulty and frequent disappointments arising from separate rates by numbers.

LAKE NIPIGON.

Much interest has been, from time to time, excited in Canada, by statements which have been made with respect to Lake Nipigon, and the territory in its vicinity. This is our *terra*