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North-Western Manitoba.

By Rev. Wm. Farquharson. No. 2.

The district around Arden is mark-Bay traders is still visible, and though inhabitants. it does not coincide with the road In this district there are many strips

clusion that it belongs to a race of ever. men nearer akin to the Mongolian races of Asia, than to the Indians of the West. His estimate was that the remains had been interred six hundred or a thousand years ago, although he failed to find any sample of their utensils which would have

been a surer indication of the place in history that these men whose remains there moulder in dust, had occupied. What a tale would be unfolded if the man could awake to tell his story. Enough to know that a race of men with their loves and hates, their hopes and fears, lived in these plains and were in death reverently laid away by loving friends, little thinking of the curious eyes that would centuries later look on their dust,

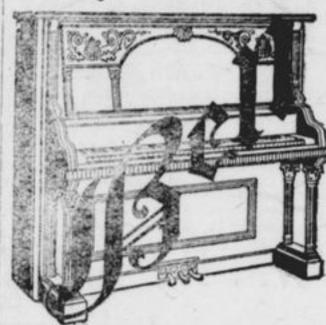
Scarcely less interesting is the story of the formation of these Western lands. At a very far distant period it is believed that all this land was covered with water. It was the age when the cold held sway and not only the northern streams, but the St Lawrence itself was held in the grip of perpetual frost. No outlet was open to the north or to the east and the waters of the Western Sea found their outlet by the channel of the Mississippi. As time passed the cold were broken and the waters began to Massey Harris west became dry land but still the Mowers & Rakes lands east of the Pembina ridge extending over and beyond the present Lake Winnipeg were covered with water in what has been called the sea of Agassiz. Ot that great sea the gravel ridge here is thought to be the beach on its western shore. Thousands of years ago, however, the frost that had steadily been relaxing its hold in the east, even in the lands to the north yielded to the power of the sun and Nelson river began to draw away the waters till the sea was dried and this ancient beach became a ridge W. J. McFadden

former sea became first a prairie fie and later lands for wheat, oats an

To this day the district shows signs of its watery extraction for the White Mud River flows along the flat with ed out by a peculiar gravel ridge vary. many windings flanked by large areas ing from a hundred yards to a mile in of swamp land Through some of the width and having a mean height of districts drains have already been about ten feet. This formation made and no doubt the art of man will stretches in a north westerly and be called in to complete the works of south easterly direction over a dis- drainage for which nature had at such tance of fifty miles or more and has an early date prepared the way. Thus from time immemorial been used as it is that through the process of the the highway for traffic. The impress ages preparation has been making for of the vehicles made by the Hudson a home for manyof the world's teeming

allowance in the modern survey the of timber and wooded bluffs, but tree track was bought up by Government planting has not yet been pushed to and preserved as a valuable natural such an extent as in Southern Manihighway. The Railway Company toba. Crops on the whole look well and many fields tell of careful cultivgreat loads of the finest gravel. At ation, though in some there is evidenthe north end of the town there is a | ce that the weeds are gaining the upper place where the sand and grayel is hand. Dwelling houses are mostly used for making cement building frame buildings, though stone, cement blocks, tiles and bricks, On inquiring and even brick are in evidence. Neat where the cement is procured, I was and tasteful churches are to be seen at told that it came from Durham and every centre of population while the that the cement of that land was good. little white school house with it's ac-With the best cement and the finest companying flag is everywhere in evigravel it is not to be wondered at that dence. Ministers and Missionaries are we were assured of the excellence of expected to soar as on eagle's wings the quality of blocks and tile that for some of them are timed to travel stand as the finished product of their over a circuit of over forty miles every Sunday. Yet if a tenderfoot get in a A year ago Prof. Montgomery, of buckboard after a typical broncho he Toronto University, while holidaying discovers that the miles are traversed in this neighborhood was attracted by otherwise than on flowery beds of the report that in the gravel at no ease. The congregations here are great distance was a round shaped made up of much the same classes of mound. Believing that he had here a people as those in Ontario. You hear trace of the ancient Mound Builders, the accent that tells of the Highlands he got men to make an excavation and the burr of the Lowlander, the and at a depth of some ten or twelve soft tones of the Englishman and the feet he was rewarded by finding a brogue of the men of Derry. But human skeleton in a marvellously whatever the accent, the message that good state of preservation. The body greets the ear is that which rises above had been placed for burial in a crouch- all distinction of race or nation and ing pesition and this with other indi- gives the soul of the things that are cations led the professor to the con- the same yesterday to-day and for-

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