

# **Adventures in Civilization**

**Record of the Development of the  
Canadian Wilderness into the  
“Greatest Golden Granary” in the  
World**

**A Story of Heroic Progress and Achievements**

**By  
Moses B. Shantz**

**Compiled, Edited, and Annotated by  
John R. Sabin**

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Copies of the manuscript are available on CD from the authors in .pdf format.

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## Introduction to this Effort

This book is a real family effort, that has been in the making for over one hundred and thirty years: From the original pamphlet by Jacob Yost Shantz concerning the Mennonite<sup>1</sup> immigration to Western Canada, to the compilation and narrative written by Jacob's son, Moses Biehn Shantz while visiting with his daughter Harriet Elizabeth Shantz Rogers in Springfield, Massachusetts, during the early 1930's, to now, where it is a distinct pleasure to make the book available for the family.

Although I have had a typescript and manuscript copy of *Adventures in Civilization* (perhaps the only copy in the family)<sup>2</sup> for quite some years, and although I have considered copying and making copies available to family members, I have been remiss. The proximate cause for doing this now is that Uncle Jake (John Hiram Rogers, son of Harriet Elizabeth, known always as "The Chief" or "Chiefie" and grandson of Moses Biehn, known in the family as "Grampa Shantz") turns 90 on 28 April, 2005. I hope he will enjoy this birthday present.

*Adventures in Civilization* was written by Moses Biehn Shantz about the part his father, Jacob Yost Shantz, played in the settlement and development of the northwest provinces of Canada in the late nineteenth century. The manuscript was written in the early 1930's, but was never published. M.B. Shantz wrote: "Many who knew the circumstances have for a number of years urged me to have it published. If this can be done so as to bear out his motive for doing this strenuous work in such a way that it will be an inspiration to others, for noble efforts, it will be considered a pleasure and an honor." Finally, here it is. But first, a bit of Shantz family history.

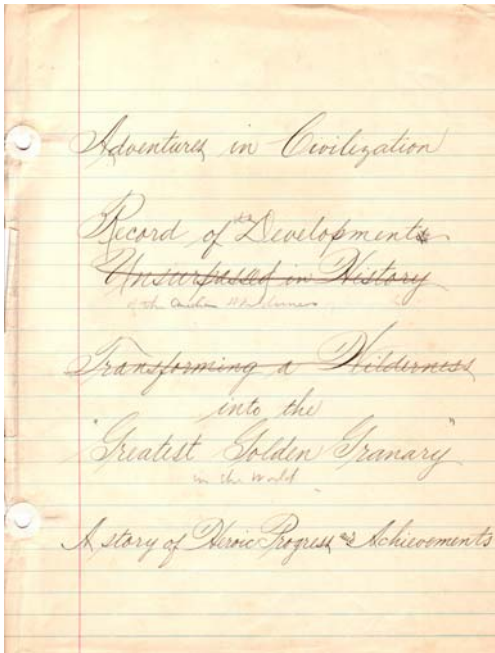
The Shantz family<sup>3</sup> (see Figure 2) was established in the United States by Jacob Shantz (1710 – 1781) who was born in Switzerland in 1710, spent some fifteen years in Holland and then came to Pennsylvania, arriving in Philadelphia in the summer of 1737 on a boat called *Townshead*. His first wife, and the great grandmother of Jacob Yost Shantz, was Magdalena Erb, with whom he had three children. He died and was buried in Pottstown Pennsylvania, in 1781 (see Figure 3).

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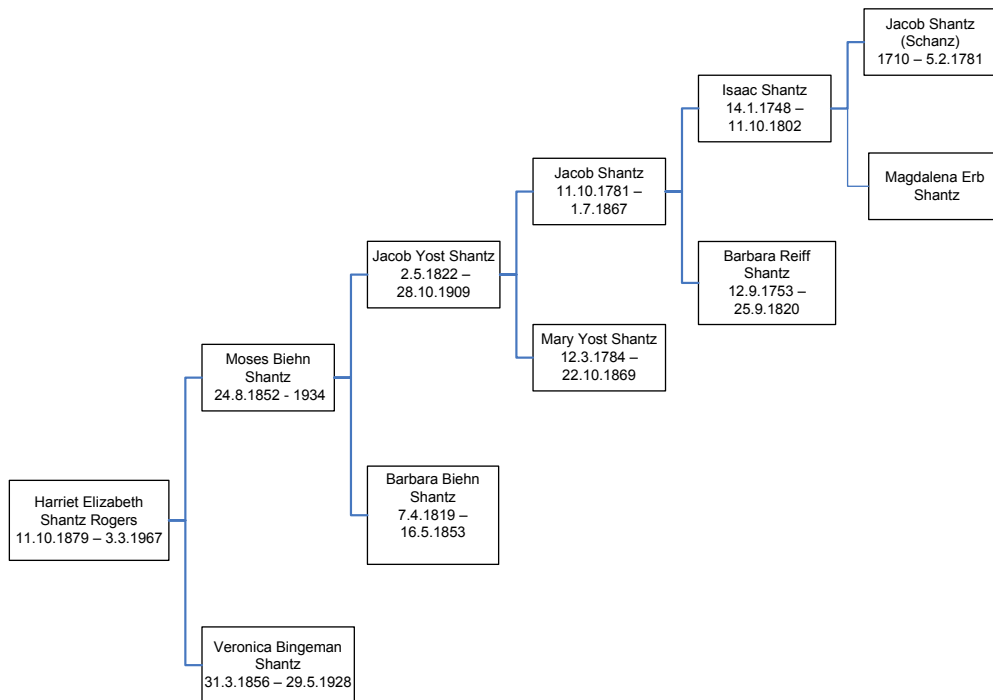
<sup>1</sup> The Mennonites are followers of the teachings of a Dutch parish priest from Friesland called Menno Simons (1496 – 1561) who left the Roman Catholic Church to join the Anabaptists in 1536. He believed in baptism at the age of reason, non-violence, and non-participation in the magistracy.

<sup>2</sup> There is at least one more copy extant, in the Mennonite Archives of Ontario, adjacent to the Conrad Grebel University College Library, which is maintained by Sam Steiner.

<sup>3</sup> Much information on the Shantz genealogy can be found in the town records of Waterloo Canada: <http://ebybook.region.waterloo.on.ca>.



**Figure 1: Manuscript cover page of *Adventures in Civilization* by M.B. Shantz**



**Figure 2: Short Genealogy of Moses Biehn Shantz<sup>4</sup>**

<sup>4</sup> Dates are written day.month.year

Isaac Shantz, the third child of Jacob and Magdalena, was born on 14 January, 1748, in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania, where he married Barbara Reiff (4.5.1774). They had nine children. Isaac died on his farm, near the Schuylkill River on 11 October, 1802. In 1808, Barbara Reiff Shantz, along with three of her younger children moved to Canada, and settled near Berlin, where she lived until her death on 25 September, 1820. She is buried in the Christian Eby Burial Ground in Berlin.

Jacob Shantz, the third son and fourth child of Isaac and Barbara Reiff Shantz, was born near Pottstown, Montgomery County, on 11 October, 1781. In 1805 he married Mary Yost, also of Montgomery County (see Figure 4). They had ten children. In 1810, they also moved to Berlin, Ontario, where eight of their children were born. They remained there until their deaths.

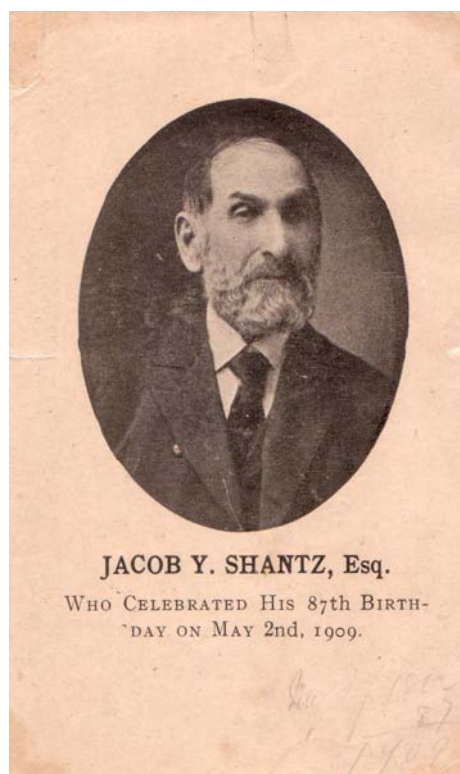


**Figure 3: The grave of Jacob Shantz in the Sprogell cemetery in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The inscription reads, “HERE LIES THE BODY OF JACOB SCHANZ DIED FEBRUARY 1781.”**

On 2 May, 1822, Jacob Yost Shantz (see Figure 5), the eighth child of Jacob and Mary Yost Shantz and the subject of this volume, was born near Berlin, Ontario. He married three times, and had a total of nineteen children. After his first marriage, to Barbara Biehn (2.5.1843), he moved to his fathers farm, known as “Jacob Shantz’ Place,” where he lived for over forty years. The youngest of the five children he had together with Barbara Biehn Shantz was Moses Biehn Shantz (see Figure 6), who is the author of this book.

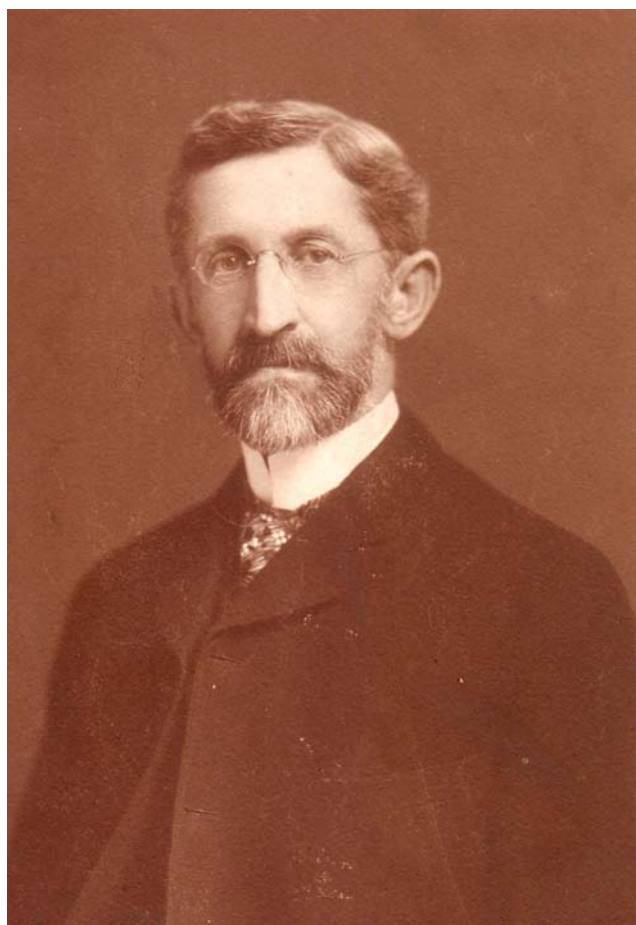


**Figure 4: Jacob Shantz (1781 - 1867) and Mary Yost Shantz (1784 - 1869)**



**Figure 5: Jacob Yost Shantz (1822 – 1909)**





**Figure 6: Moses Biehn Shantz (1852 - 1934)**

With that short introduction, here is Grampa Shantz' book. I have made as few changes as possible in turning the typescript into print text, although a few minor changes have been made for clarity. Most of my added comments are included as short footnotes. Further information can be found at the Mennonite archives of Ontario (<http://grebel.uwaterloo.ca/mao>) and at the Waterloo Region Historical records (<http://ebybook.region.waterloo.on.ca>).

## M. B. Shantz' General Introduction

The Title Page briefly indicates the purpose of this volume. Before 1870 very little was known about the northern half of the North American Continent known as British North America, outside of upper Canada (Ontario), Quebec, the Maritime Provinces, and a small portion of British Columbia. Comparatively little knowledge was obtainable by the general public, except that it was the hunting ground for wild fur bearing animals.

After the expiration of the Charter of the Hudson Bay Company in 1870 when that vast territory became a part of the Dominion of Canada, the administration desired to do something more and to make greater progress than had been made during the previous two hundred years. They took such action they hoped would arouse enthusiasm in the country and in due time would bring desirable results.

Through the suggestion of P.E.W. Moyer, editor of the Berlin<sup>5</sup> Daily News, it came about that the Government at Ottawa in November 1872 requested Jacob Y. Shantz to go to Manitoba, make a thorough investigation of its Agricultural and Commercial possibilities from the standpoint of an experienced agriculturist as well as a practical business man; make a report and give his opinion.

Although very busy with his farming, building operations and other enterprises, he consented to comply with the Government's request. He gave his report to the Government in February 1873, which was favorable, but the country was generally regarded as too far north for successful agriculture. Therefore, it was not easy to arouse the enthusiasm necessary to make any project a success. His 35 years (from 15-50) of strenuous and varied experience in agriculture and commerce gave him the schooling necessary for the great task unconsciously before him.

Regardless of the contrary opinion of officials, the disfavor and criticism of friends and the previous unsuccessful attempts of colonization, he reported the facts obtained by a thorough investigation, and together with a brief letter giving his opinion, forwarded the report to the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa. The report had its desired effect, the people were going to come in large numbers, events of importance and magnitude were following in rapid succession, and had to be met according to their merits, courageously and promptly.

By having them come in large groups, and becoming responsible for, and collecting their fares, he was, by interviewing the important steamship and railroad companies, able to obtain exceedingly favorable terms for the immigrants, and low rates for their goods and baggage.

If the reader's time is limited and he will read the Foreword—"A Vision Come True" and "Manitoba After Fifty Years" (Chapter 29) he can then by referring to the contents, quickly decide what other articles may be of interest to him. It is the hope that it may contain items of information as well as inspiration.

"Human happiness is dependent on the cultivation of the mind in the discovery of Truth".

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<sup>5</sup> Berlin, Ontario, now Kitchener, changed its name on September 1, 1916, in response to pressure from local patriotic groups during the First World War.

FOREWORD  
By M. C. Herner<sup>6</sup>

A VISION COME TRUE

More than fifty years have passed into history since the subject of this volume<sup>7</sup> prepared his “Narrative of a Journey to Manitoba.” History treasures the experiences and memories of men who have become empire builders, men who have seen visions and dreamed dreams. Visions and dreams of their country that have come true. History is repeating itself in honoring the memory of another Empire builder whose high ideals of service and wonderful spirit of human brotherhood have made him an outstanding figure in the life of the people among whom he lived and those he came in contact with. His vision of fifty years ago has more than come true in this country he saw. A personality with a background, a man of integrity, a man of confidence, vision and foresight with unbounded faith in the country that was yet to be – so he stood, over a half a century ago, interpreting the virgin possibilities of a land whose promise was as yet “unheralded and unsung.”

Fifty years in the life of any country is but a very short time. Written out on pages of history and measured year by year each one represents a definite step of progress. In a new country the strides are even greater. The days in each year are heartthrobs pulsating a stream of new life, now vigor and virile manhood into the blood and sinew of the country. So in Manitoba and the Canadian West the frontier has been pushed back day after day and year after year; the raw, virgin, prairie country has given way to immigrants, to settlers and to homesteaders until there has emerged a new country known as the “Canadian Golden West”, the “wheat granary of the world.”

From a sparsely settled country as described in 1872 with its few scattered farms, its few villages, its half breed settlements and its trading posts, the picture has changed to one of a thousand miles of golden grain, dotted here and there by villages, towns and cities, throbbing with the energy and vitality of young manhood; spanned by rail, spanned by wire, spanned by radio and spanned by air until the prophet’s vision has indeed more than come true.

Faithful to the trust imposed [upon him,] this man of fifty years ago helped to shape the policy that would make a nation. With heart loyal to his own country and a keen insight into the future possibilities of the new country he gave his impressions of the opportunities that lay open to the people of his own country and those that might be attracted to her shores. In plain simple language the story runs – conservative and yet glowing and sparkling with items that would attract the eye of the settler and immigrant. A piece of work well done and a foundation laid on which the Government of the day could build with a confidence that stretched into the morrow. The generations living in Manitoba and the Canadian West today know how amply justified this confidence has been. Even though the average citizen of the country may know nothing of the early history and settlement, still he is enjoying the fruits of the labors of the pioneers who

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<sup>6</sup> University of Manitoba, Agricultural College, Winnipeg.

<sup>7</sup> Jacob Yost Shantz.

opened up the country. And the pioneers: They came as a result of the inducements offered in homesites, land and opportunity. So the whole fabric of the country as it is today rests on and owes its progress and development, in a large measure at least, on and to the opinion of a man whose mission in life was to do good to his fellowman. His estimates of the potential resources of the country were not far astray. They were conservative and based on accurate knowledge obtained first hand. His hopes for the future of this country have been more than realized.

## CHAPTER IN HISTORICAL PRELIMINARY

### A Glance at Europe in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century

About two hundred and fifty years ago our forefathers in Europe were struggling for liberty of conscience and freedom of thought and action and desired to shape their lives according to the Bible and the Golden Rule, which was their law and gospel. Among the different groups of believers, who, because of their religious convictions, withdrew from the established church as the result of the reformation, were the Mennonites. While all the different bodies of Protestant believers were the objects of persecution, the Mennonites, because of their objection to participate in war, or to perform military service, aroused the antagonism of the civil authorities, as well as the church, in some of the European countries.

### British North American Territories

During the same period, Christian missionaries, with the light and life of the gospel, and business organizations with the civilizing influence of commerce, were struggling in the new world to Christianize and civilize that vast wilderness then known as the British North American territory. For two centuries, from 1670 to 1870, this territory was in control of the Hudson Bay Company, which made much progress but considered it as a country only for fur-bearing animals but not adapted for agricultural purposes. The heroic missionary efforts during these same two centuries are worthy of a book for themselves. Their struggles, sacrifices and achievements are full of vital interest.

Is it not true that the development, which we are considering, is based on a religious principle? Nay more, is it not an admitted fact that the United States of America owes its greatness to its religious principal, founded upon the teachings of the Bible and the worship of God?

### Several Incidents Regarding This

A number of years ago the President of the Argentine Republic was asked this question: "What is the reason for the greater progress and prosperity of the United States?" He replied: "The early settlers and founders of the South America came for gold. Those of North America came for God, and they now have also the gold."

### Referring To The Bible

“What a book.” said Heine the infidel. “Vast and wide as the world, sunrise and sunset, prophecy and fulfillment, birth and death. The whole drama of life is in this book.” Goethe, one of the world’s greatest thinkers, said: “Let intellectual and spiritual culture progress and the human mind advance as much as it will, beyond the grandeur and moral elevation of Christianity, as it sparkles and shines forth in the gospel, the human mind cannot advance.”

The coming from Europe of some of the persecuted Christians, and the development of this British territory form a basis for a part of the story, which follows.

## **PART ONE**

### **Preface to Part One**

We turn back the pages of history for several centuries to find a place where we may tie the thread of our story, which we will endeavor to follow in succeeding chapters.

In Europe our forefathers were bravely suffering persecution, oppression and expatriation rather than to compromise with unrighteousness. They possessed the heroic qualities necessary for the stability of a nation.

In the new world there was a struggle going on between the rival for companies, Indians and settlers. Not often on the basis of the ideas of William Penn in Pennsylvania, but more for sordid purposes which led them to see only the wealth on the surface. Seeing the fur bearing animals, which were scampering and roaming over this wilderness, kept them from discovering the immeasurable great wealth under their feet.

Note: If the reader will turn to part three and read the "Narrative of a Journey to Manitoba" he will get an accurate description of a portion of that territory, made in 1872, 200 years after it came into the control of the Hudson Bay Company and two years after it became a part of the Dominion of Canada. After reading this "The Firewood: A Vision Come True" and "Manitoba After Fifty Years" will be of unusual interest.

## Chapter 1: **The Great Northwest and the Hudson Bay Company**

In 1670, before which time very little was known regarding that immense wilderness north of the United States boundary line known as British North America. When the Confederation was under consideration by the English Parliament, it became known that all that vast Territory was in the control of a powerful monopoly.

On May 2, 1670 Charles the Second, King of England, gave to the Hudson Bay Company a Charter, very liberal both as to its general terms and especially [as to those dealing with] the period covered, namely from 1670-1870. This was known as Rupert's Land in honor of the King's cousin Prince Rupert, who became the first Governor of the company. This charter practically gave the Hudson Bay Company a monopoly of that vast area for two hundred years.

The granting of this charter, the signing away by Charles the Second of over half of the New Continent to "The Gentlemen Adventurers" of England, known as the Hudson Bay Company, aroused the suspicions and antagonism of all the rival traders.

The fact that this company possessed all the power, which influence, wealth, politics and the Court could bestow upon them, had the tendency to increase the ill will and jealousy against them. The company was so organized that every servant, under Oath of Secrecy and implicit Obedience was accountable to the one next above him, from the Canoeman all along the line to the Governor of the Company, and from the Governor to the King. The Company, thus basking in the light of Royal favor, established a sort of feudalistic regime, which did not improve the situation, but rather aggravated it.

From 1670-1800 the principal interests of the Northwest were confined to the Fur Trade. Lord Selkirk first conceived the idea of starting a colony in the center of the continent; now know as Manitoba, and in 1810 brought seventy Colonists from Scotland. These were followed by others.

The motives of Selkirk were not altogether mercenary. His plan was to help people to better their condition, but being a Stockholder in the Hudson Bay Company, the Indians and Half-breeds were suspicious.

After many trials and hardships, and numerous and varied efforts, his colonization was not a success. The Hudson Bay Company, aside from Selkirk and his friends, had never been favorable to the idea of colonizing the Red River Valley, and yet it may be stated that in its long and despotic reign of over two hundred years, it gained a bloodless conquest of an Empire from savagery.

## Chapter 2: **The Czar and the Mennonites**

In 1867 the four principal British Provinces of the Eastern portion of North America became the original Dominion of Canada. The vast regions of the west, known as Northwest Territory, Hudson Bay Territory or Rupert's Land, extending from the Western Boundary of Ontario, James Bay and Hudson Bay to the Rocky Mountains, and from the United States boundary to the Arctic, remained under the rule of the Hudson Bay Company.

The aim of the leaders of the confederation however, was that this Territory should become a part of the Dominion of Canada. By purchase and other valuable considerations, this vast Territory containing upward of two million square miles, was transferred to the Dominion in 1867.

In October 1869 the new Hudson Bay Company relinquished all charter rights to the Dominion, for which the Government paid three hundred thousand pounds. The Dominion also granted to the Company one twentieth of the arable land in the Territory, and ceded to it the land on which its forts were built.

A year later the Red River Settlement came into the Confederation under the name of Manitoba, "The Country of the People of the Lakes," and thus the Hudson Bay Company passes as an Empire Builder. Both the Dominion and the Company had made a good bargain.

The same year 1870, the Czar, Alexander the Second, informed the Mennonites living in Southern Russia that in ten years the special privileges accorded to them as Mennonites, such as exemption from military service and having their own separate schools and colleges conducted in their own (German) language, would be terminated.

It may be well to state that the Mennonites were a Protestant Evangelical religious denomination, founded by the follower of Menno Simon in 1536 in the Netherlands. Some of the distinctive tenets are that a Christian should not participate in war, should be opposed to infant Baptism, and the taking of oaths. They were not expected to be active in political affairs.



### Chapter 3: **The Rebellion and the Mounted Police**

Almost as soon as the Northwest Territories had become a part of the Dominion of Canada, surveyors were at work in plotting out the land for sections and roadways. Apparently no arrangements had been made with the native population, Indians and Half-breeds, regarding the preservation of their rights. They, having remained uninformed of the purpose and good intention of the Government, and therefore suspicious of its real motive, started a rebellion which seemed to be of sufficient magnitude to have the Government send troops to quell it. This was done without any serious conflict or loss of life.

The settlers knowing about the terrible massacre and Indian wars that had taken place in northwestern parts of the United States remained fearful, and wanted the protection of the Government. What was to be done? The Dominion had a larger area to cover than the Territorial area of the United States, which had spent twenty million dollars and sacrificed many lives of soldiers and settlers in trying to subjugate the Indians. As the entire revenue of the Dominion was but twenty-one million, this could not be considered, nor did the Dominion desire to do this; it wished rather to train and educate the natives, so that they could become a valuable asset of the country.

It was under these conditions, when the excitement of the rebellion was still fresh in the minds of the natives and settlers that J. Y. Shantz went to look over the situation relative to its agricultural possibilities. While he was doing so, the General in charge of the Army in Manitoba, learning of his purpose said to him, "Shantz, you will make a mistake in sending farmers here: this is not an agricultural country, this is only a fur country." Shantz replied, "I am somewhat of an agriculturist myself and think, in fact, know, that it possesses great possibilities for farming."

On one occasion when relating the incidents of his trip to some of his friends they asked, "But are you not afraid to be among these Half-breeds (said to be more dangerous than the Indian) without any weapons of self-defense?" which we understand you do not carry. "No" he said, "therein lies my safety; their knowledge that my purpose is a good one, and having no weapons they become my protectors, and I eat and sleep with them without fear of being molested." He was armed with the "Shield of Faith" for defense and "The Sword of the Spirit (the word of God)" for conquest.

The request by the Settlers for Government protection resulted in the adoption of a resolution to give them necessary safeguards. In 1873 the Government decided to organize and send them mounted rifles. The authorities at Washington upon hearing about this were considering the question of sending an army to the border. It is said, that when the Canadian Premier learned of this he struck out the word rifles and substituted the word police. This proved to be a good move on the part of the Canadian Government. The mounted police was organized in 1873.

This organization became a mighty force for good, through many hardships and trials, in the development of the Great Northwest. "The Silent Force" by Longstreth, gives an interesting account of their splendid work and what they have achieved for that country.

### Some Coincident Events

1870 and the years surrounding it have become a period of a number of great events, that had much to do with the march of progress and the changing of kingdoms, states and empire.

1870 – It marked the completion of the Confederation of the Dominion of Canada and the ceding of the Hudson Bay Territory to the Dominion of Canada.

1870 – The battle of the Sedan, which led to the fall of the French Empire and marked the culmination of the France-Prussian War.

1870 – The ukase of the Czar of Russia concerning the Mennonites.

1867 – The completion of the purchase of Alaska.

1867 – The discovery of diamonds in Africa.

1867 – The completion of the United States Pacific Railroad.

## PART TWO

### Preface to Part Two

#### The Ancestry and Early Activities of Jacob Y. Shantz

We have gone back more than two hundred years to get some idea of the conditions in Europe and of the people who were to become so large a factor in giving an important start in the development of the Canadian Northwest.

Likewise we have looked back over "Two Centuries", at the wilderness which, through the industry and thrift of those people, would eventually be transformed into a land of peace and prosperity.

We now are also taken back, over two hundred years to find the ancestry of the man, who became such a leading factor in bringing a people out of a land of bondage to American Freedom. We trace his direct lineage from the founder of the family on this continent mentioning only one in each generation, comprising a list of large families.

This also shows that the family as a whole made a large contribution to the development of the agricultural, religious, moral and commercial interests of this continent.

Much more might be related about his pioneer work in connection with the building of the home town from a hamlet to a city, but it may suffice to show that his activities and experiences were fitting him for his outstanding achievement and commercial possibilities of Manitoba and the Great Northwest. For more than thirty years he fostered the enterprise, making almost annual visits to the colonies and had the pleasure to live long enough to see that it would fulfill the expectation and was destined to become a movement unsurpassed in history.

## Chapter 4: Ancestry of Jacob Y. Shantz On The American Continent

Jacob Shantz<sup>8</sup> was born in Switzerland about the year 1710. Owing to religious persecution, he with other Mennonites left their native land and went to Holland, where they had the promise of protection by the Prince of Orange. Here he lived some fifteen years. Seeing so many of his co-religionists emigrating to America, besides being informed of the Proclamation issued by William Penn, he also decided to go to America and settle among people of his faith and belief. He crossed the ocean in a vessel named "Townshend" and landed at Philadelphia, in the summer of 1737. He may have remained among the Mennonites at Germantown for some time but in 1743 he located in a part of Philadelphia County, which later became the Borough of Pottstown, Montgomery County. He died there February 5, 1781, survived by his widow, Catherine Beary, three sons and six daughters. The record shows that he owned a number of tracts of land in and about Pottstown.

Isaac Shantz (1748 – 1802)<sup>9</sup>, third son of Jacob Shantz, married May 4, 1774 to Barbara Reiff, 1753-1820. He became the owner of 180 acres of land in Pottstown, and rebuilt the old house on what is known now as the Wells property, completing it just before his death. He was survived by his widow Barbara Reiff Shantz, six sons and two daughters. Barbara Shantz continued to live on the farm with her eight children. In 1806 the two eldest sons moved to Canada, where they took sections of land and began clearing it of the timber, in order to build log cabins and start their farms as that country was noted for its fine forests of big trees.

In 1808 their mother, Barbara Shantz, with three of the younger sons and one daughter moved to Canada in company with other families of Mennonites, who were also leaving Pennsylvania for Canada. They traveled in covered wagons, which practically had to answer as their abode on their journey, which took several weeks. In those days as there were few roads in that part of the country they followed trails, often having to chop down trees and under brush to allow the wagons to pass. The Indians caused many hours of anxiety, for it took tact and friendliness to keep their good will. After the hardships incident to such a journey, they reached their destination in Canada. Barbara Shantz and her family settled on a tract of land one and one-half miles southeast of where Kitchener is now located. Here she lived until her death. Her youngest son Joseph said she was [of] an amiable disposition; rather small in stature but robust and of a quick turn. At the age of sixty years she would mount her pony like a young man.

Jacob Shantz Third - October 11, 1781 - July 1, 1867. He was the third son of Barbara Shantz. He married in 1805 to Mary Yost, March 12, 1784 – October 22, 1869. They moved to Canada in 1810 in company with his Uncle Christian Shantz and others. (Part of the way Colonel Rochester was one of the company and was one of the founders of the city that bears his name – Rochester, NY). He bought several tracts of land (448 acres) of the German Company Tract; a portion of this tract had been settled by George Eby in 1804, who sold it to Jacob Shantz. The log cabin thereon was small and a wagon box was made to answer for a door. In 1813 Jacob Shantz built a substantial log house to

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<sup>8</sup> 1710 – 5.2.1781.

<sup>9</sup> 1.14.1748 – 11.11.1802.

meet the needs of their small but growing family. Here the family of eight sons and one daughter was reared. Surprising as the fact may be for those days, only two sons had the undesirable habit of smoking and none of them were drinking men. They all attained the ages from seventy-five to eighty-seven years.

Jacob Y. Shantz fourth – the eighth child and the sixth son is the subject of this volume.

## Chapter 5: Youth and Early Manhood of Jacob Y. Shantz

Aside from the record of his birth and marriage as recorded in the Family Bible, there are no records regarding his boyhood and youth. From what his parents used to say and the things he related himself, he was like the sons of pioneers of that time. As soon as they were old enough they had to assist in the daily duties common to a pioneers' life, such as keeping the wood-box filled, carrying water, caring for the cattle, horses and other domestic animals beside doing his share of the various farm chores.

Several months during each winter he attended school in a log school house near by and presided over by a schoolmaster and attended by all ages. Usually the schoolmaster had a trade that he followed during the warm seasons. In the wintertime when he could no longer follow his trade, he took up teaching and boarded with the families in the district where he taught. Some of these teachers were rather primitive in their ideas of economy. It is related about one of his schoolmasters, who in order to get a new suit for his son, first laid the coarse home spun material on the floor, then laid the child on the material and so cut the shape of the garment, the garment then being made by hand. The fit of such a garment can be left to the imagination of the reader.

The original farm being quite extensive (448 acres), the five elder boys of the family were kept busy for some years clearing the land of timber and getting it ready for cultivation. When his elder brothers begun to clear their own farms some ten to twelve miles distance from their home, he acted as cook and general care-taker of the camp, and, his camp work finished, he did his share in aiding with the felling of the timber. At about the age of fifteen he became an expert at this work.

It is said that at sixteen he had attained his full height of six feet and from that time on he took a man's part in all activities of the farm, saw-mill and timber camps.

In May of 1843 attaining the age of twenty-one years he assumed control of the homestead farm and mill. He was married on his twenty-first birthday to Barbara Biehn, who was third in line by that name. They started keeping house in the old homestead. He, being a pioneer by nature, expressed this characteristic in many ways.

One of the first outstanding acts or accomplishments was to abolish the prevalent custom of serving beer or other strong drinks to employees when doing strenuous work such as harvesting, thrashing and running the mill day and night, except Sundays, and during certain seasons. This demanded unusual courage, considering that he was but a young man and the largest employer in a large area and in the face of the warnings that he would be unable to procure laborers. He maintained his purpose, stating that he would not only be able to keep his men, but be able to obtain the best. So sure was he about being in the right, that when a neighbor said to him, he would like to follow his example, but feared he could not keep his men, he replied, that if such should happen he was to inform him and he would bring his men to his place and see him through.

He was foremost in using improved methods, tools and machinery on both farm and in the mill. So far as it is known he imported the first reaping machine from the United States into Canada. This was regarded as such an innovation that some farmers from a considerable distance would spend a day in coming to see it operated. Right here a little incident may be mentioned showing the attitude taken by some of the people of that day regarding labor saving machinery. On one occasion I, as a boy, heard several

laborers discussing the labor saving machinery, expressing the idea that such machinery would deprive the laborers of their jobs and therefore they would like to make kindling wood of that reaper. Thinking my Father should know this, I told him, I have always been glad that I was present to hear the tactful way he handled the situation and obtained their good will. Instead of reprimanding them, he reasoned with them along the lines of general progress and even without referring to the incident he simply explained to them that as improved machinery would take the place of hand labor, there would be so much demand for good workmen to build machines that the present day laborer would be required at very much better pay.

This reaper was a very heavy machine, for in addition to cutting the grain, it had a heavy device to take the cut grain from the platform of the reaper in sheaves ready for the men to bind them. It usually took about six men to keep up with this new machine, which was such a heavy affair with so many levers to work, that it took three strong horses to do the work, and an expert driver to handle the horses and machine at the same time. To demonstrate that it could be done he drove it himself with one of us boys riding the leader.

In their early days of housekeeping, he and his wife drove two hundred miles to Rochester, N.Y. with a team of horses and a heavy wagon to purchase a good substantial cook stove, that was made in Rochester. A journey of this nature in those days was quite an event it taking about two weeks, and involving a great many hardships.

He did not confine his activities to the farm and mill, but utilized all his men and equipment by taking large contracts to furnish firewood (before the use of coal) for the railroad. Some years he had miles of wood piled along the Grand Trunk railroad tracks. The inferior grade of wood was sold to factories. Still, other parts of the timber were taken to the saw-mill for building purposes. In this way he also kept many of the neighboring farmers busy during the winter months. He was constantly adding timberland to his holdings. Aside from this he frequently bought the standing timber on other farms in the vicinity.

What was considered one of the finest pieces of timberland in that part of the country, was a hundred-acre tract of beautiful pine trees adjoining the town of Berlin, Ontario. Most of these trees were extremely large measuring from three to six feet in diameter and about one hundred and fifty feet tall. The evergreen tops of these trees, which could be seen from a great distance, were ever a wonderful and inspiring sight.

To give an idea of the value of these trees it may be stated that a neighbor received twenty dollars a piece or forty dollars for two trees on his side of the line.

In those days every good farmer gave considerable attention to his maple trees. J. Y. Shantz had the largest maple grove in that vicinity, tapping over four hundred trees. The work of making maple sugar generally lasted from early March to the middle of April. The sugar was used mostly for domestic purpose instead of white granulated sugar, which at that time was a luxury. The beginning of the maple sugar season was the ending of the school season for many of the farm boys of that day.

## Chapter 6: Village of Berlin Incorporated

In the year 1854 the Village of Berlin, Upper Canada, was incorporated. In the Spring of 1856, J. Y. Shantz had the old farmhouse removed, and on the same site built the present homestead, which is still occupied and in good condition. The next fifteen years were full of great activities.

Jacob Y. Shantz was one of the earliest extensive builders of private residences, public buildings, factories and workmen's homes of the town of Berlin and vicinity. He was also instrumental in assisting various industries that would benefit the town, through giving the people employment.

Improving and developing the farm also received special attention. As he wished to have the fruit raising improved on his farms and in the vicinity, he went to Rochester, N.Y., and bought from Ellwanger & Barry nurserymen, several thousand fruit trees, mostly apple. He planted three new orchards on his own farm, the remainder he sold to neighboring farmers.

The Canadian Block in Berlin, Ontario, now Kitchener, which was built of brick and owned by him, was one of the first important business structures of that time. Deeply interested in the welfare of the workingman, he built many houses for them and sold them on such terms that made it possible for even the poorest to buy. If payments could not be kept up he would extend the time or make arrangements so that they would not lose what they had paid.

On one occasion, when suggesting to one of his workmen to have a home of his own, the latter said, "I have no means for doing this," and Shantz replied, "lets figure this out, perhaps we can find a way". Several questions were then asked. "How much rent do you pay? You are not a drinking man, but you do drink beer occasionally and you use a certain amount of tobacco. How much does that amount to? Now beer and tobacco have no nourishment, and you are better without them. Now suppose we add what you have spent on these items to the rent you pay". After adding these items he offered to build a house for the workman, taking in payment in the amount he had saved from these various extravagances. This is one instance of his wholehearted interest in his fellowmen.

Another incident that is worthy of note, was that when a citizen who owned a piece of property in a business section, stated to Mr. Shantz if he could only manage to build a block with two stores, one for himself and the other to rent, with several stories above for offices. It would yield him sufficient income for his living in future years but he didn't have capital to build. The question then was raised as to how much money he had. When told, although the amount was comparatively small, Mr. Shantz offered to build the block and accept the amount he had as first payment and the remainder to be paid as he could afford. This arrangement was terminated successfully and the Deed was made out by Jacob Shantz in his own handwriting and is now prized very highly by the owners' family. He usually wrote his own contracts and all other legal papers. His reason for doing this when asked why, was that he worded them to express just what was necessary to make them plain, leaving out needless words.



## Chapter 7: Interest in Civic Welfare - The Public Retail Market

The population of Berlin in 1846 consisted of 400 people. The growth of the hamlet was slow but sure. It had no water or railroad connections. Being an inland place it depended entirely for its business growth upon the thrifty farming community in the vicinity. They were good customers for the staple necessities and comforts of life but avoided all that might be called luxuries and spent very little for amusement.

Because of its location in the center of Waterloo County, the Court House and jail were located there, which gave a little prestige to the village.

As a practical farmer, J.Y. Shantz observed the great waste both of time and material, caused by the haphazard method of getting the products of the farmer to the consumers in the town. He proposed to the town authorities that there should be a Market Place where the farmers could come together and promptly transact their business and return to their regular affairs. He was informed that the town had no money for such a purpose but they finally agreed to have it put to a vote. The proposal was defeated. Nevertheless he worked all the harder because he could see what benefits would be derived from such an arrangement. He even offered to build the market and would accept payment at the convenience of the Town Treasurer.

The Town Council finally decided to build a Town Hall giving Mr. Shantz the contract for a one-story building. He prevailed upon them to build two stories rather than one story, offering to wait until they could afford to pay for the extra cost. After the building was completed, the basement (being half above ground) was used for a public market, the first floor contained the Post Office, the Council Chamber and the public Library, and the second floor was used as a Convention Hall and for any large gathering. After its completion the citizens were well pleased with it.

The building was erected in 1869 when the population of Berlin (now Kitchener) was less than 2500. With so small a population, the great majority owning their own homes with a liberal amount of land for growing all kinds of fruits and vegetables, having a cow, chickens and pigs to supply a large portion of their living requirements, it indeed needed the faith of the pioneer, plus the most optimistic vision into the future to believe that such a project could be a success.

A hill in the center of the town with one of the old landmarks on top was selected as the site for the new building. The old building removed, the work of scraping the hill into the hollow in the rear, began. While this was going on, many of the townsmen in passing stopped and with a shake of the head, commented doubtfully regarding the feasibility of the enterprise. But the splendid, high-spirited, well-groomed team of horses, and the way the driver handled both the horses and the scraper at the same time aroused their interest.

In those days a man with a good team and a plow and wagon was worth three dollars per day of ten hours or thirty cents per hour. This was then considered a good price and conscientious men would see to it that they were prompt and would lose no time between 7AM and 6PM except one hour for noon from twelve until one o'clock and two men, one for the team and one for the scraper was considered extravagant inefficiency.

### A Real Example in Conservation

The building completed, he assisted in organizing the business in the most economical method for all concerned. For the convenience of the majority eight o'clock Saturday and Wednesday morning were the hours and days appointed as market days. The method was a success and with minor changes, the original policy has continued successfully for almost sixty years.<sup>10</sup> During this period the population increased more than tenfold and the market kept pace and increased proportionately.

Through the conservation of fruit and vegetables, and the elimination of wasted time the farmer gets a better profit and the consumer gets very much better, fresher and cleaner goods at a much lower price. Better food also means better health. Many citizens claim this market is an important factor in the substantial and rapid development of the city and contributes its share in making Kitchener the "Best Kept City on the Continent."

For a farmer to take his fruits and vegetables out of his field or garden one day, get his money the next and take it to the merchant constitutes such a quick turn over that it would make any community prosperous.

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<sup>10</sup> 1869 – 1929.

## Chapter 8: **Developing the Town Through Industries**

While J. Y. Shantz devoted his time personally to the direction of his farms, in charge of competent men, he directed his efforts to the lumber business, building construction and other contract business. He was always ready to assist any other worthy enterprise that needed assistance and had the promise of growth so as to furnish useful employment to the citizens.

His attitude was in accord with the idea that the prosperity of a city or a nation should not be judged by the fortunes of the few, but by observing how nearly absent hunger and want really are, among the industrious and law abiding citizens thereof. He would always assist anyone in need but would put forth some effort to encourage them to become self-supporting.

While the progress of a town is largely dependent upon its industries and their development, infant industries, like other infants, usually need a great deal of care and food before they can go along by themselves.

Among the numerous industries, which he fostered in their beginning, was the making of ivory buttons.<sup>11</sup> The three leading industries which were first located in the village of Berlin were the manufacture of furniture, leather and buttons and the City of Kitchener of today is the acknowledged center in Canada of these industries as well as many others.

Of this trio the button industry became the most valuable for the town because it not only became the largest employer of these early days, but the work of such a nature that any member of the family could be employed – men, women, boys and girls.

It was for this reason that he kept the business going even though it did not make any profit but sometimes a loss for a number of years for, said he: “What will all these boys and girls do if the factory is closed?” I would gladly lose the interest on my investment for the sake of the town if someone would run it so that there would be no loss.

Finally it was decided to make some changes in the organization, borrow another five thousand dollars to put into extra raw material and give it another chance for a year, which was the tenth year since it was started. This extra capital was a large factor in making it a success and in less than a decade it became the recognized leader in the industry (not the largest but for making the finest goods of its kind in the world.

That original business is today owned and operated by the boys and girls of that day, about whose welfare he was so much concerned. There are many men, some of them prominent in that and other industries, which say that they gained their first knowledge of and experience in business in the original button factory in Berlin.

The two of his outside interests up to this time, which in later years were a source of great pleasure to him, were the Berlin Public Market and the button industry. The market because through it, millions of dollars were saved to the citizens and farmers in the vicinity and the button business because of the steady employment it gave to so many people, enabled them to have a better living and in many cases to acquire their own

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<sup>11</sup> The business was later to be named the Shantz Button Factory.

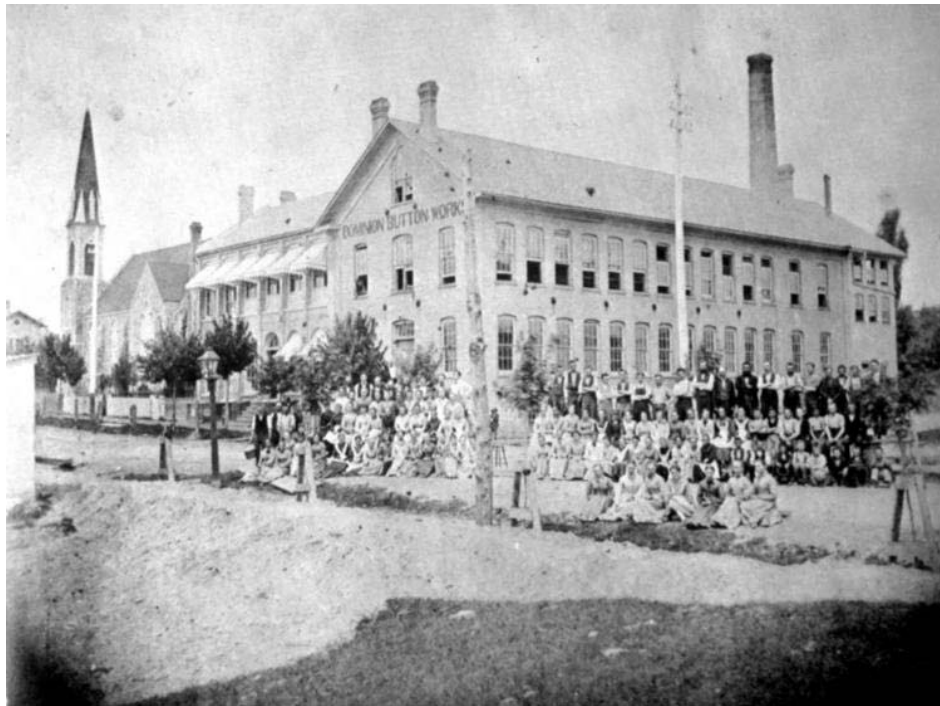
homes. Thus it became an important factor in the development of the town of Berlin in its forward reach toward the City of Kitchener.

This factory in past years was often referred to as “The Button Maker’s College” among employees in this industry because the majority of the practical leaders in this industry on this continent received their knowledge and experience directly or indirectly through this factory (see Figure 7).

It may also be stated that in the early days it played an important role in the rapid development of Manitoba and the Canadian West for through its office and banking facilities many of the large and important business deals were transacted.

While he was thus most actively engaged in building up the town and its enterprises, the government sought his opinion and cooperation in 1872, soon after he had reached the age of fifty years. An outline of his activities on behalf of his country and for humanity is given in parts three and four.

His achievements and leadership seems to have fitted him for the great, but then unknown, work before him. Without these experiences, he could never have undertaken and successfully completed the great task for which he had such a clear vision, but then unknown, and which seemed to have been so divinely foreshadowed.



**Figure 7: The Button Factory in Kitchener in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>12</sup>**

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<sup>12</sup> The Pioneer Button Works, later the Shantz Button Company and then the Dominion Button Works, was built by J.Y. Shantz in 1870. The factory burned in 1893 and was rebuilt on a different site.

## Chapter 9: Narrative Of a Journey to Manitoba

By: J. Y. Shantz

Together with an Abstract of the  
**DOMINION LANDS ACT**

\* \* \* \*

Published by the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa

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Printed by Robertson, Roger & Co., Wellington Street.

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The following narrative of a journey to Manitoba has been written by Mr. Jacob Y. Shantz, a Canadian Mennonite, resident in Berlin, Ontario.

Mr. Shantz, at the request of the Department of Agriculture, visited Ottawa, in company with Mr. Bernard Warkentin, Mennonite from Berdiansk, Russia, in November last.

The object of Mr. Warkentin in visiting Canada was to find a place suitable for the settlement of Mennonites who contemplate an emigration, en masse, from Russia.

At the request of the Department of Agriculture, he, with Mr. Shantz, visited Manitoba.

Mr. Shantz states that in writing a narrative of the journey he has been moved by the simple desire to set down the fact with the utmost possible accuracy.

DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE,  
Ottawa, April 1873.

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<sup>13</sup> The page numbers have been changed to conform to this printing, rather than to J.Y. Shantz' original report as reported in M.B. Shantz' manuscript.

Narrative of A Journey to Manitoba

Berlin, Ontario, 28<sup>th</sup> February 1873

To the HON. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa:

Sir:

I herewith enclose to you a brief narrative of my journey to Manitoba, and my opinions respecting that Province. The readers of this Report may rest assured that it contains a true and impartial statement of what I saw and learned there. Tastes differ – some may like what others dislike and some persons are so constituted that they can be content nowhere. Fish and game are abundant in the Province, but even these must be caught before they can be cooked and eaten. Of this one fact, however, I am certain, that Manitoba affords a splendid field for immigration, not only from Europe and Canada, but also from the United States, for those desirous of acquiring a good and cheap homestead for themselves and their family. Such are sure of becoming independent if they are only willing to go to work, to be industrious, and to live temperately.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your Obedient Servant,

(Signed) .....Jacob Y. Shantz.

MANITOBA and the North-West

On the 6<sup>th</sup> November, 1872, Mr. Bernard Warkentin, of Russia, and myself left Berlin by the Grand Trunk Railway to Detroit, (en route for the Province of Manitoba); thence by the southern Michigan Railway to Chicago; then to St. Paul, Minnesota, and by the Lake Superior and Mississippi Railway to Duluth; thence by the Northern Pacific Railway to Moorshead on the Red River, a place situated immediately on the boundary line between the states of Minnesota and Dacotah, from which place we proceeded to Pembina on the borders of Manitoba.

Entering the Province, we traveled a distance of 72 miles by stage to Fort Garry and Winnipeg, the latter being situated contiguous to the Fort, and a rising place. A railroad is now in course of construction to Pembina, which will be completed during the present year. We might have saved about 230 miles had we taken the route via Breckenridge, but in order to avoid traveling by stage; we took the longer route by railway. From Pembina we traveled about 50 miles along the Red River - a portion of the Province as yet entirely unsettled, with the exception of a few stations scattered every 15 or 20 miles, where relays of horses and refreshments for passengers are provided. Passing this district the Half-breed settlements commence, small white houses with stables attached dotting the scene, and which became more numerous the nearer we approach the Fort.

Seven miles from Fort Garry we passed a grist-mill; the house presented a better appearance, the farms being well fenced, and the Assiniboine River was reached, a tributary of the Red River. The former stream is navigable for a distance of 60 miles or more, and though not wide is deep. Red River is navigable some 280 miles to the south and 30 to the north, where it empties into Lake Winnipeg, with an expanse of about 1,000 feet at the Town of Winnipeg, Fort Garry, the principal trading post of the Hudson Bay

Company, contains a small fortress with a garrison of soldiers. A large warehouse belonging to the Company is situated on the River's bank, in which six clerks are employed. There is also a telegraph office, and several two-story houses around the fort. Work has been commenced upon the foundations of a new hotel to be erected this year at a cost of \$14,000.

At a distance of about a quarter of a mile or so lies the Town of Winnipeg, the capital of Province, only founded a few years ago, but which already contains 12 stores, 5 hotels and a large saw-mill, capable of cutting from ten to fifteen thousand feet of lumber per day. There are also a planing mill, and four printing offices. The houses are mostly frame, brick being the exception, though they are now being manufactured there. Stone and lime are procurable within six miles. The roads, as well as the streets, are in bad order, with very little sidewalk, but the building operations continually going on and teaming in connection therewith will cut them up for some time to come. Winnipeg also contains a Savings Bank, and a Wesleyan Church.

On the eastern side of Red River lies the village of St. Boniface, containing Roman Catholic, Church of England, and Presbyterian Churches, and a schoolhouse. Further down the river is St. John's (Church of England) College. After seeing Winnipeg we started for the Indian Mission about 60 miles to the northwest. For a distance of some two miles are the houses of the Half-breeds, after which nothing was to be seen but the unbroken prairie, till we arrive at "Cattle Far," 20 miles distant, where we saw 100 head of cattle grazing. The farm buildings consisted of small dwellings, and a stack of hay containing about 100 tons. When we left there on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November, the cattle were still in the fields, and the pasture was good. For the rest of the distance to Indian Mission, the country changes, the prairie being dotted here and there with belts of wood land known as "bluffs", containing from one half to ten acres, for the most part poplar. The half-breeds use this timber for building purposes, for fences, and for fuel. On arrival at the Mission we found about twenty-four families of French half-breeds, who live by hunting and fishing. Here we met Mr. William Wagner, Provincial Land Surveyor, who takes great interest in encouragement of immigration to Manitoba. Immigrants arriving, especially Germans, would do well to apply to this gentlemen for information as to the most profitable and desirable lands on which to settle.

Leaving the Indian Mission, we journeyed southwest along the eastern shore of Lake Manitoba, and found fine prairie land there, dotted as before with "bluffs." For 40 miles we traveled without seeing a house till we reached a spot called "Poplar Point" on the Assiniboine, where we found a farm of about 90 acres under cultivation, belonging to a Mr. Taylor, who owned a large number of cattle. In the vicinity is a settlement of English half-breeds, chiefly Protestants, and possessing three churches, English, Presbyterian and Methodist. Proceeding still further westward along the banks of the river, which are settled by small farmers, we arrived at "High Bluffs" a place with three churches and a schoolhouse. Here we staid [*sic*] at a farm belonging to Mr. Allcock, an Englishman, who came here from Ontario three years ago. He showed us as fine a sample of spring wheat as I had ever seen, and told us that he had harvested 40 bushels to the acre. He also exhibited a splendid sample of oats, flaxseed, potatoes, turnips, cabbage and other vegetables.



Seven miles further on, in a westerly direction, we came to the village of "Portage la Prairie," with six stores, a gristmill, four sawmills, and quite a large number of mechanics. We next visited Messrs. Grant and MacKenzie whose farms lie about eight miles distant from "Portage la Prairie" both of whom came from the Province of Ontario. Mr. Grant showed us a sample of wheat, which had turned out 30 bushels to the acre, and some very fine cuts. His potatoes also were of a very large size and superior quality; such as I have never seen surpassed. Mr. Mackenzie's wheat yielded 32 bushels to the acre. He also showed us about 100 bushels of onions, measuring from two to five and a half inches in diameter. The turnips also were of a very large size, of which three would weigh 60 lbs. He stated that he had taken 1,200 bushels of potatoes off of four and three quarters acres of land – prairie land broken up, and the potatoes ploughed under. He also showed us young apple trees, which he had raised from seed that looked very thrifty. This gentleman also possesses ninety heads of cattle, amongst which I remarked a full-bred Durham bull, and some Durham cows. I am thus particular in mentioning all I saw on this farm, that the reader might form some idea of the richness of the soil. The distance from "Popular Point" to Mr. Mackenzie's farm is about 22 miles up the Assiniboine River along which there is a good strip of timber, and the land well settled, partly by English half-breeds and immigrants from Ontario.

Returning to "Popular Point" we resumed our journey in an easterly direction by the main road towards Winnipeg, and at a distance of 12 miles, we reached St. Paul's Mission. Six miles further we came to Pigeon Lake one mile distant from which is the Hudson Bay Company's Post, known as "White Horse Post", where the Company carries on farming on an extensive scale, 9,870 bushels of grain having been raised in 1871 on two hundred and ninety acres of land. The Company also maintains about 500 head of cattle here. Twelve miles further we came to Headingley, a small village, and four miles distant from that is Sturgeon Creek, where there is a steam mill and distillery. Passing "Silver Heights", where the Hon. Donald A. Smith, Governor of the Hudson's Bay Company resides, we came to St. Paul's Church (Church of England), and after a further distance of five miles, reached again our starting point. Our road lay on the north side of, and along the Assiniboine River; the soil consists of good rich prairie land, and belts of timber consisting of elm, basswood, ash and poplar.

Leaving Winnipeg again in a northeasterly direction, we proceeded along the Red River to the Hudson Bay Company's Post, known as the Stone Fort, where there is a small garrison. The whole distance from Winnipeg to the Fort is thickly settled. Respecting the weather, whilst traveling in the States of Minnesota and Dacotah, from the 10<sup>th</sup> November to the 1<sup>st</sup> December it snowed continually with drifts, although the snow was not over eight inches deep on the plains; on reaching the Manitoba line, however, we found very little snow, and on arrival at Fort Garry on the 17<sup>th</sup> November, there was not enough snow to cover the ground. From the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> November there was no snow of any consequence in Manitoba and on the 1<sup>st</sup> December leaving Fort Garry on our return we had beautiful weather, travelling by stage, on wheels, 140 miles. The further south we came the more snow we found, till on our arrival at St. Paul, it was fully a foot in depth. This confirmed the statement made by the people in Manitoba that they do not experience as much snow as falls in Minnesota and Dacotah. Apparently the further westward you travel in Manitoba, the less snow is met with, and the milder is the climate.

## Size, Growth and Development of Winnipeg, the Capital of Manitoba and the North West

A general desire being felt to know the exact increase of the population of Winnipeg during the last summer, much speculation has existed, based upon all kinds of random suppositions. Judging from the ordinary indications of trade and building, few towns can boast a more rapid growth. In the Fall of 1870 the population was 300, whilst in the Fall of 1871 it had increased to 700, and in the Fall of last year, a careful enumeration made showed a population of 1,467, thus giving an increase of nearly 800 during the past year. The number of houses created during last building season were stores, dwellings and warehouses of one story high, thirty-four of one and a half stories, thirty-three of two stories, fifty six of two and a half stories, one; making a total in all of 124 new buildings. In addition to this there are now under contract a brick hotel to contain 100 rooms, for Mr. A. M. Brown; the Canadian Pacific Hotel, with a frontage of 90 feet, and to contain 100 rooms, whilst numerous stores and warehouses together with private residences are being erected. There remains to be mentioned the Receiver General's Office, Custom House and Post Office to be erected by the Dominion Government, at an average cost of \$15,000 each.

With respect to wages, although varying according to circumstances and place, the average prices may be set down as follow: carpenters, \$3.50 per day, bricklayers and masons, \$4.00 per day, painters, \$3.50 and laborers, \$2.50 per day. These rates of wages, though higher perhaps than elsewhere, are not the only advantage for the sober and industrious man, out of the savings of one or two months, secure, by making their first payment, a lot and a home of their own.

The market rates, as far as we could ascertain them, where the supply is so irregular and uncertain, were: wheat, \$1.25 per bushel; oats, \$1.00 per bushel; barley, \$1.10 per bushel; potatoes, 62 cents; onions, \$2.00; carrots, 75 cents; turnips, 50 cents, and beets 50 cents per bushel. Hay was selling from \$7.00 to \$8.00 per ton; butter, 30 cents per lb., eggs, 30 cents per dozen; beef, 12 ½ cents per lb., lamb the same, veal, 20 cents, pork, 20 cents, and fresh fish about 5 cents per lb. Board ranges from \$5.00 to \$9.00 per week, though many young men save money by boarding themselves.

### Stinking River Settlement

This settlement is best reached by way of Headingley and thence south over the Pembina trail, which crosses the Stinking River, near the upper end of the settlement. The land on both sides of the river is nearly occupied through the extent of townships 8 and 9 in the second range. The settlers are for the most part from Central Canada.

Stinking River contains water at all seasons, clear and good except at a few points where salt springs affect it for short distances; good water can, however, be had anywhere by digging to a depth of a dozen or twenty feet.

Both banks of the river are fringed with oak and poplar of good size, in sufficient quantities for settlement use, which increase in size and density as the river is ascended.

The prairie, on either side, consists of a black loam, easily cultivated and of sufficient undulation from the numerous gullies leading to the river to be well drained, an

important point towards early cultivation and quick growth. North of the river is an unlimited supply of marsh hay, the spontaneous growth of the marsh, which extends to the southeast over parts of two townships.

### Boyne River Settlement

The River Boyne takes its rise in the Pembina Mountains, and is about 50 miles long, flowing in a northeasterly direction until it loses itself in the great marsh, mentioned before as extending to the vicinity of the Stinking River Settlement. Its banks are, for the greater part, lined with a fringe of heavy oak timber, to the depth of from a quarter to half a mile, till towards the mountain it extends into a forest of a number of miles wide; on the edge of the marsh, however, poplar is the principle timber met with.

The present occupants point with pride to the substantial character of their improvements, their houses being well built and commodious. Some of the largest enclosures in the Province are to be met with in this settlement, it being no unusual thing to see a field of 100 acres, of 60 acres, and 50 acres respectively, used for pasturage, the trouble of fencing being amply repaid by the certainty of always finding the cattle when wanted. The majority of the settlers here are Canadians, and the land is taken up for a distance of five miles east and west; beyond that, however, there is an abundance of land equally good, embracing the riches of the prairie land, with wood, water and hay.

The advantages of the Boyne district for the raising of cattle, with its abundant supply of water, fodder and shelter, has attracted the attention of the Messieurs Grant, of Sturgeon Creek, and Campbell Brothers from Ontario, both of whom have considerable droves of cattle fattening on the Prairie. The unlimited supply of acorns, which strew the ground in the oak-woods, would suffice to feed a large herd of swine. In the Boyne River settlement there are about 30 families.

### Victoria Settlement

This settlement commences about three miles north of Stony Mountain, but the latter term would not, in any other than a level country, be so applied. It is a ridge some 70 or 100 feet above the surrounding level, of about three miles in length and from a quarter to half a mile in width. The eastern side is a gentle slope, but the western is broken, some portions of it being precipitous. It is covered with a fine growth of poplar. The ridge is composed mostly of limestone rocks, which, where exposed to view, appear to run in layers of from a foot to twenty inches in thickness. No better building stone can possibly be found, and the supply is practically inexhaustible.

### The Western District of Manitoba

The traveler, pursuing his journey westwards from Winnipeg, would say that all the land, which meets the eye, is good farming land, but it is only as he reached Poplar Point that he sees the best of it.

The land stretching from there to Rat Creek, and from the River Assiniboine to Lake Manitoba, cannot be excelled for agricultural purposes. Practical men, who have

viewed the wheat-lands of California, the extensive plains of Australia, and the wide-spreading prairies of the Western States, agree on this point.

The river lots from Poplar Point to Portage la Prairie were, for the most part, taken up ten years ago by native inhabitants from the Red River Settlement below Winnipeg, who have sold out again in turn to Canadians and Hudson Bay Company employees. The land out-side of the river lots is also rapidly filling up.

The statements that I have made with regard to the enormous yield of cereals and roots are not over estimated. As further proof of this, in October of 1871, one quart of fall wheat was sown not far from Winnipeg, the same was harvested in August of 1872, and produced the very best sample of grain at the rate of 72 bushels per acre, which was exhibited at the Minnesota State Fair, and pronounced the best sample on exhibition.

There is stated to be a settlement on the Lake of the Woods Road, on the Dawson Route, with a beautiful park-like appearance, abutting on the River Seine, in Township X, Range 4, in which several families from Ontario are settled, whose land must shortly become very valuable, being within ten miles of the town of Winnipeg.

Springfield, another settlement in an easterly direction from Winnipeg, now presents quite a thriving appearance, and contains from 60-70 families. Near it is another settlement known as Sunnyside, containing about 30 families, nearly all from Ontario. The half-breeds are settled for the most part along the Assiniboine and Red Rivers.

The readers will observe, from the above remarks that it is not an unsettled country to which he is invited to go and make himself a house on a free grant, but that there are plenty of settlements, which he can join. Advantages are afforded in Manitoba and the North West that a new settler in the Western States, though lying further to the South, could not possess, of which I will now make mention.

First, in Manitoba the land is principally prairie, requiring no clearing for agricultural purposes, although timber is to be found in sufficient abundance for building purposes, fencing and fuel. In addition to the latter there are the large coalfields further west on the Saskatchewan River. Wherever settlements have been established both grist and sawmills are to be met with.

Secondly, in the Western states the railway companies own the lands from 10 to 20 miles on either side of their respective roads, which settlers cannot obtain as free grants, but for which they have to pay from \$2.50 upwards per acre, according to locality. In the Province of Manitoba, however, the settler can at present make his choice of any lots, which are not yet taken up; he can always join a settlement, and need never become isolated.

Thirdly, there are good prospects of both railway and water communication before long, the facilities for the latter being especially good, the Province abounding in rivers and lakes which extend through the Northwest to the very base of the Rocky Mountains, and eastward to Lake Superior, with the exception of a distance of one hundred and fifty-three miles, as stated by Mr. Wagner, which would require a canal to establish complete water communication.

A steamboat belonging to the Hudson Bay Company already runs on the Saskatchewan for a distance of 600 miles. There is also an outlet through the States by way of Red River, which is navigable from Fort Garry through Minnesota and Dacotah, a distance of 288 miles to Breckenridge, where a branch of the Northern Pacific Railway from St. Paul, 216 miles distant, crosses the river. There is also a railway direct from St.

Paul to Pembina on the boundary line, which will be completed and in running order during the coming summer, and which it is thought will be extended to Fort Garry.

Fourthly, another inducement which Manitoba has to offer settlers is, if the free grant of land to which they are entitled is not sufficient, more can be procured at one dollar per acre, whereas in the western states, even beyond the limits of Railway companies lands the price of one dollar and twenty cents per acre.

Fifthly, although Manitoba lies to the north of Minnesota and Dacotah, the cold is neither so extreme, nor the snow fall as heavy as in the latter states, and the changes in the weather are not sudden, as in Kansas and Nebraska states, still further south. In Manitoba during winter the weather, though cold, is regular, the air dry and healthy. The snow is seldom more than from one to one and a half feet deep, and further west on the Saskatchewan it is said to be even less than that.

### Cost of Transport

The cost of transportation for Emigrants from Toronto to Manitoba is as follows:  
Toronto to Fort William:

Adults, \$5, children under 12 years, \$2.50, 150 lbs. Personal baggage free. Extra luggage, 35 cents per 100 lbs.

Fort William to Fort Garry:

Emigrants, \$10; children under 12, \$5, 200 lbs. Personal baggage free. Extra luggage, \$2.50 per 100 lbs. (Horses, oxen, wagons or heavy farming implements can only be taken by special arrangements).

### The Mode of Conveyance

By Railroad from Toronto to Collingwood or Sarnia.

By steamer from Collingwood or Sarnia to Fort William.

45 miles by wagon from Fort William to Shebandowan Lake.

310 miles broken navigation in open boats, from Shebandowan Lake to the Northwest Angle of the Lake of the Woods.

95 miles by cart or wagon from Northwest Angle Lake of the Woods to Fort Garry.

Between Fort Gilliam and Fort Garry, huts and tents will be provided for the accommodation of Emigrants on the Portages. Passengers should take their own supplies. Provisions will, however, be furnished at cost price at Shebandowan Lake, Fort Francis, and the North West Angle, Lake of the Woods.

### Through Tickets to Fort Garry via Fort William

Can be had at Toronto, at the stations of the Northern, Great Western, and Grand Trunk Railways.

Emigrants are requested to take notice that packages are limited to 200-lbs. weight for convenience of transport on the portages, and that baggage and supplies must not exceed 450 lbs. for any one emigrant.

At the opening of this season, the Red River Route will be in a condition to admit of the transport of heavy articles.

Merchandise will be transported from Fort William to Fort Garry at \$2 per 100 lbs., or \$40 per ton of 2,000. Each piece not to exceed 300 in weight, and to be firmly fastened.

Emigrant fare from Quebec to Toronto is \$5.

The above routes can only be used in the summer season and till the ice sets in the fall. There are several other routes to Manitoba, which are more convenient but at the same time more expensive. One route is from any point on Lake Huron, whence steamboats start, to Duluth on the North Westerly shore of Lake Superior, thence by Northern Pacific Railway to Glynden, 242 miles distant. From this point a line branches northwardly 152 miles to Pembina on the boundary line, the remainder of the distance to Fort Garry being completed by stages or steamboats on the Red River.

Another route is by the Grand Trunk Railway from Toronto to Detroit, and thence by way of Chicago and St. Paul to Breckenridge on the Red River, where steamers run in summer to Fort Garry, some 500 miles distance, or if by land, taking the stage route from Breckenridge, 288 miles. This route costs through from Toronto, first class, \$50 to \$60, according to the season, the fare being lower in summer than in winter.

### The Half Breeds

A question frequently asked is: "WHAT KIND OF PEOPLE ARE THE HALF-BREEDS?"

To briefly state their history then, in the year 1669 a company was formed in London under the Direction of Prince Rupert for the purpose of persecuting the fur trade in the region of country surrounding Hudson's Bay. This company obtained a charter from King Charles II. Granting to them and their successors, under the name of "The Governor and Company of adventures Trading into Hudson's Bay," the sole right of trading in all the country watered by rivers flowing into the Hudson's Bay. The charter also authorized them to build and fit out men of war, establish forts, and to prevent any other company from carrying on trade with the natives in their territories, and requiring that they should do all in their power to promote discovery. This Company frequently brought men from England and Scotland as employees for their trading posts, and for the purpose of hunting and trapping; these intermarrying with the native Indians produced the race of people now known as the English half-breeds or properly speaking half Indians.

In the year 1783 another company was formed composed of French Canadians from Montreal, who commenced the fur trade further East and North of Lake Superior, without any permission from the government or otherwise. This Company, it is said, at one time employed five thousand men. At length trouble arose between the Hudson's Bay Company and the French Company; and frequent quarrels arose, sometimes ending in bloodshed.

In the year 1821 the two rival companies amalgamated. The French Canadians also intermarried with the native Indians, and their descendants were called French half-breeds. This happened over a century ago so that all these half-breeds have become, as it were, a distinct race of people.

They are a civilized class of people. I have been amongst them as a stranger, have boarded and lodged with them, and I have invariably found them very obliging and hospitable, and to their honor be it said, I saw none of them as rough and wicked as some of our own class of Canadians. They have schools and churches wherever they have settlements, as I have before mentioned, and I was informed by an official who assisted in taking the Census, that they can nearly all read and write. They have small houses simply built of round timber in the following manner: for a house 16 feet by 24 feet the sills are laid, six posts are hewn square, one for each corner and one in the middle lengthwise, grooves of two inches are cut in the posts in which plates are pleased to hold the posts, then timbers are cut to the proper lengths and two inch tenon made at either end to fit the groove in the posts, these timbers so prepared are slipped in between the posts in the grooves, one on top of the building; the cracks and openings are all plastered over on the inside and outside and then whitewashed. Some of their buildings are only 16 feet square in which case only four posts are required.

The roof is made of poles laid close together in rafter form and filled out with clay, and mortar and prairie grass puddled into the clay at one end, the butts of the grass covering the clay. This makes a tight and substantial roof, buildings thus constructed afford a warm house, and I would recommend settlers with limited means to adopt this plan for their houses, where the timber is so small that they cannot make them in the old Canadian style.

The reader might wonder why the half-breeds rose in rebellion a few years ago, if they are civilized and satisfied. They thought that our Government should first consult them and give them a certain right to the lands they had occupied, and also lands for their children. An arrangement has now been come to between these people and the Government which gives to every man, woman and child living at that time, one hundred and forty acres of land; with this they are now satisfied, and they seem to be well pleased with the action of the Government.

### Indians

Are there many Indians and are they peaceably inclined? This is another question frequently put to me, and I can say in answer there to, that as far as I could ascertain they are both quiet and inoffensive and well satisfied with the government from which they receive an annuity—three dollars to every soul annually—besides which they have hunting grounds for themselves far back in the North West. If the agreement, as above, is carried out faithfully by our government, and I have no doubt that it will be, there will be no trouble from the Indians. The British Government has never yet had trouble with the Indians in Canada. The Indians who once enter into a treaty will keep it to the letter, but when a promise to them is broken, they are not only dissatisfied but will assuredly seek revenge. This I am told, is what led to the trouble between the American Indians and the residents of some of the Western states, and was the cause of the dreadful massacre of the settlers in Minnesota a few years ago.

The United States Government had made a treaty with the Indians, promising them a certain amount of money, out of part of which they were defrauded by the officials appointed to distribute the same granted to them. I was told by an agent of the Hudson Bay Company, that some of these American Indians, of the Sioux Tribe have fled

to the North-West of Canada and that the Company frequently employs them to work at their trading posts, and that they are good workers and respect our Government very much. Our Canadian Indians are of the Chippewa Tribe, but are not very well pleased that so many of the “Sioux” come in from the other side.

### Frosts, and Adaptation of Climate To Agriculture

I agree fully with the following remarks, made by Mr. Spence in his pamphlet “Manitoba and the North West of the Dominion”.

The liability to disastrous frosts in the season of growth, and which so intimately concerns the interests of husbandry is not any worse in Manitoba than in many parts of Ontario. In the former province the Spring of 1869 was an exceptionally late one, and in May several light frosts were experienced, which did no serious damage to the crops; in fact the injury was scarcely noticeable, which may be accounted for from the following reasons:

1. The dryness of the atmosphere (which is a peculiarity of this region) allows a much lower range of temperature, without injury to vegetation, than in moister climates, and in addition to the heat, gives greater vigor to the plants, which grow rapidly but with firm texture, and are consequently able to resist severe cold on account of their excessive vitality, the same as a person who has partaken heartily of strong diet, is better able to resist the cold of winter.
2. The sudden change of temperature, which is often the case in this region, one extreme following another in rapid succession – is less deleterious to vigorous plants, than a gradual lowering of temperature. The earth and plants still retain the heat previously absorbed, and are thus enabled to bear an atmosphere at 20 much better than at 35 after their latent heat has been given off. The soil of the prairie is generally dry and is rapidly warmed by the rays of the sun in the spring.
3. The benefits arising from the dryness of the air are accounted for from the fact that moisture conveyed in the air has a tendency to soften the delicate covering of the plants, and thus render them more sensitive to cold.
4. The heat-retaining character of the soil. For these and several other reasons that might be mentioned, the climate of Manitoba is less subject to killing frosts, than might at first be supposed to be the case on account of its high latitude.

I was informed by Mr. Deputy Sheriff Nesbitt, of Winnipeg, that in the year 1870 the first frost of any consequence occurred on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of October, in the year 1871, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of October, and last year in the latter part of October, which shows that during the growing seasons, frosts are not likely to do damage to the crops. With regard to Spring frosts, Mr. Taylor, an aged gentlemen now upwards of 80, and resident in that country about 54 years, informed me that he scarcely ever knew vegetables to suffer from frosts after they had once [been] started in the Spring.

The season opens, so I was informed by Messrs. McKenzie and Taylor, for Spring ploughing from about the 20<sup>th</sup> of April to the 1st of May, after which they have very few frosts and the cold is very moderate, as the seasons change rapidly from winter to



summer. Winter generally last five months, say from the middle of November to the middle of April. In the year 1871 snow fell very early, on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November, but as a rule there is very little snow before Christmas. When I arrived there, 17<sup>th</sup> November, last fall, there was no snow. On the first of December there was a slight fall of snow, about an inch in depth.

Although the weather was very cold when I was in the Province, yet the air being clear and dry, the cold is not felt as much as it would be in Ontario, where the air is more moist. On the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November last year, the thermometer stood at 25 to 30 degrees below zero. I was out riding in an open carriage both days, travelling from 12 to 16 miles without making stoppages, and it did not appear colder to me than it does in Ontario when the thermometer is only 5 to 10 below zero. During the days above mentioned I saw at several places as I was proceeding along, herds of cattle pasturing on the open prairies without shelter.

### Stock Raising and Wool Growing

From experience of many years it is shown that Manitoba and the northwest are good lands for stock raising, as the grass of the prairies is very nutritious, and the supply for many years will be inexhaustible. Although the weather is cold, the snow, as I said before, generally comes late – yet notwithstanding, I would consider it more profitable to cut the grass for the winter season and have the cattle and stock sheltered, than to have them run at large as is the case in the states further South, where there is scarcely any snow, but where they have damp cold winters. It would not cost much to cut the grass with mowers, and then to stack it in ridges or rows as I have seen it at the Hudson's Bay Company Posts and on several of the stock raising farms. These stacks so made, form a shelter around the stable yards.

I think that wool growing would be the most profitable, as the climate is more suitable than in a warmer and damper air. The natives who have tried the experiment say that sheep do well and no disease is known amongst the flocks. Wool is easily exported and would command nearly the same price there as it does here and in the adjoining States, where land is dear, and where there is no hay but what is raised on the cultivated farm lands.

Another great advantage, favorable to the raising of cattle and sheep, is the enormous yield of turnips, carrots and mangolds<sup>14</sup> in Manitoba, mentioned by me in the earlier pages of this report.

### Fruit Culture

The culture of fruit, especially apples, has been entirely neglected in Manitoba hitherto; in fact there has never been a practical test made to really know whether fruit trees will flourish or not. This is owing probably to there being such an abundance of wild fruit, and also to the difficulty of getting young trees for planting. The natives are entirely unacquainted with the culture of trees, as they have been bred and born without seeing any such under cultivation. When we find so great an abundance of wild fruit in

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<sup>14</sup> A root beet for feeding cattle: Short for mangel-wurzel.

the forests, I cannot but believe that many kinds of apples would do well in Manitoba, particularly along the edge of the timberlands. In the State of Minnesota, where the extreme snowstorms prevail and where it is fully as cold, they have very fine fruit. I saw young apple trees of two years growth, raised from the seed by Mr. McKenzie, at Red Creek, and they looked hearty and of a large size for a two year old growth. I would advise all settlers, once established, to plant apple seeds; the expense would be only trifling and trees grown from seed will always be better adapted to the climate. After they have grown and have been transplanted about two years, then they should be top grafted with the hardy varieties suitable for cold climate, such as the Snow apple (Famouse) the Rambo, Northern Spy, Spitzenberg, Talman's Sweeting, etc, etc. I see no reason why apple trees should not thrive there, as it is not the degree of cold that kills the trees, but the open and warm weather in the winter, thawing the earth and starting the sap; afterwards freezing hard again to their injury. This is not a common occurrence in Manitoba.

The wild fruit in Manitoba consists of the wild plum, grapes, strawberries, currants, red and black raspberries, cherries, blueberries, whortleberries, high bush cranberries, etc, so that the emigrant need not suffer for the want of good fruit in abundance.

#### The Best Time For The Settler To Come

The settler should, if possible, be on his land by the 1st of June, when he would be in time to plant a batch of potatoes which will grow in an ordinary season when ploughed under the prairie sod. Then ploughing for the next Spring's crop should be done in June or July, when the sap is in the roots of the grass; being turned over at this season of the year it will dry up and the sod will not rot, so that the ground will be in proper order for receiving and growing crops in the following Spring.

#### What Capital Is Necessary With Which We Connect?

This is a question frequently asked and the answer depends entirely upon surrounding circumstances. A young man without family, willing to work and save, could secure himself a home in a few years, provided he had only ten dollars to purchase a homestead claim. Work is to be had at high wages, and he could work for other parties part of the time, and then hire help again in turn to assist in putting up a small homestead house. After that he could plough and fence in a few acres for a crop in the following Spring. The next year he could earn enough to buy a yoke of oxen and other cattle, and thus, in a short time, he might become, comparatively, an independent farmer. A settler with a family ought to have provisions for one year (or the wherewithal to procure [*sic*] them).

Such a one, desiring to start comfortable should have the following articles, or the means to purchase them, *viz*:

One yoke of oxen	\$120.00
One wagon	\$80.00
Plough and harrow	\$25.00
Chains, axes, shovels, etc	\$30.00

Stoves, beds, etc.	\$60.00
House and stable, say	<u>\$150.00</u>
Total	\$465.00

A person having \$800 or \$1,000 can, if he wishes to carry on farming on a larger scale, purchase another quarter section in addition to his free grant, where he will have a farm of three hundred and twenty acres of land for cultivation, and in addition can cut all the hay he wants in the marshes if he thinks it desirable.

In conclusion, I would remark that a poor man can adopt the mode of farming on a small scale for the commencement, as practiced by the half-breeds. They have carts made of two wheels and a straight axle, with two poles fastened on the axle to form shafts, and a rack or box thereon. To a cart so made is hitched one ox. The cart costs about ten dollars, and the ox and harness \$50 to \$60. With such a vehicle a man could do all the teaming that is required on a small farm and after the first ploughing one ox can plough all that is required.

#### Advice To Migrants coming From Europe

I would advise German emigrants, coming from Europe by way of New York, to put up at the German Mission House, Nos. 426 and 428 Pearl Street, corner of new Chambers Street. This is a House specially kept for lodging and caring for emigrants by a religious company, and furnishes a home to those emigrants whilst they stay in New York, and where they may be sure of not being robbed or cheated. All those desiring to put up at the above mentioned House, should write before leaving Europe to the manager of it advising him of the name of the ship they intend to sail in; on its arrival there will be parties at the wharf ready to receive them and conduct them to the House. Their charges are one dollar and fifty cents American currency per day or five dollars per week. Address in writing to:

Messieurs. F. W. Flocken  
No.s 426 and 428 Pearl Street  
New York

I strongly recommend Manitoba as a home for German emigrants, and as they can obtain large grants of land on bloc, they can form a settlement or settlements of their own, where they can preserve their language and customs, as in the Western States of America.

**NOTE---**The route by the St. Lawrence is by far the shortest and the best from Europe to Manitoba, or any part of the North West of this continent. But the advice by Mr. Shantz may be valuable for Germans who happen to go via New York.

## Dominion Lands Act

The following is a summary of the Dominion Lands Act:

An act was passed last Session (35 vic., cap 23) amending and consolidating the laws and orders in council respecting the public lands of the Dominion.

The administration and management is to be effected through a branch of the Department of the Secretary of State of Canada, known as "The Dominion Lands Office".

The surveys divide the lands into quadrilateral townships, containing 36 sections of the mile square in each, together with road allowances of one chain<sup>15</sup> and fifty links in width, between all townships and sections.

Each section of 640 acres is divided into half sections of 320 acres, quarter sections of 160 acres, and half-quarter sections of 80 acres. All townships and lots are rectangular. To facilitate the descriptions for Letters Patent of less than a half quarter-section, the quarter sections composing every section in accordance with the boundaries of the same, as planted or placed in the original survey, shall be supposed to be divided into quarter quarter-sections, or 40 acres. The area of any legal subdivision in Letters Patent shall be held to be more or less, and shall in each case, be represented by the exact quantity as given to such subdivision in the original survey; provided that nothing in the Act shall be construed to prevent the lands upon the Red and Assiniboine Rivers, surrendered by the Indians to the late Earl of Selkirk, from being laid out in such manner as may be necessary in order to carry out the clause of the Act to prevent fractional sections or lands bordering on any rivers, lakes, or other water course or public road from being divided; or such lands from being laid out in lots of any certain frontage and depth, in such manner as may appear desirable; or to prevent the subdivision of sections or other legal subdivisions into wood lots; or from describing the said lands upon the Red and Assiniboine, or such subdivisions of wood lots, for patent, by numbers according to a plan of record, or by metes and bounds, or by both, as may be seen expedient.

Unappropriated Dominion lands may at present be purchased at the rate of \$1.00 per acre; but no purchase of more than a section, or 640 acres, shall be made by the same person. Payments of purchase to be made in cash. The Secretary of State may, however, from time to time, reserve tracts of land, as he may deem expedient, for Town or Village plots, such lots to be sold either by private sale, and for such price as he may see fit, or at public auction. The Governor in Council may set apart lands for other purposes, such as sites of marked places, gaols, court houses, places of public worship, burying grounds, schools, benevolent institutions, squares, and for other like public purposes.

Free grants of quarter sections, 160 acres, are made to any person who is the head of a family, or any person not the head of a family who has attained the age of 21 years, on condition of three years' settlement, from the time of entering upon possession, provided the limitation of quantity shall not prevent the granting of a wood lot to the same person. When two or more persons have settled on and seek to obtain a title to the

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<sup>15</sup> A chain is a measure of length equal to 66 feet, so that an area of ten chains in length by one in breadth is an acre. One chain is divided into 100 links, so that 100,000 square links is an acre.

same land, the homestead right shall be in him who made the first settlement. If both have made improvements, a division of land may be ordered in such manner as may preserve to the said parties their several improvements.

Questions as to the homestead right arising between different settlers shall be investigated by the Local Agent of the divisions in which the Land is situated, whose report shall be referred to the Secretary of State for decision.

Every person claiming a homestead right from actual settlement must file his application for such claim with the Local Agent, within 30 days after the date of such settlements, if in surveyed lands; if in unsurveyed lands, within three months after such land shall have been surveyed.

No patent will be granted for land till expiration of three years from the time of entering into possession of it.

When both parents die, without having devised the land, and leave a child or children under age, it shall be lawful for the executors (if any) of the last surviving parent, or the guardian of such child or children, with the approval of a Judge of a Superior Court of the Province or Territory in which the land lies, to sell the lands for the benefit of the infant or infants, but for no other purpose; and the purchaser in such a case shall acquire the homestead right by such purchase, and on carrying out the unperformed conditions of such right, shall receive a patent for the land, upon payment of the office fees.

The title to lands shall remain in the Crown until the issue of the patent therefore, and such lands shall not be liable to be taken in execution before the issue of the patent.

If a settler voluntarily relinquished his claim, or has been absent from the land entered by him for more than 6 months in any one-year, then the right to such shall be forfeited.

A patent may be obtained by any person before three years, on payment of price at the date of entry, and making proof of settlement and cultivation for not less than 12 months from date of entry.

All assignment and transfers of homestead rights before the issue of the patent shall be null and void, but shall be deemed evidence of abandonment of the right.

These provisions apply only to homesteads and not to lands set apart as timberlands, or to those on which coal or minerals, at the time of entry, are known to exist.

#### Grazing Lands

Unoccupied Dominion lands may be leased to neighboring settlers for grazing purposes; but such lease shall contain a condition making such land liable for settlement or sale at any time during the term of such lease, without compensation, save by a proportionate deduction of rent and a further condition by which, on a notice of six months, the Secretary of State may cancel the lease at any time during the term.

Unoccupied Dominion lands will be leased to neighboring settlers for the purpose of cutting hay thereon, but not to the hindrance of the sale and settlement hereof.

## Mining Lands

As respects mining lands, no reservations of gold, silver, iron, copper or other minerals will be inserted in any patent from the Crown, granting any portion of the Dominion lands. Any person may explore for mining or minerals on any of the Dominion public lands, surveyed or unsurveyed, and subject to certain provisions, may purchase the same. In respect to coal lands, they cannot be taken for homesteads.

## Timber Lands

Provisions are made in the Act for disposing of the timberlands so as to benefit the greatest possible number of settlers, and to prevent any petty monopoly. In the subdivision of townships, consisting partly of prairie land and partly of timber land, such of the sections as contain islands, belts, or other tracts of timber shall be subdivided into such number of woods lots of not less than ten and not more than twenty acres in each lot, as will afford one such lot to each quarter section prairie farm in such township.

The Local Agent, as settlers apply for homestead rights in a township, shall apportion to each quarter section one of the adjacent wood lots, which shall be a free gift in connection with such homestead and in addition thereto.

Any homestead claimant who, previous to the issue of the patent, shall sell any of the timber on his claim, or on the wood lot appertaining to his claim, to saw-mill proprietors or to any other than settlers for their own private use, shall be guilty of a trespass and may be prosecuted therefore, and shall forfeit his claim absolutely.

The word timber includes all lumber, and all products of timber, including firewood or bark.

The right of cutting timber shall be put up at a bonus per square mile, varying according to the situation and value of the limit, and sold to the highest bidder by competition, either by tender or by public auction.

The purchaser shall receive a lease for 21 years, granting the right for cutting timber on the land, with the following conditions; to erect a saw mill or mills in connection with such limit or lease, of a capacity of cut at the rate of 1,000 feet broad measure in 24 hours, for every two and a half square miles of limits in the lease, or to establish such other manufactory of wooden goods, the equivalent of such mill or mills, and the leases to work the limit within two years from the date thereof, and during each succeeding year of the term;

To take from every tree he cuts down all the timber fit for use, and manufacture the same into sawn lumber or some other saleable product;

To prevent all unnecessary destruction of growing timber on the part of his men, and to prevent the origin and spread of fires;

To make monthly returns to Government of the quantities sold or disposed of – of all sawn lumber, timber, cordwood, bark, etc, and the price and value thereof;

To pay, in addition to the bonus, an annual ground rent of \$2.00 per square mile, and further, a royalty of 5 per cent on his monthly account;

To keep correct books, and submit the same for the inspection of the collector of dues whenever required. The lease shall be subject to forfeiture for infraction of any of the conditions to which it is subject, or for any fraudulent return.

The lessee who faithfully carries out these conditions shall have the refusal of the same limits, if not required for settlement, for a further term not exceeding 21 years, on payment of the same amount of bonus per square mile as was paid originally, and on such lessee agreeing to such conditions, and to pay such other rates as may be determined on for such second term.

The standard measure used in the surveys of the Dominion is the English measure of length.

Dues to the Crown are to bear interest, and to be a lien on timber cut on limits. Such timber may be seized and sold in payment.

Any person cutting timber without authority on any Dominion lands, shall, in addition to the loss of his labor and disbursements, forfeit a sum not exceeding \$3.00 for each tree he is proved to have cut down. Timber seized, as forfeited, shall be doomed to be condemned, in default, of owner claiming it within one month.

#### FORM OF APPLICATION FOR A HOMESTEAD RIGHT

I, \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ do hereby apply to be entered, under the provisions of the Act respecting the Public Lands of the Dominion for quarter sections numbers \_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_ forming part of section number \_\_\_\_ of the Township of \_\_\_\_\_ containing \_\_\_\_ acres, for the purpose of securing a homestead right in respect thereof.

#### AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF CLAIM FOR HOMESTEAD RIGHT

I, A. B., do solemnly swear (or affirm, as the case may be), that I am over 21 years of age, and that my application for leave to be entered for lands, with a view of securing a homestead right therein, is made for my exclusive use and benefit, and that the entry is made for the purpose of actual settlement—So help me God.

## Chapter 10: The Province of Manitoba – General Features

The “Narrative of a Journey to Manitoba” by J.Y. Shantz, and the “Dominion Lands Act”, gives in detail the advantages of that province for the Agriculturists. About one half of the large number, about fifteen thousand people coming from Russia to America decided on Manitoba for their destination, therefore a few statements about this province as a whole may be of interest.

Westward in the newly acquired Northwest Territory is the recently created Province of Manitoba. It is situated in the middle of the continent, nearly equally distant between the pole and the equator and the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It was made a province and became a part of the Dominion of Canada in 1873.

From the Province of Ontario and the Hudson Bay on the east to the Province of Saskatchewan (created later) on the west is 495 miles. From north to south 760 miles. The area is 251,832 square miles, of which 19,906 is under water.

Winnipeg is the capitol of Manitoba but at present has the appearance of a large village, but with immigration from the older Provinces, the United States and Europe, it will probably soon become a fair sized town.

Navigation is about to be opened between the Red River and the head waters of the Saskatchewan above Fort Edmonton near the base of the Rocky Mountains, by steamboat a distance of over a thousand miles through a prairie land of unsurpassed richness.

By the United States route an immigrant may proceed by water to Duluth, thence by the Northern Pacific Railway to Moosehead, a station on the Red River, whence there is steamboat navigation to Winnipeg.

A light buggy may be driven for a thousand miles, in a straight line, over the open prairie adapted to the production of wheat, not only in the largest quantity to the acre, but of the best quality. This country to the east of the Rocky Mountains contains, under the surface of the rich prairie lands, immense coal fields and is said to contain gold deposits and other mineral wealth.



## Chapter 11: J. Y. Shantz and J. J. Hill

It was a great benefit to Manitoba and the Northwest that J. J. Hill had faith in the country. In 1872 J. W. Shantz was requested by the Canadian government to make an investigation and give a report, giving his opinion regarding the agricultural possibilities of Manitoba.

This same year “The Selkirk” was built by J. J. Hill – a flat bottom boat for service on the Red River – and formed the Red River Transportation Company, which became a great benefit to the large number of Mennonites who came from Russia to Manitoba from 1873 to 1877 and enabled them to get settled and well under way before the railroads came with their added facilities.

In 1874, 1800 colonists, Mennonites from Southern Russia, went to Manitoba, which number increased to 4,000 in 1875. Within three years, Manitoba had become the home of nearly 8,000 of these people, members of 1343 families, many of whom were in straightened financial circumstances. This involved important financial problems, which will be referred to later.

On April 28, 1873 the Selkirk made her maiden trip down the Red River of the North, bound for Winnipeg. The direct result of this trip was the opening of the great Northwest to the twin cities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The panic of 1873 opened the opportunity for J. J. Hill and his great railroad development. In 1879 the St. Paul Minneapolis and Manitoba Railroad connected these cities with Winnipeg, which was a great convenience for the multitude of immigrants bound for Manitoba and the west.

“Great men are rarely appreciated by the generation to which they belong”. Jacob Y. Shantz and James J. Hill were both born and brought up on Canadian farms only sixteen miles apart. Both were men of peace and empire builders along parallel lines along the border of two countries. Both had lofty ideals, backed by a great purpose and a will and courage that makes stepping stones out of almost insurmountable obstacles. The farmer looking over the bleak wilderness where others saw nothing but dismal disaster had a vision of a world’s greatest golden granary. Indifferent to obstacles, he proceeded to populate the vast fertile area along the northern side of the imaginary line between these two countries, then put forth his efforts to have the Government fulfill its long promised railroad to properly serve the population and bring more settlers. Finally the Canadian Pacific ruling was built and soon became one of the greatest railroad systems in the world. As the railroad brought more people, more railroads were needed and soon other roads were built, which were in time united and formed the Canadian National R.R., which is now another of the world’s greatest railroad systems. All these achievements help to build that marvelous Canadian Western Empire and the opportunities are as great as ever. Thus came one of the most successful colonization achievements in history.

The C.P.R.<sup>16</sup> incorporated under the laws of the Dominion of Canada March 16, 1881. The main line was opened from Montreal to Vancouver May 26, 1887. J. J. Hill, who became the great and noted railroad and empire Builder south of the borderline, had

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<sup>16</sup> Canadian Pacific Railway.

a vision of the fertile plains and valleys stretching from the twin cities to the Pacific, and also had a glimpse of the requirements of the Orient. He also, in his imagination, saw his trains loaded with the grain and fruits of the rich northwestern states bound for the steamships to transport these to their destination across the Pacific Ocean. All this time he was working energetically to help his vision come true.

While the work of J. Y. Shantz was chiefly in the interest of Canada, the United States received equal benefits of his earlier efforts. All the large amount of foodstuffs, implements and other supplies had to come from the United States.

When the delegates representing the people who wanted to leave Russia came to North America, after considering Africa, Siberia and South America, they came to Canada and solicited his experience and guidance in selecting a country suitable for their purpose. He accompanied them not only to Manitoba but also to Minnesota, Nebraska, Dakota, Kansas, Iowa and Missouri. The majority of those and those whom they represented, who had the means to purchase farms already started, went to some of these western states.

Though a Canadian by birth and education, J. J. Hill went to the United States and in early years became a citizen of the country. While his great railroad enterprises and other achievements were principally in this country, Manitoba received great benefits because of his transportation enterprises, first through his steamboat company and later through the railroad, which was the first road to connect Winnipeg with the rest of the world.

### Cooperation

Here were two men, each doing their best for humanity and the interest of their respective countries, for a similar purpose but along different lines. The struggles, hardships and thrilling incidents were common to both.

Shantz succeeded in getting the people into the country first; then the railroad and commerce that naturally followed cared for them.

Hill built the railroads and then business and agriculture followed and took advantage of the opportunities he had opened up for them.

The splendid cooperation was a tremendous factor in favor of these two empire builders. Statistics can never tabulate how much real value this was in the marvelous development of this North American continent.

May we not, therefore, be permitted to consider these two great business leaders as among the harbingers of international peace and good will and then a long forward reach toward universal peace and righteousness?

## PART THREE

### Preface to Part Three

The official report, as contained in the narrative printed in Part 2 and the letter, with which it was submitted to the government, inspired the confidence with which it was written. Confident of its worth they had it printed into a number of different languages and freely distributed.

This favorable report caused consternation among some of his<sup>17</sup> friends, for they said: "It will induce thousands to go up there and they will starve or freeze and he will be responsible". The first part of their prediction was splendidly fulfilled – they went there. By proper foresight and preparedness, the predicted disaster has mercifully been averted. It became the basis of the large immigration and rapid development, which followed in the next 12 years.

At this time, however, it still was the future that would have to determine whether his judgment or that of his friends was correct. Let us consider in our imagination the situation: The task before him, the possible outcome and the dire results if his friends were right and his attitude wrong. The Hudson Bay, a well organized corporation with a charter for 200 years and with all the power that unlimited capital the prestige of businesslike statesmanship and the favor of the King could bestow, were at their call. During these two centuries a number of colonization plans were undertaken. They did not prove to be successful; some even ended with disaster. It was, therefore, generally declared to be only a country for fur bearing animals and not an agricultural country, in spite of all these circumstances. J. Y. Shantz expected the large immigration and he made preparations accordingly.

For a man with limited resources, without any organization, to determine to put all he had, even his reputation, at stake in order to carry out his own convictions required unusual faith, courage and self-reliance. The force of his personality, however, enabled him to have his organization as he went along. The prospective settlers, the government officials, transportation companies, steamship companies, railroads and other business interests usually agreed with his plans and cooperated with his methods so that no calamity should overtake the new settlers.

Financial problems and other critical situations in connection with getting food and other supplies for so large a number of people often required immediate decision and quick action, so as to prevent any possible disaster.

With strenuous efforts he succeeded in getting the large inflow of settlers and their effects into the country years ahead of the railroads, yet the transportation question and the building of the railroads was one of the great questions ever before him, for that would determine the value of their products and the prosperity of the country. The faith, courage, foresight and boldness which he displayed and the efficiency with which he provided for food, shelter, implements and other supplies is nothing short of marvelous,

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<sup>17</sup> Jacob Y. Shantz'.

when we consider the meager transportation facilities (no railroads) and the moderate amount of funds at his command for such an extensive enterprise.

The Mennonites having been such an important factor in the early rapid growth and development of Manitoba and the great Northwest, several chapters are devoted to them, as a people in general and suggesting some possible reasons for some of their distinctive characteristics (which are sometimes considered peculiarities).

Brief reference is made to their origin and their mode of life in different countries, with intimation that the privileges and opportunities they enjoy on this continent puts them under corresponding obligations.

## Chapter 12

The journey of investigation was made in November of 1872. The report was sent to the Government in February 1873 and published in April of the same year.

During this same period the Mennonites were quite active in Russia, some planning to leave and others to compromise with the Government, which a century before had given them certain privileges in endless [*sic*] perpetuity. They were trying to maintain this but without avail. The then ruling Czar had issued an edict, which he was going to maintain.

Among the first arrivals from Southern Russia was Cornelius Jansen, former Russian Counsel, with his wife, her sister and three sons and three daughters. These came to Berlin and took up their residence in the part of the homestead, which used to be occupied by my grandparents.<sup>18</sup> After getting the family located, Mr. Jansen and the oldest son named Peter traveled throughout the country to find a location suitable for their purposes. In answer to an inquiry as to why they left Russia so suddenly it was revealed that Mr. Jansen and some English silk manufacturers had been quite active in their efforts to elevate and educate some of the peasantry in their employ. The priests of the Greek Catholic Church, which held sway there, objected to this. Mr. Jansen asked them on one occasion why they objected to having the people more intelligent as they were going to pay the expense and make the effort for this purpose. They answered for the reason that they could control them better if they were ignorant.

This, together with the fact that Mr. Jansen was among those who advocated immigration rather than compromise with the Russian Government on some kind of a military basis brought out the request that he should leave the country immediately, allowing him only seven days to get out of the country, which was barely sufficient for some of the authorities were on the look out for him, with the idea of banishing him to Siberia.

Not long after that a delegation of twelve men from among the leaders of the community in Southern Russia came to Berlin and in spite of the various interests, J.Y. Shantz had on his hands, he consented to accompany them to Manitoba and throughout the western states. This took several months of his most valuable time but he cheerfully gave it because being more familiar with the English language and American business methods enabled him to be of great value to them and [he] cooperated with them to the full extent of his ability but could not use any of the money that had been given for the purpose of getting settlers to come into Canada.

Some of these delegates and Mr. Warkentin, who had accompanied him the previous fall to Manitoba, as well as the Jansen family, located in the western states – Nebraska and Kansas.

### Manitoba and the Western States

Incidentally it may be said that Mr. Jansen, being one of the outstanding men among the Mennonites of Southern Russia and well known by most of the delegates, he

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<sup>18</sup> Reference is to Isaac Shantz and Barbara Reiff Shantz.

and his son Peter went to New York to greet them on their arrival. The joy of meeting each other on the dock of their hopes for the future was so ardent that it caused an amusing incident. The silk hat which Mr. Jansen always wore, in the ardor of their greeting was accidentally knocked off his head and in the crowd was crushed beyond repair. Returning with an altogether different kind of hat, he appeared so different and of course had to relate the incident.

Although he had several buildings under construction beside his regular business, he gave many weeks of his time accompanying these delegates. Being familiar with the American business methods and language he was able to give them valuable assistance. Finally about one-half of these divided in favor of the United States and the others of Manitoba. Mr. Bernhard Warkentin, who accompanied Mr. Shantz on his Journey to Manitoba, went to Kansas and afterwards became agent for the United States Board of Mennonite Immigration.

After months of investigation by Mr. Jansen and his son, while the family was living on our farm, they moved to Beatrice, Neb. In bidding farewell to the family and coming to Peter, I said: "Goodbye future Governor of Nebraska". About twenty years later, meeting a number of businessmen from that state, on inquiry they said they knew that the family was very highly regarded. When I related the farewell incident they expressed great surprise, saying that I had shown good judgment, for on two different occasions he would have had the nomination for Governor if he had accepted it. He, however, accepted the invitation to attend the Chicago convention, which nominated William McKinley for president.

## Chapter 13: **Publication of Report**

The Government having had this “Narrative of a Journey to Manitoba” published in a number of languages freely distributed in many European countries, indicates that the Department of Agriculture and Colonization were pleased with this report. The large immigration into Manitoba and Northwestern Canada and the Middle Western states was largely the result of that narrative. The confidence aroused by the plain and pointed statements were made by a man of experience and knowledge.

Soon after the publication of this report, it became evident that there would be a large immigration of Mennonites from Southern Russia. It was apparent that they would all have to make tremendous sacrifices when leaving that country, with the result that any of them would be indigent. The idea was that the needy should be assisted so as to enable them to go with the others. While there were many among them who were well to do, they too having been obliged to make great sacrifices in getting rid of their property, did not know whether their resources would be sufficient to render financial assistance to those who needed help.

In 1873 several hundred Mennonites came and temporarily remained in Waterloo County, being assisted by the Mennonites in that vicinity, until arrangements in Manitoba had been completed for the incoming settlers. Within a few years some fifteen thousand Mennonites left Southern Russia for America about one half going to Manitoba, the others to the United States.

### The Financial Problem

To handle this situation successfully, J.Y. Shantz together with a number of leading Canadian Mennonites established a credit of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) with the Canadian Government for the purpose of assisting these Mennonite Pioneers to get established in their new homes in Manitoba. This, in those days, seemed a large amount but when divided among so many it averaged only \$75.00 per family of an average of six people. Fortunately there were some who did not need financial aid but had sufficient for their immediate needs and besides were able to assist some who needed it. This assisting one another showed a fine spirit of true Christian self-denial.

The Mennonites in Canada also expected to contribute about forty thousand dollars, (\$40,000.00) to aid in this purpose. In addition to this J.Y. Shantz had established a personal credit of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000.00) with the local banks for his button industry and other enterprises, a large part of which he frequently used in cases of emergency, for the development work in the Northwest. This he drew on when private contributions and Government funds together were not sufficient or on time for the immediate needs of so large an immigration.

From Southern Russia to Manitoba is a long distance. Transportation would be a large expense. To make the best possible arrangements J.Y. Shantz made a number of trips to New York and Montreal to obtain the most advantageous terms. The final arrangement was made for them to come via Montreal and Toronto. At the latter city they paid through fare from Hamburg to Manitoba. By arranging to have them come in

large groups, and becoming personally responsible for the fares and the collecting of same enabled him to get very low rates, for their passage and goods.

J.Y. Shantz devoted a large part of his time in Manitoba putting up warehouses and immigrant sheds where they could store their goods and live while selecting their homesteads and preparing their dwelling places.

Frequently large groups arrived at Toronto while he was in Manitoba arranging for their arrival and to get them started on their homesteads. At such times one of his sons, Moses B. Shantz,<sup>19</sup> would meet the immigrant train at Toronto on their arrival and make an accounting with the group leaders for the entire train.

These trains were not to interfere with the schedule of the regular trains, therefore, the stopping time varied. Sometimes it was long enough for the people to get out of the cars for a little exercise and fresh air. It was pathetic to see how they were crowded on the cars with the children, old people, and baggage. Their hardships were a part of the price they were willing to pay for civil and religious liberty. The tender consideration and courtesy these groups extended to me, simply because I<sup>20</sup> was the son of Jacob Y. Shantz, their “Great Benefactor”, was really touching.

These people were educated in the Russian and German languages. It was, therefore, desirable to have someone familiar with the English and German languages, to accompany them to their destination.

The tabulating of their fares being completed, they piled the gold coin on a large table around which the men appointed for the office, sat and counted out the proper amount to cover their passage from Hamburg to Winnipeg.

In spite of the hardships they endured, they rejoiced to have reached “Canada”, a land of freedom, although there was still a tedious trip before they would reach their “Canaan”.

The accounting for the fares and the business of collecting the gold being completed, an interpreter joined them and the train was off on the way toward their final destination, and with the gold in a leather satchel I returned to Berlin to deposit the same in the bank. The largest single amount was over ten thousand six hundred dollars (\$10,600). I would hardly care to do this today; it would seem somewhat risky. More than a century had passed into history since the ancestor of these people, because of their excellent qualities as colonists, had been invited to come to Russia by Queen Catherine Second. The invitation included religious freedom; exemption from Military services and other desirable privileges that made them enthusiastic to do their best to establish themselves permanently in Russia.

They prospered and enjoyed life these opportunities gave them for several generations. What a shocking surprise it must have been for them to be informed that they must give up their freedom or their homes.

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<sup>19</sup> The author.

<sup>20</sup> Moses B. Shantz.



## Chapter 14: A Critical Situation

Those who decided to make Manitoba their destination began to come in such large numbers, that it might have created a serious problem. The country was new; there were no cities, no homes, no supplies nor implements necessary for immediate use. Those who were well to do in Russia had to make such large sacrifices that their means were largely reduced, and by giving help as they did to those needing assistance it became a financial question. How could the situation be met? If any part of the disaster that some of the opponents of this colonization project predicted had befallen any of the early arrivals, it might have greatly retarded or possibly brought to a complete standstill, for the time being, the wonderful development of that great portion of the British Empire.

Some of the predictions may be indicated by the following:

A relative who was opposed to Mr. Shantz' work in the Northwest and who predicted many disasters met a son of Mr. Shantz at the Post Office. He asked, "Where is your father?" "I don't know exactly, but somewhere in Manitoba or the Northwest." "That's what I surmised. I think he had better stay at home and mind his own business." To which the son agreed that from a financial standpoint it would be better for his father's varied interests were not being advanced as if he were at home. The relative thinking that the son too was opposed to his father's interest in the Northwest continued. "Do you know about the report he has made to the Government? And that the Government has it printed in five or six different languages and are distributing it freely in Europe and elsewhere?" The son remembered his writing it, but did not know that it had been printed and distributed by the Government. "Why that report is so favorable that, together with what he is doing personally, will induce thousands to go up there." "That is just what they hoped to accomplish." "Those people will get up there and probably either starve or freeze to death, and your father will be responsible." "That is why he is up there now, making preparations for them in order to avert any such calamity."

Upon the return of J.Y. Shantz in the fall of that same year, after being given the reports of the progress of the various activities in which he was interested, the incident referred to in the foregoing dialogue was also mentioned. After a few moments' thought he remarked, "It is not altogether pleasant to have people say or think that when one makes such sacrifices for his country and the welfare of other people." "I hope such a calamity will never occur but if it should, I doubt if I would be responsible. I am responsible for telling the facts to the best of my knowledge and ability. My belief, however, is that in spite of what people say, that great country, Manitoba and the Northwest, will some day be the Greatest Grain Country in the World." This, his vision, has been fulfilled. Not many men are privileged to live long enough to see their prophecies fulfilled, as he was.

Quoting from an article by H.N. Bowman, PhD, of Kitchener, Ont., "The individual service which he himself rated most highly was his part in preventing a near-disaster. On returning from one of his first trips to the west he found at Toronto a party of Mennonites, whom the Ottawa Government was sending to Manitoba via the Dawson Route from Port Arthur to Winnipeg. This lake and River route west of Port Arthur is feasible for trappers, hunters and Canadian voyageurs; but to send over it a party of

inexperienced Europeans was to court death by starvation. Mr. Shantz protested to the officials in charge at Toronto. The official pled higher orders, but finally referred the point to the Government in the shape of a telegram from Mr. Shantz. The reply from Ottawa to Mr. Shantz soon followed. "Do as you see fit." To Mr. Shantz it was always a keen satisfaction that he was privileged thus, by timely intervention, to forestall a fatal disaster. This is one of the many illustrations where a catastrophe, (such as some predicted) might have occurred if he had not interfered and had the order changed.

The whole situation required courageous and prompt action. Through his knowledge, foresight and ability, and the confidence he usually inspired in those with whom he had business dealings, he invariably proved himself equal to the emergency.

By this time it became apparent that large numbers were coming in the near future, and that extraordinary circumstances would have to be met promptly to avoid disaster.

Food would have to be arranged for to last at least a year. Agricultural implements and other utensils for immediate use were a necessity.

Determination and self-control would be needed to meet the expected and unexpected problems bravely and wisely, and often in the face of opposition from both well-meaning and envious people.

## Chapter 15: Supplies and Implements

Being a believer in encouraging home industry, J.Y. Shantz placed some orders for plows and wagons needful for the New Settlers in Manitoba, and Berlin, his hometown. He very soon saw, however, that the facilities were inadequate to meet their immediate needs.

On his trips to Manitoba, which were all made in the interests of the new settlers, he made many purchases for them on his way, going or returning. This made it necessary for him at times to carry a large amount of money. Just an incident here.

On one occasion when traveling on one of the river boats he was carrying five thousand dollars in a leather satchel, and to avoid arousing too much interest, after getting on the boat, he tossed this leather satchel carelessly under the seat opposite the one on which he was sitting, it is to be assumed that his eyes did not wander far from that satchel, considering there were usually a few questionable characters traveling on these riverboats.

The larger purchases, however, he paid by making a Sight Draft on himself payable at the Merchants Bank in his hometown. Some of these were for considerable amounts. One was for a bill of over six thousand dollars for plows from the Oliver Chilled Plow Company. Another bill for over twelve thousand dollars for wagons from the Studebaker Wagon Company, of South Bend, Indiana (now<sup>21</sup> the extensive Studebaker Motor Company); another bill for more than twenty-six thousand dollars for provisions purchased either in St. Paul or Minneapolis.

These drafts were paid by the firm of J.Y. Shantz & Sons, Button Manufactures, and charged to his personal account. Many other bills were handled in the same manner.

The implements and supplies purchased for them by J.Y. Shantz were given in charge of group leaders, who were accountable to him for what they received, they in turn distributed them among their various groups. They had the advantage of getting all their implements and supplies at less than regular cost price, Mr. Shantz having purchased these goods in such large quantities and paying cash enabled him to get them for much lower prices. We also arranged that they would not be required to begin payments on these supplies for a number of years.

With their customary thrift and energy they began at once to cultivate their various sections, as it was then early summer.

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<sup>21</sup> This was written in the 1930's.

## Chapter 16: **Banks Co-operating**

At this point it may be stated that the cooperation of the banks was an important factor in the early development of Manitoba and the Northwest and also of the town of Berlin, now the City of Kitchener, Ontario. Great credit is also due the banks for their confidence in his integrity and ability to carry these enterprises to success. Had it not been for their progressive attitude toward the agricultural interests and the leaders who aided them, the map of that vast Country, extending along the Northern Border of the United States, a thousand miles east and west and five hundred miles north and south, might still be practically wilderness with a few isolated settlements, instead of a Great Inland Empire, with its "Oceans of Grain waving in the breeze", (some sections producing the best quality in the world). With its splendid cities, having some of the finest business structures to be seen anywhere, and having also a network of the two great transcontinental railroad systems.

The one, the Canadian Pacific, which, with its own Steamship Lines encircling the Globe, is regarded as the richest, most complete, and one of the best-equipped railroads on this continent. The others, [united as] the Canadian National, claim to have, "the largest Railway System in America," with unsurpassed service and appointments. Since having been taken over by the Canadian Government, they have made such great progress, that they claim it soon will be one of the Greatest Railroad Systems of the World. Just take a map of each of these railroad systems, see how the northern part of the Continent, is covered with a network of railroads, cities, towns and villages, prosperous and well appointed farms and then realize that this transformation from wilderness to present condition has been brought about during the last fifty years. Then, if you are not thrilled with gratitude for the privileges of living in this wonderful and progressive age, there must be something wrong with you. Your imagination may need stimulation and attention.

Those farsighted bankers appreciated the fact that the farmer is a wealth producer, and a most important citizen. Without him the banker would not be needed, the railroad could not long endure the industries and the professions, would share a similar fate.

The Agriculturist does not always receive the consideration to which the importance of his occupation is entitled, by those dependent on him for their living. The prosperity of the farmer and the manufacturer is reflected in the growth and welfare of the City. Transportation facilities constitute a most important factor in the development of a country.

Even though many friends and relations of Mr. J.Y. Shantz were opposed to the project, he continued to make personal and financial sacrifices, and to overcome difficult problems as they arose, until he gained the confidence of those who were opposed to his great undertaking.

## Chapter 17: **Transportation**

### The coming of the Canadian Railway and its importance.

One of the reasons why the colonization efforts of Lord Selkirk and others were not successful, in the Great Northwest Territory, may be accounted for by the one word, Transportation.

The settlers, whether in Colonies or individual cases (throughout the territory which later, became the provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan, and Alberta) were so remote from seaports and other transportation facilities that the enormous rates for transporting anything that they had to pay were almost prohibitive: In many cases this amounted to more than the actual cost of the goods, in some instances as much as one hundred and ten percent. For the same reason whatever they produced, above what they needed for themselves, brought only the very lowest prices, thus preventing the agriculturist from making any progress, and in many cases forcing them to give up their farms. Besides this, there were the hardships and difficulties incident to pioneer life. The frequent strifes, the occasional wars and bloodshed, between the rival trades and the Indians caused among the settlers a constant feeling of insecurity and fear.

Added to this catalogue of disasters was the fact that the hoped for railway had not materialized, thus making a situation anything but encouraging.

In 1867 when the Confederation was formed, British Columbia agreed to become a part of the Dominion of Canada with the understanding that railway connections would be made with the Eastern Provinces and the seaboard. In 1873, six years later, this promise was still unfulfilled, and British Columbia as well as the pioneers became restless.

About this time it also became apparent that there would be a large immigration of Mennonites from the Southern part of Russia to America. Their destination as yet was not fully decided. Much depended upon the construction of this promised or hoped for railway.

During this period J.Y. Shantz made numerous trips and spent much time with the Government leaders at Ottawa. The prospective large immigration depended much upon his judgment, and they looked to him for advice and guidance. For several years the incoming settlers would require all that the first arrivals could produce, but before long nearly all would become producers and would require a large outlet for their surplus products; therefore the railroad would be essential, not only to the new colonists and the province of British Columbia and Vancouver, but also to the Dominion as a whole.

Fortunately, courage, faith, hope, and love were some of the characteristics of J.Y. Shantz for otherwise he could never have carried the burden of responsibility for their best welfare and financial success which he had assumed. The task of arranging for the settlers through passage, the obtaining of financial assistance, and getting such large numbers to Manitoba with their families and household effects, may all be considered an heroic achievement. Yet his almost annual visit to them keeping in personal touch, and giving them the benefit of his experience and counsel, was more real help and value to them than almost anything else could have been, though it may not be computed in dollars and cents.

## Chapter 18: **The Railroad Construction**

The Canadian Pacific Railroad was incorporated under the laws of the Dominion of Canada, March 16, 1881. The Construction was begun in June 1881. The first train left Montreal for Winnipeg, September 6, 1885, and the first through train from Montreal to the Pacific Coast left the former point on June 28, 1886, arriving in Winnipeg July 1, 1886, and reaching Vancouver July 4.

The conception and building of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, was a tremendous achievement, showing wonderful ability and self-confidence for so young a country. The efficiency with which the building of the railway was carried to completion is marvelous.

The large numbers that arrived from Russia between 1873 and 1880, could now rejoice in its convenience and the added value it gave to their possessions. Those who may have been impatient at times, because of the delay, of beginning their own great work may well picture to themselves some of the problems of the promoters of this immense undertaking.

Think of the vast plains, the almost insurmountable barrier of the Mountain Range in the Western province, the difficulty of finding investors in such a scheme, the fears under which surveyors and others worked, and the hardships they had to endure! You can then be grateful for living in this advancing age and, "Thank God and take Courage."

A book giving the details of the construction and operation of this, The Canadian Pacific Railway and its allied interests, and the opportunities it offers for the further development of that Great Inland Empire would make an interesting history.

## Chapter 19: Mennonites

The Mennonites having played such an important role in the drama of the life and struggles of the early, rapid and substantial development of Manitoba and the Northwest, it is only just to the reader to give a brief outline of their history for the last four centuries beginning with the era known as “The Reformation.”

Some years ago a well known Methodist minister asserted: “I have lived among the Mennonites in Pennsylvania and I do not believe that their equal as desirable citizens can be found anywhere.” He could scarcely find words to express his enthusiasm for their excellent qualities of industry, integrity, cleanliness and good farmers. “That sounds fine,” I stated, “That is where my grandparents come from, but I think that some of those who left there over a century ago and settled in Canada and some of the Western States are on the whole fully equal to them.”

(The Opposite Opinion)

At another time a man who claimed he knew Mennonites in the far west of Canada said: “They are the most undesirable class of citizens imaginable and should not be allowed in this country.” I told the latter that I had met many thousands of those who came from Russia between 1871 and 1881 and transacted business with them on a large scale and among them were some of the finest, best educated and cultured people I have ever known and that I thought it might be a case of mistaken identity on his part; that I did not think the people he had mind belonged to any one of the ten or more divisions of Mennonites.

The admiration of the first of these two men may have carried his lofty ideals almost into the realms of the empyrean.

The disgust of the latter has a tendency toward sordid ignorance, but in case he should be correct, let him and all others take into consideration that the people the first one had in mind have been on this continent for over two centuries and have enjoyed the benefit of religious liberty and the favor and protection of a Protestant Christian government, with its free schools and other elevating influences.

The latter may just recently have emerged from centuries of persecution, oppression and mental slavery. Let them have the civilizing influences we enjoy in this country before we are too hard on them. For ourselves, let us “thank God and take courage.” May our gratitude be expressed in word and deed and in the service we can render to others. “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me.”

Whatever difference or shortcomings may exist, nevertheless, all Mennonites everywhere accept the Decalogue and the Golden Rule; “The Law and the Gospel; (both phrases meaning the same thing) as embodying the foundation principles for the guidance of the worth-while life.”

### Agriculture - Their Principle Occupation

Let us hope this will ever remain thus, for in this honorable and essential calling they excel. This, together with their distinctive religious conviction, may have a

tendency to have some of the thoughtless, ignorant or snobbish city people inclined to look down instead of up to these on whom their very existence depends. The Mennonite farmer “feels” this. Let him pay no attention to such littleness. Let him realize the importance of his position as outlined in the following paragraph.

“The plow tells the story of civilization. Its magical influence makes the desert rejoice and blossom as the rose. Remove it from a country and our banks would topple, factories would close their doors, the dominion of business would be convulsed and shaken, with distress filling the streets.”

Also many did not have the educational advantages that they should have had. This too has a tendency for them to keep themselves away from the influence of association with other business and professional men.

Let such, however, remember that if they have a good Bible, which every home and every member thereof has or ought to have and if they know their Bible, they have the best that there is in all literature. Someone has said: “The Book of Isaiah contains the finest prose existing in any language.”

This same book also voices one of the great Mennonite principles: “Jehovah will judge between the nations and He will decide concerning many peoples; and they shall beat their swords into plow shares and their spears into pruning-hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.” Is: 2-4

Would the rulers of the nations of today settle the armament question, let them follow the suggestion of Isaiah, the great statesman and prophet of his day: “Beat their swords into plow shares, neither learn war any more.”



## Chapter 20: Mennonites - Some Of Their Characteristics

It has been intimated that the Mennonites are too exclusive and do not do their full duty regarding the political and civic affairs of their country and community. Where this seems to be the case, we should be tolerant and see whether there is not some reason for this.

In the early history of the denomination we note that its adherents were taught, by precept and example, to do this. For about two centuries they were living in fear and subject to some of the severest persecution and oppression and even expatriation. Through this they were often driven from one country to another and settled in small groups in accordance with the ideas of their leader, almost unconsciously, would adopt certain nonessential traditions and peculiarities, which they are slow to change.

An illustration on this point may be of interest and even amusing but it serves for the purpose of illustration. About a decade ago, a Rochester daily paper had an article entitled "Mennonite Conference." This article had much to say about their peculiarities, putting the principal emphasis on the point that they did not use buttons. This may have been because Rochester has been for many years and still is, the leading center for the manufacture of buttons and the fact is the industry, especially the highest quality, owes its existence to Mennonites enterprise and capital and has been a leader for half a century. (One of the ten or more divisions of Mennonites are reported to not use buttons.)

That there are so many divisions of Christians in this one denomination is to be regretted. In this marvelous age of wonderful progress may we not hope to be approaching the dawn of that glorious morning when not the Mennonites only, but all evangelical Christians of every denomination will banish to oblivion, the nonessential differences of opinion.

The nations of the world are uniting and cooperating for the establishment of peace and good will. Should not the Christians unite and cooperate in the winning of the world for Christ and His church? "Put on the whole armor of God" (Eph: 6, 10-17) "Take up the shield of faith for a defense against the wiles of the evil and the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, for the conquest of the world for the Kingdom of God."

## Chapter 21: Mennonites – Life In Different Countries

The Mennonites are a Protestant Evangelical denomination founded in 1536, in the Netherlands by the followers of Menno Simons 1492-1561, who through the study of the New Testament became an evangelical preacher, and finally left the church of his ordination.

He was a meek, pious, noble minded man, and expected his followers to observe a proper rectitude of life, sternly rebuking, any immoral or unchristian conduct, and for the purpose of having his followers lead practical Christian lives he reserved the power of excommunication.

Baptizing only those who made a personal profession of faith in Christ he declined infant Baptism. He believed and taught that Christians cannot participate in war, and other military service. He did not encourage his members in taking active part in civil or political affairs.

The Church made such rapid progress that it soon spread beyond the bounds of the Netherlands into adjoining countries of Europe. In some countries they were granted religious liberty, while in others they suffered severe persecution, because some of their distinctive beliefs and especially because of their opposition to infant baptism and refusal to participate in military affairs. This persecution in various forms and in different countries, continued for about two centuries, occasionally moving from one European country to another, to escape the severity of the persecution, or because they were expatriated.

### Mennonites in Pennsylvania

During one of his evangelistic tours in Europe, William Penn, observing the similarity of the beliefs and social life of the Quakers and the Mennonites invited them to Pennsylvania, where he had obtained religious liberty and exemption from military service for those who could not take part in war, because of their religious convictions, and where they could live in peace from persecution. This accords with the following quotation.

About the year 1682 a number of Indian tribes made with the Quakers a Treaty of Peace and Friendship, which according to Voltaire, “was never sworn to and never broken.”

George Bancroft, the American historian says that “while every other colony in the New World was visited in turn by the horrors of Indian warfare no drop of Quaker blood was ever shed by a Red Man in Pennsylvania.”

Accepting the invitation of William Penn a number of Mennonite colonists arrived in 1683 in the village of Philadelphia consisting of fourteen cottages, and for decades they kept coming to Pennsylvania, and also to other states. They soon became very numerous and prosperous. They settled principally in the counties of Philadelphia, Montgomery, Lancaster and adjacent counties. They are noted as a class for their industry, integrity and excellence as farmers. It is stated that Lancaster is agriculturally the richest county in the United States.

A large number of the earlier colonists having come originally from Holland to Pennsylvania, probably accounts for the term Pennsylvania Dutch being sometimes applied to some of them. After they were here about a century they began to furnish desirable settlers for other parts of the continent, especially for Upper Canada (now the province of Ontario) and some of the Middle Western States. While they are thought of chiefly as agriculturists, they and their descendants are found in all walks of life, manufacturers, merchants, educators and every other desirable vocation.

For instance, among manufacturers, William Rittenhouse, a Mennonite preacher, built the first paper mill in the United States in 1690. Many important industries and commercial enterprises were founded by Mennonites or men of Mennonite descent. A long list of College Presidents and University Professors, judges, congressmen, merchants and captains of Industry have had a Pennsylvania Mennonite ancestry.

### Mennonites in Russia

Catherine the Second of Russia, in 1786, on learning of their splendid qualities as colonists invited them from Prussia to Russia. They were exempt from military service; given religious liberty; a grant of land to each family; exemption from taxes; privilege of having their own schools and freedom from persecution. Many accepted this invitation and established the first colony in 1786.

John Cornies, who became a historic personage among the Russian Mennonites was appointed ruler of the Russian Province, by the Tsar and was given the title of "Organisator" (organizer), under the tyrannical bureaucracy of the Tsar.

Organisator Cornies directed the development of the Mennonite life and institutions throughout Russia, regulating the affairs in fine detail, which were initiated by other settlements, even some of those in Manitoba.

Their villages and farms were uniformly arranged. Back of each house, which was built of logs with straw thatch roof, later being replaced by red brick and green tiled roofs, was the vegetable garden, and further back the orchard which each farmer had to plant as well as the trees in the small wood lot of about an acre, which occupied the rear part of each small farm.

As these villages were located on barren steppes it required considerable work to cultivate and plant all the trees to be found in both orchard and woods on each farm. Another detail that Cornies required was that all property be kept in the most immaculate order, the woods even had to be kept free from weeds. The houses and barns were always being kept scrupulously clean and in good repair, giving the appearance of having been newly built.

A traveler journeying through Russian villages and crossing the barren steppes where there is neither tree nor bush of any kind, immediately had the impression that he was entering a paradise, when coming into one of these Mennonite villages, which was so extremely picturesque, with their well-kept orderly farms.

The wealthy Mennonites did not live in these villages, but had large tracts of land some owing as large as five to ten thousand acres.

The Government, when asking these Mennonites to settle on their unoccupied lands, had in view the increase of the national wealth and civilizing influence on the Russian peasantry, by so thrifty a people as the Mennonites.

Then after almost a century of peace and prosperity, the Tsar sent out an edit withdrawing many privileges, requiring them to serve in the militia and conform to the laws of the land.

After sending a Commission to St. Petersburg it availed them nothing. Determined to sacrifice all for their religious freedom, they again went in quest of a new country, where they could enjoy liberty.

While they were thus considering other countries for colonization purposes some official in Russia suggested to them the advisability of giving favorable consideration to British North America, with its vast territory of fertile prairie land. In response to this suggestion they selected a delegation to visit other countries, where religious freedom would be accorded them.

This delegation, after considering Africa, Siberia, Australia, and South America, arrived in Berlin, Canada and were entertained by Jacob Y. Shantz. After explaining to him the whole situation and he being familiar with the German and English Languages and American business methods they urged him to accompany them in visiting the western and northwestern States and Northwestern Canada.

The result of their investigation was that in 1873, several hundred Mennonites came to Canada, in 1874 eighteen hundred, and 1875 twenty-two hundred arrived, within three years from the beginning of the flow of immigration, thirteen hundred families, numbering eight thousand souls, came from Southern Russia to Manitoba.

## Chapter 22: Mennonites in Canada

In the dawn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century in the year of 1800, about one hundred and twenty years after coming to Pennsylvania from Europe, the Mennonites still possessing the pioneer spirit mingled with courage and adventure, took steps toward further expansion. Some considering the more southern states while others were attracted toward the Middle West, the largest however were interested in Upper Canada, as a possible future home, having been accorded the same liberty by the British Crown that they enjoyed while in Pennsylvania.

The first to leave for Canada was in 1798, and after about two months of hard and tedious travel and a great deal of danger and difficulty for want of roads, they reached their destination, and located on the land bordering on Lake Ontario west of the Niagara River. In 1800 from among those who had reached Canada in 1798 and 99, two men Joseph Sherk and Samuel Betzner, hearing about desirable land further on, after looking over the situation decided to locate there. Today there stands a monument erected to their memory in honor of the first two settlers to penetrate the primeval forest of Upper Canada (now Waterloo County).

At that time no white settlement had been started where Buffalo (N.Y.) now stands, where Hamilton (Ontario) is located was an impassible swamp, and Toronto a mere trading post. The only sign of civilization was a residence, store and sawmill at Dundas.

Later in the same year several families came from Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in covered wagons, known as "Pennsylvania Steamers," each drawn by four horses, bringing most of the necessary things for immediate settlement for their new homes. These Mennonites also settled in the new colony, first settled by Sherk and Betzner.

The nearest mill and general store for years was at Dundas a distance of over twenty-five miles of almost impassible roads. In 1802, the first schoolhouse was erected in the Western Peninsula.

The immigration of Mennonites into Canada from Pennsylvania, continued on a liberal scale for about twelve to fifteen years and gained such proportions that by 1812, a large settlement was well established throughout what is now Waterloo County, indicating that the earlier settlers were satisfied with the possibilities before them.

Possessing the true pioneer spirit they proved themselves to be a most desirable class of citizens, as a class they were robust, thrifty, peaceable and religious, possessing in general the characteristics conducive to progress and human happiness with constantly increasing favor and prosperity, they have continued for about a century and a quarter. It is largely due to their work and influence that Waterloo County has become one of the "Banner Counties of the Dominion."

While the majority are agriculturists in which they predominate [*sic*], they are found in all worthy occupations and vocations. Many of the large industrial plants, have been founded by Mennonite capital and enterprise and are conducted and operated by them and their descendants. During the century of their sojourn in Canada they had become so well established and prosperous, that they were able and willing to render assistance to others when the opportunity came.

The Mennonites going from Prussia to Russia (as referred to in the previous chapter) and those going from Pennsylvania to Canada, then after their early years of sacrifices and struggles, they began to reap their reward in their respective countries.

In each of these countries they lived in peace and prosperity enjoying under the protection of their respective Governments, the special privileges granted to them.

In 1870, however, an edict from the Tsar of Russia notified those in Russia that their special privileges which had been “Granted In Perpetuity” would be terminated in ten years, they would be required to conform to the laws of the land, including the performance of military service or leave the country.

## Chapter 23: Mennonites on the Continent of North America

On this Continent, for two centuries the Mennonites have been permitted to live in peace and goodwill, under the protection of the Government. This added much both to the prosperity of the country and to their individual welfare.

Do they properly appreciate and by word and deed show their gratitude for their benefits and blessings?

In this, the dawn of a new and better day, when all the world, States, Kingdoms, and Empires are exerting their best efforts to outlaw war, and establish universal peace, should not the Mennonites give the best co-operation? Although separated by geographical and doctrinal differences, it is most commendable that they always maintained that the Bible is the word of God, and its principles are to be the Guide of Life. Its lofty teachings are opposed to war, and in favor of justice, peace and righteousness.

It is stated that the Mennonites are divided into about twelve different divisions, which seem to be the result of minor details. Being united in their beliefs, regarding the great essential truths. Would it not be for the interest of human welfare and the Glory of God to pay less attention to the non-essentials, and concentrate more on the Great Teachings?

During the Last Supper, in reply to a question, put by Thomas, Jesus the Christ, asserted: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." At a later hour on the same evening, in his prayer for his disciples, he said, "Sanctify them through thy Truth; Thy word is Truth." Thus we note that Jesus places himself as the center of all Creation, from whom radiates all Truth; at the same time he places God's Word as the radiating center for all Literature.

Again, at the Post-Resurrection meeting, (by appointment) with his disciples, he made the Greatest Assertion ever uttered. "All authority hath been given to me in heaven and on earth." The Greatest Assertion, He followed with the Greatest Commission ever entrusted to man. "Go you therefore into all the world and make disciples of all the Nations." This commission is the "Marching order of the Church," followed by the Greatest Promise: "And Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the World." Thus we have from our Lord and Master; Matt: 28., The Greatest Assertion, The Greatest Commission and the Greatest Promise.

St. Paul, in writing to the Philippians after mentioning Christ's great mission and sacrifice for humanity, says: "Therefore also God highly exalted him and gave unto him the name which is above every name, that at the Home of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things on earth, and things under the earth, and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father."

If our minds and hearts are filled with the supremacy of Jesus Christ as Lord over all, and as the "Light and Life of the World," and His Word as "The Truth", we should have such joy and be kept so busy in the contemplation of these high ideals and noble themes, that we would care less and have less time to think of and discuss the less important or non-essential questions.

While exemption from military service is justified and a great blessing, both from a material and spiritual standpoint, it does not follow that our Christianity should be a passive or negative existence. Rather, the scripture teaches us that we are to wage a constant warfare against sin and all kinds of injustice and for righteousness and truth. St. Paul suggests that our armor and its skillful use both for defense and conquest. The shield of faith for defense; the sword of the spirit, which is the word of God, for conquest. (Study Eph. 6: 10-17).



## Chapter 24: **The Northwest Territory**

When in response to the request of the Canadian Government, J.Y. Shantz in the fall of 1872 made his trip to Manitoba, St. Paul and Minneapolis, [they] were regarded as struggling trading posts and all north of that as the range of the Indian and the Buffalo.

The report of that journey given to the Government in the form of a “narrative” in February 1873, and translated into a number of other languages and freely distributed by them, and supplemented by the personal efforts, was a great factor in the marvelous agricultural and commercial development of the following decade.

Through his personal recommendation and assistance about eight thousand splendid agriculturists had come from Southern Russia within five years. With such a start, and the early-expected railroad connection between Winnipeg and St. Paul and Minneapolis, a constant coming of settlers and immigrants seemed assured.

The renewed discussion for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railroad gave hopes for some early definite action. In March 1881 the Canadian Pacific was incorporated under the laws of the Dominion of Canada. Two months later construction work began. This aroused new hopes in the ability to carry out the desire of the Canadian Government that he extend his work of expanding and founding additional colonies westward. At this time all that vast area of wilderness between Manitoba and British Columbia was known only as North West Territory representing more than a thousand miles of wilderness. Visions of golden grain waving in the breeze bounded only by the elastic horizon of human imagination presented themselves.

On one of his earliest trips to Manitoba he hired a horse and buggy, and drove several hundred miles west of the Red River and for a number of days saw only three white men and these were associated with one of the H.B. Company Posts. With longing eyes he gazed over that endless expanse of fertility and pictured to himself the thousands of prosperous homes that would in the future be dotting that vast domain, with its network of railways, its towns, cities, industrial, and commercial enterprises. He was viewing over the “land of promise” from the East to the West about the same time another man was looking from the West to the East.

Here I take the liberty to quote from a book entitled “Manitoba and the Great North West” by John Macoun, M.A., published by Thomas C. Jack, London, 1883, Chapter 30: “Western Indians and the North West Mounted Police”, “Up to the year 1874 the whole country adjacent to the Rocky Mountains, or the eastern slope, was occupied by Indian Tribes. Buffalo and other large game had made these bountiful plains and fertile slopes their chosen home for unnumbered years.

The Aborigines were rich and happy after their own fashion, until the introduction of the whiskey traffic from the United States territories bordering on the South.

One of the largest Indian tribes in this section of the Canadian Northwest were the Blackfeet, numbering about ten thousand in 1861, north of the international boundary line.

The extraordinary extent of the illicit traffic in intoxicating liquor to the Blackfeet was most demoralizing. Hundreds of the poor Indians fell victim to the white man’s craving for money - some poisoned, some froze to death while in a state of intoxication,

others shot down by United States bullets. Then in 1870 came the smallpox, so fatal to the Indians, destroying between six and eight hundred of them. Surviving relatives endeavored to drown their grief in the poisonous beverage; they sold their robes and horses by the hundred for it.

It was painful to see the poverty to which they had been reduced. Formerly they had been the most opulent Indians in the county, now they were clothed in rags, without horses and guns, this was in the summer of 1874. Fortunately, the Government became aware of this and took immediate action.

“That very summer the Mounted Police were struggling against the difficulties of a long journey across the plains to bring them help. The noble corps reached their destination that same fall, and with magic effect put a stop to the abominable traffic of whiskey with the Indians.” “Since that time the Blackfeet Indians are becoming more prosperous. They are now well-clothed and furnished with guns and horses. During the last two years I have calculated they have brought two thousand horses to replace those they had given for whiskey.”

Mutually satisfactory treaties have been made and these Indians have settled on their allotted reserves.

### Mennonite Immigration

During the same summer of 1874 a large immigration into Manitoba from the East had started. Twenty-two hundred Mennonites came from Russia to Manitoba during the summer, with smaller numbers from other countries. This large immigration continued for several years so that before the Canadian Pacific railroad was incorporated in 1881 about eight thousand settlers had arrived from Southern Russia. This had a decided influence on the development of Manitoba. Winnipeg (city), which in 1871 had a population of two hundred forty-one, increased to seven thousand nine hundred eighty-five in 1881.

### An Adventure in Colonization

The large number whom he aided to get settled in Manitoba made good progress; nevertheless he took it upon himself to guard their interests. He made almost annual trips to the Northwest. As soon as the Westward railroad construction started, he observed their course, with a view of locating settlements on the western plains. Many farms were settled and towns located when that large region was still the “Northwest Territory.”

## Chapter 25: Saskatchewan

In 1905 the Dominion Government created out of a part of this Northwest Territory the Provinces of Saskatchewan and Alberta, the former becoming the Middle of the three Prairie Provinces.

In the decade 1911-1921 the population of Saskatchewan increased over 400% and represented the greatest rush for farmlands in the world. The population in 1926 was 830,000, about one half or 416,000 being of British origin, German and Scandinavian, Ukrainian, French and Russian being numerous in the order named.

It is reported that Saskatchewan has a larger number of country elevators than any of the other provinces, thus giving evidence of its grain growing capacity, and has the full benefit of the transportation facilities furnished by the two important Canadian Railway Systems, the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National.

Regina Regina was the first seat of Government in the Northwest Territory, and since September 1905, the capital of the province of Saskatchewan. It is the largest City in the Province, situated on the Main line of the Canadian Pacific Railroad and is the chief railway center between Winnipeg and Calgary, a distance of 840 miles, 360 miles from the former and 470 from the latter. The land in this vicinity is as good and fertile as any on this Continent. It is the center of a large and growing distributing trade, and is the home of many important industries.

Regina was started as a prairie village. In 1882 it was a village of tents. In 1901 its population was only 2,250. In 1905 it was estimated at 8,000. In 1926 it had a population of 37,329. The growth of its commercial and industrial facilities has kept pace with the rapidly increasing population. Regina is the western headquarters of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Saskatoon<sup>22</sup> The second largest City in the province, and an important railway center for the Canadian Pacific and the Canadian National railways.

From a population of 113 in 1900, it increased to 31,234 in 1926. It is situated 160 miles north of Regina and 466 west of Winnipeg. It is the Midwestern headquarters of the Canadian National railway: The central location of a large distributing territory. It is the seat of the University of Saskatchewan, 1330 students in 1927, has a new Normal School, twelve large public schools with an attendance of 8,645 in 1926, seventeen churches, five banks, courthouse, custom house and two hospitals, owns its electric light, power, street railway, water and sewage system, the second largest manufacturing city in the province, with forty-three establishments producing 185,000 value of goods. Dominion Elevator, with 3,500,000 bushels capacity, has two daily and one weekly newspaper. Altogether the Province has become an important factor in the onward march of events, and with the proper guidance of its destinies, it will, with increasing ratio, continue to contribute its full share toward the stability of the Dominion of Canada.

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<sup>22</sup> Now Saskatoon.

## Chapter 26: **Spirit of Adventure in Northwest Territory (By M. Weber)**

### Alberta's Progress Fully up to Schedule.

From the time the Canadian Government induced Jacob Y. Shantz to investigate and report to them regarding the Northwest, and during the strenuous years which followed, I<sup>23</sup> was in close touch with his affairs and took charge of some of them to make it possible for him to devote so much of his time in getting the development of Manitoba and the Northwest well under way as to make the great project a success.

About that time, (at the request of the Government), he began exploring the Northwest territories between Manitoba and the Rocky Mountains, I moved to Rochester, N.Y. and then did not keep familiar with the details of his westward explorations. For this reason I wrote to one of my nephews, who was one of the early pioneers of that western territory. His answers to my questions being very good, complete and comprehensive, I take the liberty to copy these from his letter,

“Replying to your letter, I must say that we arrived at what was designated to become “Didsbury” in the future, on April 18, 1894.”

The reason for locating at this western point may be more clearly seen when the following facts are better known.

During the previous year Grandfather scouted the prairies of Saskatchewan and Alberta (then the Northwest territory) with a view of finding a place for prospective settlers from Ontario and Michigan many of whom had signified their intention of moving west and knowing that Grandfather was doing colonization work for the Canadian Government under Sir John A. McDonald, the inquiries centralized upon him.”

“In 1892 and 1893 the Calgary and Edmonton railway was being finished and this opened a very fertile tract of land between the two points. It was then that Grandfather arranged with the Government to build an immigrant hall on a certain quarter section if said Government will give him title to the quarter section of land in question. This they did and a habitable place was built one hundred feet long by twenty wide, single story. The land was excellent and the water was good.”

The following conversation with the writer will disclose in particular why this part of the prairies appealed to the man with prophetic foresight.

“It was on a Sunday evening in 1896 on one of his last trips to the north that he gave expression to his inmost sentiment and life motive. There was a small service in the one end of the immigrant shed he had built three years before, and after service we were referring to the beautiful sunset peculiar to Alberta due to the Rocky Mountains; at this point he began by referring to criticisms of his relatives for taking good Ontario farmers to such an isolated spot. They said, “Suppose good crops could be raised the distance from market points would render them valueless and what has become of Jacob Y in his older days to take such a step was more than they could comprehend.” “These mountains,” he said, “are Canada's great treasure house and you will see these treasures brought forth within the next thirty years.

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<sup>23</sup> In this section, “I” refers to M. Weber.

The mountain streams are full of power, and the prairies will be lighted from the power of these rivers when put under harness. The timber will be used to build houses and factories. The coal will be unearthed and warm the homes of the settlers and also furnish power for the industries.

The minerals of endless quantity will be made use of, maybe we will find oil and gas. These prairies will feed the cattle upon the thousand hills and we will soon see the wheat fields' wave in the Chinook breezes of the West. Flour mills, packing houses, tanneries and refineries will adorn these prairies." A flourmill is in operation only forty yards from where he stood when the above was said.

As to the market, he said, "British Columbia will want your grain products, you will want their fruit – Vancouver will be a large world Port, you will ship cattle and grain to China and Japan, when we send a few more missionaries."

"These mountains will be more of a help than a hindrance to you, and all this can happen in thirty years.

The educational part will follow – Universities and agriculture colleges will be at hand and the West will be up to date the same as the east, and that can all happen in thirty years. In the words of Scripture we may say "This day is this prophesy fulfilled before our eyes."

In 1926 – 30 years later shipment was made to Japan of beef and dairy cattle for foundation stock, personally supervised by the Deputy Min. of Agriculture of Alberta. Other shipments followed. The special edition of the "Calgary Albertan" will speak for the "Power and light". (A two-page article giving a vivid description of the "Keystone of Power System Finished" and the great benefits this will confer to the hundred and thirty communities to which they can now furnish the ample Power Supply).

Vancouver as a port is justifying the prediction made. The oil and gas industry has grown by leaps. 114 derricks in Turner Valley only forty-five miles from Calgary. Jar sands in the north will furnish roadbeds second to none; smelters are in operation in British Columbia.

The principal grains in Alberta for 1929 are valued at \$161,999.00. The Calgary Market examiner of November 28, 1929 devotes two columns of that issue, describing the advantages of Vancouver as an Outlet for Livestock from the prairies, and the consequent benefits to the farmer and rancher of Alberta.

"Universities and colleges are dotted over the prairies, our school system is equal to any in the east."

Your Pioneer Travelling Clinic (judiciously administered) is a great forward reach in Service to the people and the onward march of practical health education and correct living.

"Our victories at the International Exhibition Chicago in grains and stock more than justify the predictions that we will raise the best wheat in the world – were made by Grandfather. To blaze the trail for industry, education, morals and Christianity was his ambition."

Twenty years before you landed in Alberta your Grandfather was severely criticized by some of his friends for taking the people to Manitoba for they said, “They will freeze or starve and he would be responsible.” Nevertheless the elastic horizon of his imagination permitted him to see, (instead of destruction and distress) the waving golden grain like a mighty ocean. These predictions were fully realized.

These twenty years of observation and experience gave him the knowledge and courage to be more explicit, in his prophetic prediction, as they were outlined to you, even to the extent of giving the probable time that would elapse before their fulfillment. How wonderfully they were justified.

The following sentences are quoted from an article in the New York Times of December 15, 1929 entitled “Titled farmers of Canada”:

“Southern Alberta has more titled landowners than perhaps any other part of North America. It is the meeting place of princes, barons, and counts. Here live men and women of culture and refinement, not in feudal castles, but in frame houses, as successful farmers.

Some came to this beauty spot in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains with plans of establishing there a feudal system such as they were accustomed to in their country. Others come incognito to work as farmhands and to learn about farming before starting on a ranch of their own. And still others have bought farms in Alberta and British Columbia to be managed by a foreman, a place where they could come for a rest and from which they could derive a profitable income.

In this last class, the absentee landlords – absent only because of other duties abroad – the Prince of Wales is listed. He has 4,000 acres in the High River district.”

Taking this, with your Public School system and its Health Clinics indicate that Alberta is interested in the welfare of all kinds and conditions of men; and is a “True Democracy.”

## Chapter 27: **Manitoba After Fifty Years (By M.C. Herner)**

Manitoba, the theme of the "Narrative" as prepared in 1872 is the oldest and most thickly populated of the Prairie Provinces. She has drawn heavily on old Ontario for her settlers and many of her districts are typical of the farming districts in older Ontario. Smaller farms, more true around the farm buildings and diversified farming are characteristics of Manitoba farming.

Winnipeg, the capital city of Manitoba as well as the metropolis of Western Canada, is also the third largest city in Canada. It is also the "Gateway" to Western Canada and through its portals have passed a steady stream of immigrants and settlers for over fifty years, who have had for their watchword "Young man go West." Winnipeg is the greatest grain center on the American continent and has the largest Grain Exchange in the world. Winnipeg is a large business center and with its suburbs known as Greater Winnipeg has a combined population of over three hundred thousand. The city owns its own hydroelectric system and furnishes light and power cheaper than any other city on the American continent. It is an important railway center having mainlines and branch lines reaching out in every direction. The geographical situation explains Winnipeg's importance in this respect and accounts for its having become the outlet for the grains of the Canadian West. The Canadian Pacific Railway has built up here the largest individually owned railway yards in the world with 187.71 miles of siding and a storage capacity for 5,543 cars. Besides this the same company has the Transcona yards 4 miles away with 121 miles of trackage and storage capacity for 10,333 cars. Then the Canadian National Railway has trackage in Winnipeg of 149 miles and storage capacity for 6,427 cars. In addition there are several hundred miles of siding scattered through the business section of the city. Winnipeg is the "funnel" so to speak, through which all the grain passes that is routed to the East by rail route or by the Great Lakes water route.

Statistics show that in 1924 Manitoba had 631 country elevators, Saskatchewan 2,443 and Alberta 943 with a combined capacity exceeding one hundred and thirty million bushels. Nearly all this western crop passes through Winnipeg and constitutes a steady stream of golden grain. Following the great crop of 1915 there arrived in Winnipeg 1,000 cars of wheat every working day for a whole year, besides corresponding quantities of other grains. The Western Grain Inspection Division inspected during the year 339,425,200 bushels of wheat alone last year (1926) the country produced almost half a billion bushels of wheat. The Canadian Pacific Railway alone has hauled as high as 1,173 cars of grain into Winnipeg in a single day.

And so the story might go on of a dream more than come true. There have come into Manitoba a human stream of immigrants numbering 643,000 persons the last 27 years and during the last year (1928) 43,000 have come in. There are over 40 nationalities represented in the population of Manitoba and 54 languages are spoken in the "north end" of Winnipeg. Truly a cosmopolitan city and country, but one that has accepted the responsibility of extending the hand of human brotherhood to the new-Canadians as they have come to her borders.

This is the Manitoba of today and the story is but begun. The future holds still more. So far it has been very largely one of agricultural development and expansion along lines directly related to agriculture. There are yet thousands of acres of vacant

spaces, great tracts of timber lands, lakes teeming with fishes and still further back the great hinterland of the north with its untold mineral wealth lying buried in the earth. Opportunities are unlimited. Manitoba is on the threshold of a great era that calls for leadership, statesmanship and the wisdom and guidance of Empire builders. Of these qualities are the attributes of the men who assume leadership tomorrow, then the next fifty years will see even greater progress than the last fifty. The opportunities for the newcomer are as good as ever, if not better. Immigration will continue and the stranger who comes to our gates will look for the kindly spirit of friendship that characterized the subject of this volume when he piloted his first contingent of Russian Mennonites to the Canadian West. His name is honored and revered by the people he brought to the land of opportunity in his thirty years of service for his country. Reference is being made from time to time to the work he performed in bringing settlers who for the most part have become thoroughly Canadianized. The service he rendered in his day helped in laying the foundation for a National Policy of immigration. Based on it almost two million immigrants have come to the Prairie Province during the last 27 years. Today his work is freely quoted and commented on in matters that have to do with bringing settlers and filling up the vacant spaces of the Canadian West. The great melting pot of forty nationalities is issuing forth from it. And as this process goes on, its leadership must seek to emulate this man who did his duty towards his God, his King and his Country.



## Chapter 28: **Resultant Outcome**

### Brief Reference To The Resultant Outcome of Manitoba and the Northwest, now the Provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

The report of his investigations of Manitoba and the Northwest in the winter of 1872-73 and submitted to the Canadian Government February 28, 1873 was printed by them in a number of languages and freely distributed.

This "Narrative" related the facts, and was submitted to the Government with a brief letter giving his opinion.

The wholesale distribution of that report caused dismay among some of his relatives and friends for they said, "That report together with the personal influence will cause people to go there by the thousand and they will starve or freeze, and he will be responsible". They started going by the thousand in 1874 and subsequent years.

### Conclusion of Wheat Growers Convention

About twenty years later, in 1894 a Convention of Wheat Growers met in Chicago and deliberately came to the conclusion, (and had it engoverned in the minutes) "That our Northern tier of states were too far North to successfully grow wheat."

These two conclusions and predictions were not correct. The foregoing chapters on Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, the three prairies provinces, a thousand miles east and west, and five hundred miles north and south, north of the international boundary line of this "Northern tier of States" which were too far "North to grow wheat successfully", relate what has actually been done.

Rarely, has a man the privilege of living to see his divinely foreshadowed vision come true and his prophetic expressions achieved, but he lived long enough to assist in their accomplishment.

He was active for thirty-five years after giving expression to his confidence in the final outcome of that "bleak wilderness" during which period he made twenty-seven trips to Manitoba and the Northwest all of them in the interest of the country and its settlers.

All of these trips meant a great deal of self-denial; each had its problem to solve, some of them of mighty importance. About half of these, were made before the railroad was built and were often attended with many hardships.

However, he always lived in the joy of achievement, and the hope and faith of accomplishing many things that "Could not be done."

This is March 1930. It is now more than fifty-five years since Jacob Y. Shantz began laying the foundation for the building of that great inland western empire. It is over twenty years since he responded to the invitation. "Well done, good and faithful servant." This gave him more than a quarter of a century to observe in and rejoice in the progress and development of the work he began and fostered since that time. Sometimes when a leader in a great undertaking passes on, the project suffers unless it rests upon a solid foundation.

The corner stones, or foundation principles on which he started were peace, good will, faith, love. It is a delight to know that these formed a substantial base for the

rapidly growing development, which has and will keep on for many decades to come, unless it should at any time be impaired through selfish or sordid motives of its leadership.

### Canada's Wheat Pool

An article (January, 1930) "World's Work", should be thrilling to anyone interested in the Canadian Northwest Provinces, and all others who like to know of men, who, with adventure, courage, wisdom and determination defy circumstances, and make unfavorable conditions turn to their advantage.

This article is worthy of study, not only because of the fertility of the three provinces, and the wealth producing ability of its farmers, but also the fertile brains of the men, who made apparent disadvantage turn to advantage, in that it enable them to eliminate the middle-man, (who is not a wealth producer) and every other unnecessary overhead charges, and reserve it for the producer to whom it rightfully belongs. Heedless to say that to obtain these wonderful results they required the cooperation of other properly constituted business organizations, such as the Banks, Transportation and other commercial organizations.

The growth of the Railway Systems is a  
Good indication of a country's progress.

The following maps show the two great  
Systems of that country, the Canadian  
Pacific and The Canadian National.

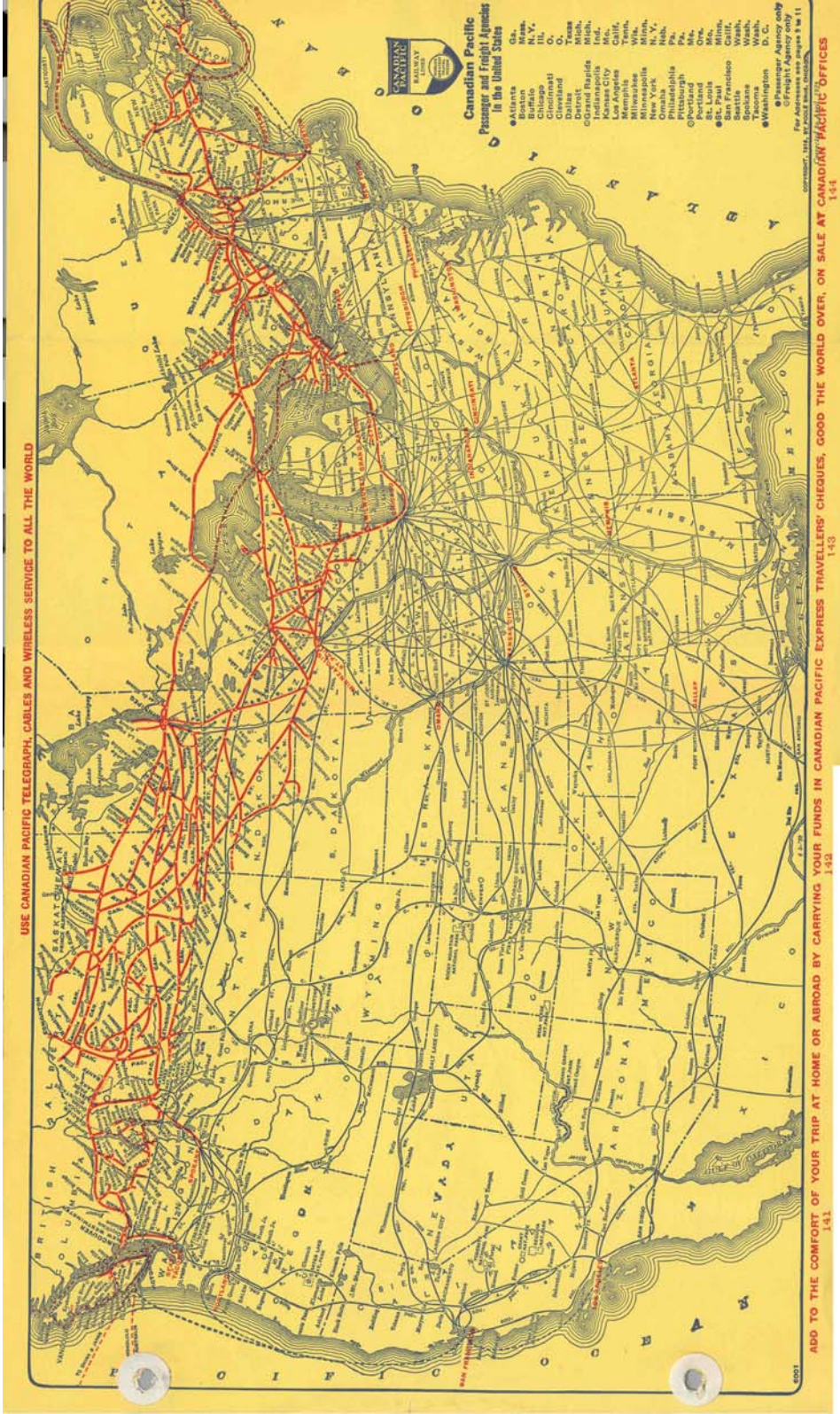
The maps included herewith illustrate  
The Railway Systems referred to in the  
Work, The Canadian Pacific and the  
Canadian National.

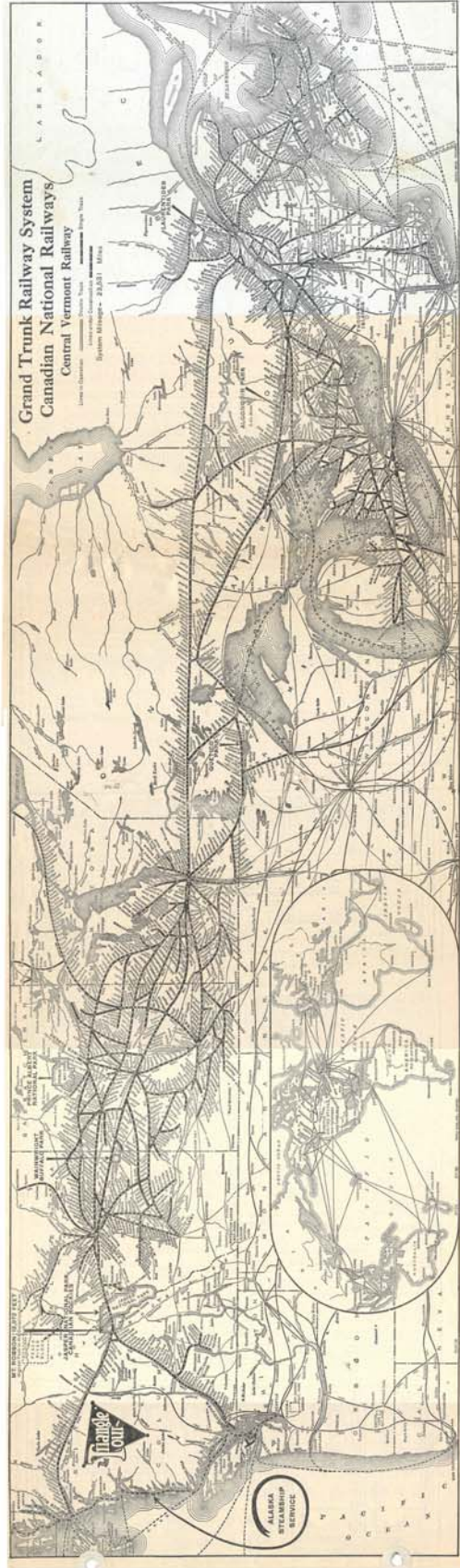
More Railways bring more people, more  
People require more Railways.<sup>24,25</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> In the typescript, this is written in stanzas on a separate page, as if it were a poem.

<sup>25</sup> M.B. Shantz included two original railway maps at this point, one of the routes of the Canadian Pacific Railway (copyright 1916, by Poole Bros., Chicago), and the other of the Grand Trunk Railway System of the Canadian National Railway, and of the Central Vermont Railway (copyright 1916, by Poole Bros., Chicago). I have reproduced those maps just above in reduced format. The originals have schedules on the backsides, which I have not reproduced.





## PART FOUR

### Preface to Part Four

On a certain occasion when several men were discussing the work of J.Y. Shantz in connection with the early development of Manitoba and the Northwest, someone said, "And did he make a Success?" That depends on your definition of the word "success." If you have in mind its true meaning, "the prosperous termination of any enterprise in the accomplishment of a purpose" then it was a most notable success. It was not his aim to make money out of that enterprise, but to assist people to get homes and to develop the country.

On a number of other occasions, when hearing a part of the same story the question came... "Has that ever been written?" It should be, for it is not only very interesting but relates an important part of the progress and history of this continent and because of your assistance and responsibility connected therewith, you are the only one to write it. The future may determine the proper place in History for Jacob Y. Shantz.

Someone said, "Once in a while a man is born (not often) who is not afraid and when he appears things move." This may be applicable here for he never seemed to be "afraid" of anything that ought to be done. Thousands of pioneers in Northwestern Canada have the country and the name of Jacob Y. Shantz so linked together, that a historical sketch of one without the other would be unthinkable.

The preceding twenty-nine chapters, then, are largely devoted to giving a brief historical sketch of his strenuous activities for progress along the lines of endeavor from the farm to the village, town, city, and empire. The following chapters will therefore be destined to determine whether it was a "success."

The seventy years of his active life (from 15 to 85 years) and the varied interests with which he was connected, brought him into close contact with all kinds and conditions of men.

With the closing of Part Four, we reach the summit of his principal activities, from which point he serenely, but with keen interest kept observing Berlin's enterprises and their progress city ward and also the march of events which were so rapidly transforming in the great Northwest, bringing it from a wilderness to an Empire with its mighty railroad systems, prosperous enterprises and splendid acts, all the result of and dependent on the "Greatest Grain Country on Earth" as he foresaw it on his first trip for the Government in 1872 providing the contributing forces are all coordinated, as they finally were.

## Chapter 29: Some Personal Characteristics

After the majority of the large number of settlers that came from Southern Russia were located, he made almost annual trips to give them the benefit of his knowledge and experience and to keep the accounts in proper condition for the repayment of the funds which had been advanced to them, through him, by the Government and others. This was of much value to them and it was gratefully appreciated.

These trips to the Northwest gave him opportunities to observe whether matters were progressing favorably toward the fulfillment of the vision he had on his first journey.

Among our choicest assets are, unmeasured optimism, determination and faith. The history of men is largely the history of victory over obstacles almost insurmountable. A quiet, unselfish, unassuming but courageous and forceful career became a dominant figure in the great, triumphant achievement in agriculture and commerce. He proved himself one of the ablest colonizers the country had produced. Conscious progress in a worthy undertaking was to him a source of strength.

He was always ready to assist in every enterprise that promised to help his fellow men to be better and happier. These qualities of his character and his confidence in the eternal principle of peace and righteousness were the motives for opening the Canadian Northwest to agriculture, commerce, civilization and Christianity.

As an agriculturist he was about a generation in advance of some farmers in applying modern methods of economy and improvement.

The implicit confidence, which the leaders of these large groups of immigrants reposed in him, enabled him to guard their interests so that they were not exposed to exploitation. Too many "schemes" try to get under the heading of business, which are merely exploitations. "Business is the supplying of commodities or services to the welfare of mankind."

The reasons why Jacob Y. Shantz was regarded by many as one of the foremost benefactors of his time, may partially be gathered out of the foregoing chapters, the purpose of which is to give a synopsis of his various activities. This is written response to the many requests for more information.

The succeeding chapters written by fellow-citizens who knew him, give a portrayal of the result of his life and work, and the large contribution he made toward building his hometown from a hamlet to village, town to city, and also refer to some of his achievements in connection with the development of Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest, and the assistance rendered in transforming it from a wilderness to a great Inland Empire.

His modesty and natural reserve, together with the general principles of the Mennonites of taking the attitude that it is advisable not to appear in the limelight of publicity, is the probable reason that some of the true circumstances will to some extent remain obscure. Owing to the incompleteness of information, the whole story will never be told. Not many of their efforts were known, until they were manifest in their deeds.

While he was firm in his religious convictions, he was always tolerant towards those of different beliefs. He would have heartily agreed with the following sentiments, brought to our attention by Emil Ludwig.

“With me as you know the great men come first, and the Military heroes last; I call those men great who have distinguished themselves in useful or constructive pursuits, the other who ravage and subdue provinces are merely heroes.”

“The more we realize what your father has done for the progress of this City, and for the Dominion of Canada, by his struggles in the development of Manitoba and the Northwest, the more we see that he was a truly Great Man.”

This last sentiment expressed by one of Kitchener’s prominent businessmen, voices a similar thought.

The fifteen years from the time he was thirty-five until fifty years of age were of intense activity, but his methods were so efficient and well planned that even with his enterprises on his mind he always seemed serene, and sometimes took time for matters of an entirely different nature.

No reference to his personal qualities should overlook the conscientious sense of obligation which always impelled him, wherever opportunity offered, to render real service to all irrespective of their social or racial conditions or religious creeds. It was this kind of conviction, this giving of himself in service to the needy, which impressed all that came in contact with his personality. Whether it was the assisting of a family in distress because of poverty or sickness, or the building of a cottage home for a family who wanted to improve their conditions, the building of a business structure to assist one in furthering his interest or the transplanting of an oppressed people from one continent to another.

In the fall of 1872 a delegation representing the Mennonites of southern Russia, came to Canada and prevailed upon him to assist them in locating a country for future colonization where they would be granted religious liberty. He willingly gave his personal service and assistance in giving a great part of twenty-seven of his best years, succeeded in being so largely instrumental in transforming Manitoba and the Canadian Northwest from a wilderness into a great grainery of the world.

### Religion

No sketch referring to the life of Jacob Y. Shantz can justly omit referring to his deep sense of religious obligation, which was the main spring of his actions. He believed the Bible to be God’s greatest gift to man, and the revelation of His will concerning us.

He had memorized many of the important passages and knew how to make practical application of them to daily life. This was a great help to him all through his active career and a consolation in his later years.

What a “thrill” he must have had when he paid that six thousand dollars for plows and thought of the Vision of the Prophet when he said: “They shall beat their swords into plow shares...Nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore.” Then too these implements of usefulness would help fulfill that other prophecy: “The wilderness shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.” Then picture to yourself, in contrast, the destruction, the desolation, sorrow, poverty, disease and the insurmountable other evils following in the path of war.

What was it that made him leave so much of his own business and give so much of his time and energy; make so many self denying sacrifices to assist others in getting homes and developing a New Country? He was by nature a Pioneer and an adventurer.



This may have had some influence. May we not believe that the words of the Lord Jesus, which he so frequently quoted, were the great impelling force in the decision?

“If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” From the way he quoted and interpreted this verse, he gave to it a broader meaning than the majority of us do and applied it to the great work before him.

### The Prosperous Termination of his Work in Starting A Development Unsurpassed in History

All the obligations he had assumed, through which so many were assisted were fulfilled. The money he had borrowed from the bank for this purpose was repaid. Money borrowed from Mennonites in Canada was repaid with interest. Many never expected it, having considered it benevolence for a worthy cause. Several declined to accept it.

The loan from the Canadian Government also was repaid with interest (the first loan of this kind that was ever repaid and this was not expected). All these adjustments, however, were in keeping with his fondest hopes.

On the twenty-seventh and last trip he made to the Northwest in his eighty-fifth year, he completed the final settlement of his accounts with those who regarded him as their Great Benefactor.

He was privileged to see the results of his efforts in the prosperous homes of the people he aided.

One on occasion, when a number of visitors were at his home in 1908, when he was in his eighty-seventh year the following dialogue occurred.

The question was put to Mr. Shantz:

“How about that loan from the Government?”

“That was all repaid last year with interest.”

“The Government having changed a number of times since the loan was obtained, did the men in charge know or show any interest or appreciation, in the matter?”

“O yes, they gave me a draft for four thousand dollars as a token of appreciation, but that was not the finest thing they did.”

“What was it that was finer?”

“Well,” they said, “Mr. Shantz, this was the first loan of this nature, that was ever repaid, and we did not expect this.”

Another made the suggestion:

“If they would have made that draft four million instead of four thousand, you would still have been a profitable servant.”

O yes: The project having been so successful it would be hardly possible to put a money value upon it, and with a gracious smile he said, “But do you not think that the consciousness of having done something worthwhile for humanity and your Country, is pretty good reward?”

His stewardship was completed, his vision of earthly homes were fulfilled. Visions of the Eternal began to manifest themselves, and like the heroes of Faith in Sacred Record, “He hath had witness born to him that he was well pleasing to God”. In the Peace which passeth all understanding entered into rest at the age of eighty-seven years, five months and twenty six days.

## The Immortality of Good Deeds

This was the theme for an address several decades ago by one of our Great Statesmen; may we quote two short sentences from this excellent speech? “Deep down in the human heart there is a tenderness for self-sacrifice which makes it seem loftier than the love of glory, and reveals the possibility of the Eternal Soul.”

“Wars and sieges pan away and great intellectual efforts cease to stir our hearts, but the man who sacrifices himself to others lives forever.”

While he gladly made sacrifices to help others, he was always in accord with the tender theme “God so loved the world.” Also with the design of that exquisitely beautiful letter of St. Paul/1 Cor.1:13 “Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels”... and “Though I have the gift of prophecy”...”Though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor” and have not love it profiteth me nothing.”

Around the picture of a great man who began life as a merchant and acquired wealth, which was largely devoted to the benefit of mechanics and others, it is a wreath with these words “Words are but leaves, Deeds are Fruits.” This is good, but the life that combines good words with good deeds, like leaves and fruit on the charming cherry, peach and apple tree is better combining beauty and utility. “Words fitly spoken are little apples of Gold in pictures of Silver.”

While he was keen for making money, because of the power it gave him of doing good, his greatest joy was when he could persuade some one to turning from the wrong to the right way, and accept the Savior’s gracious invitation, “Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden.”

Like a “City set on a hill” he desired to have his light “so shine before men that they may see your good works and Glorify your Father who is in Heaven.”

From early youth to the end of his life he was a loyal member, and worker in the Mennonite Church (in the division generally regarded the most progressive) and – aside from some minor non-essential tradition – was in full accord with its general great principles of Peace and Goodwill and believe a synopsis of his creed would be embodied in the following:

“That we do well to take the Scripture as our guide in the broad view of its spirit rather than in Man’s narrow interpretation of the letter.”

That the Bible is the Book of Eternal, Universal, Irrefutable principles.

If studies, believed and obeyed, it will be the inspiration of youth; strength of manhood; consolation of age, the prosperity of society, the stability of nations and the hope and salvation of the world. This is just what it was to him.

### Helping Others

Did you give him a lift? He’s a brother of man,  
And bearing about all the burden he can.  
Did you give him a smile? He was downcast and blue,  
And the smile would have helped him to battle it through.

Did you give him your hand? He was slipping downhill,  
And the world, so I fancied, was using him ill.  
Did you give him a word; Did you show him the road?  
Or did you just let him go on with his load?

Do you know what it means to be losing the fight,  
When a lift just in time might set everything right?  
Do you know what it means – just a clasp of a hand,  
When a man's borne about all a man ought to stand?

Did you ask what it was – why the quivering lip  
Why the half-suppressed sob, and the scalding tears drip?  
Were you brother of his when the time came of need?  
Did you offer him help, or didn't you heed?

Christian Adonale

## Chapter 30: Tributes to J.Y. Shantz

Many of the values of commodities are arrived at by comparison. To a certain extent this may be true in our estimate of men and their achievements.

We, the members of his family, are therefore not as well qualified to render an impartial expression as other people are.

It also has been said that “Great men are rarely appreciated by the generation to which they belong.” In this case it is almost unavoidably true, for having been active to practically the end of his long career, the majority of his generation had passed away long before his life work was completed and the result of his efforts were manifest.

We of his family feel honored and appreciate in a special manner the lofty ideals expressed regarding his life and work and in confirmation of this may we express our deep sense of gratitude for the rich heritage which has been bestowed upon us.

“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches and loving favor rather than silver and gold.”  
Prov. 22:1

Some items may be repeated several times but as they are very good and came from those who knew, we leave them as they came to us, except possibly a few minor abbreviations.

[Berlin] News Record,<sup>26</sup> May 2, 1906

### **Berlin's Oldest Born, Mr. Jacob Y. Shantz, 84 Years Old Tells The Record About His Early Days, When Berlin Had Only Four Houses And No Name**

#### Brief Sketch of Wonderful Career

*Mr. Jacob Y. Shantz is 84 years old today.*

*The attainment to that age of our citizens is not infrequently heard of. But when one says that the Oldest Native Born Berliner- one who has lived here all his days- has reached the 84<sup>th</sup> milestone of life's journey, the birthday anniversary is fraught with more than passing interest.*

*When one links with continuous residence here, the fact that Mr. Shantz has done probably more for the upbuilding of the town of which he is so proud, and for the development and good of Canada, than any other one man- then are opened avenues of history that bring to the generation of today facts most interesting.*

*Not only is Mr. Shantz the earliest town builder in Berlin- he is the originator and founder of the great and prosperous Russian Mennonite settlement in Manitoba, and of the more recently established Waterloo county settlement at Didsbury, Alberta.*

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<sup>26</sup> The Berlin News Record has been in publication since 1878, and now bears the name *The Record*.

### About his Personality

*A few words about this interesting old gentleman. He is still remarkably well preserved for one so far advanced in his years. Almost daily he comes down town.*

### Born in Berlin

*He was born on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1822 on the old Shantz homestead- farm at the East End just beyond the Mennonite Church. He worked on the farm with his father, and when he married, was given the homestead to work on shares. He made his home there until 22 years ago, when his interests became so closely identified with the industrial field that he moved up town.*

### Four Houses Made Berlin

*“He remembers all that there was of the Busy Berlin of today, consisted of four log houses- and “house” was a pretentious name for those primitive buildings of logs, roughly covered with boards and slats. One of these houses was on the present site of the post office, where lived a wood turner, who made the old-fashioned spinning wheels, which were indispensable in the home of every farmer- most of whom made their own yarn and woolen homespun.*

*Just opposite the turner’s was a hand weaver; the third building was where fanning mills of a crude design were built, and the fourth was a blacksmith shop. This was later on made into a “drink shop,” as Mr. Shantz termed it, and was known as the Gaukel Tavern. Where it stood, in the woods, is where Berlin’s biggest hotel now stands- The Walper Corner.*

### How Berlin Was Named

*It is said that the town was christened in this old Gaukel Tavern. Legend has it that a number of the early settlers were seated round the box stove talking of the future of the hamlet, which was still a babe without a name. Different names were suggested and during the discussion a stranger entered the inn.*

*He was plainly a German from the Vaterland, and on hearing what was before the house, he proposed that the village be called Berlin, after his native city, in view of the new settlement being largely German. And Berlin it has been- and will continue to be.”*

### Erected Many Buildings

*On the Shantz farm was a sawmill, the largest water driven mill within a mile radius. Mr. Shantz did a great deal of contracting, and furnished stone and lumber for the majority of the first houses and business properties here. The first block he built was the DeBus block, on King Street, and a house for Mr. Jacob Weaver.*

### Town Hall History

*Mr. Shantz also put up the municipal building. A bylaw submitted in 1869 to raise money for such a purpose was turned down. But the council decided to build anyway. The town hall was to be a one-story building. “What a shame”. Said Mr. Shantz. “Make it two stories, I will wait for half the cost, till next year”.*

*The councilors decided to build it two stories, and pay it in two years. When the building was up, the ratepayers were so pleased that they returned all the council for another year.*

*Mr. Shantz built more houses in his day, than any man in Berlin – they were numbered by the half scores. Many of these he put up for new settlers from the old land, who came here in limited circumstances. They were cared for, given work and they paid for their homes as they could”.*

#### One Time was Mayor

*As evidence of Berlin appreciation of Mr. Shantz’ usefulness to it, he was tendered unanimously the Mayoralty in 1882. He was declared elected, but he preferred to work in the ranks, and declined, gratefully, the honor.*

#### His School Days

*Mr. Shantz recalled his school days with a smile. He learned his A, B, C’s in an old frame building a little east of the Old Mennonite Church. A Mrs. Clemens taught in the summer time and Mr. DeKay, father of the well-known William DeKay, was the teacher during the winter. In the summer he worked at his trade as a mason.*

*Mr. Shantz’ work in Berlin’s interest, was characteristic of his labor for the good of Canada. He had ever-great faith in the future of the Dominion, and the Great West smiled invitingly to him. He met a wealthy Russian Mennonite, who was sent to Canada to see what sort of a country it was, as many thousands of that faith desired to leave Russia and begin life anew, free from persecution and oppression.*

#### Mennonite Immigrants

*Mr. Shantz at once interested himself in the movement and interviewed the government. That body was anxious to secure the settlers, but there was no law by which they could provide funds to finance the project. So the Mennonites here with Mr. Shantz as prime mover, set about to organize and raise a fund. They were successful in seeing that \$192,000<sup>27</sup> was put up and he was appointed treasure. The settlers were to have the use of the loans for eight years before repayment in installments was begun. Over 8,000 persons came*

*In all, during 1875, 76 and 77, 1,343 families – over 8,000 souls were brought from Russia, and taken to their new homes. It took them from six to ten weeks to make the ocean trip and Berlin was sort of a half way house. The immigrants were housed here in the old drill shed, where the King Street Baptist Church now stands. These Russian Mennonites were practically all settled in Manitoba, and have proven among the best settlers Canada has.*

#### Paid Back the Loans

*They repaid every dollar of the money advanced them, less about \$200 which the donors would not accept the return of. “I knew they were our people and that they were honest. I knew that the country was good,” said Mr. Shantz, in commenting on his great work.*

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<sup>27</sup> In 1871 Canadian dollars!!

### Visited Colony Yearly

*For thirteen years he made annual trips to the new settlement, missing only once. In those days they traveled by water to Duluth, then over the Northern Pacific to the Red River and up the stream. When he first went out there prospecting, he was driven two hundred miles west of Winnipeg, and saw only one lonely Hudson Bay Post. The West was full of buffaloes.*

### No Government Reward

*This passing strange that the government should never have tendered to Mr. Shantz its recognition of his great work for the young Dominion. No one was more entitled to Senatorship or something, better. Had he been the least bit of a politician, he could have reaped a substantial reward. "He is a wonderful old gentleman—a fine example of a good Christian life – a man who has shaped his career on this motto: "Do good, and leave behind you a monument of virtue that the sands of time can never destroy."*

*On this, the 84<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birthday, the News Record tenders him its congratulations on the good he has been able to do, and wishes for him yet many years of peace, good health and happiness".*

And, three years later:

**[Berlin] News Record, May 2, 1906**

### Berlin Veteran's 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday

*Mr. Jacob Y. Shantz will be 87 years old tomorrow. He is one of the pioneers of Berlin, having helped since boyhood days to build up a Greater Berlin.*

*Mr. Shantz will celebrate his 87<sup>th</sup> Birthday anniversary on Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. To the older citizens of the town, Mr. Shantz is known as the father of the town. During his lifetime he has probably built more homes for the working people than any other citizen. Early in the seventies he engaged in the manufacture of the Ivory button business, which concern is now known as the J. Y. Shantz & Son. Mr. Shantz was instrumental in settling many thousands of Russian Mennonites in Manitoba in the Red River Valley, early in the seventies, and was engaged in the service of the Dominion Government for this work.*

*When the C.P.R. was extended north from Calgary, Mr. Shantz paid a visit to that province, and selected land for hundreds of farmers in Waterloo County and elsewhere in the Didsbury district, which place was named by him.*

*Mr. Shantz is an ex-Mayor of Berlin, the position being tender to him by a mass meeting of the public spirited people of the town, who recognized the good work Mr. Shantz had done for his town and the Dominion at large. Had the Conservative Government been returned in 1896 Mr. Shantz would undoubtedly have been appointed a Senator, an honor which Mr. J. E. Seagram said, no man more justly deserved than Mr. Shantz for services he had rendered his country.*

*Mr. Shantz, while in his 87<sup>th</sup> year is hale and hearty, although his eyesight has been bad for some years past.*

### A Fellow Townman's Words

*Mr. Allen Huber, in speaking today of the celebration of Mr. Shantz's birthday anniversary, had some interesting things to say about the veteran townsman. One of the events recalled, was the cutting down by Mr. Shantz, of a large pine tree, where the town hall now stands. The tree was over 120 feet high and six feet across the stump.*

*Mr. Huber says: "Mr. Shantz has been like the primeval white pines of the market square, deeply rooted, strong of character foundation, 120 feet solid clear timber, full of sap and vigor; very few knots, in fact the clean stuff".*

*Under Sir John McDonald, in 1874 Mr. Shantz suggested and promoted the immigration of the Russian Mennonites to Manitoba. The local brethren aided largely by loans of money which was promptly repaid. He was a large building contractor, having among others built the present town hall. He built and owned the Canadian Block.*

*"Many of the early German new comers were helped to homes by him. While not the first button maker, he was the founder of the J. Y. Shantz Co., who are the originators of the present highly developed system of manufacture.*

*At one time he was a large lumberman, and owned one thousand acres of the finest land within sight of Berlin and was one of the largest employers of labor of his day, and highly respected by his employees".*

And, five months later:

**[Berlin] News Record, October 28, 1909**

### Death of Aged Pioneer, J. Y. Shantz Passes Away

*Death came today in a Peaceful Sleep. Thursday, October 28, 1909. "Berlin mourns today the death of Jacob Yost Shantz, it's oldest native born citizen and a real Nature's nobleman – an honest, God-fearing, successful man. The end came peacefully at three o'clock this morning at his home, 105 Queen Street North. He was as well as usual to within an hour of his death. He was conscious to within a few moments of the end. He was barring partial blindness – in good health for a man so advanced in years – almost 88.*

*His mental faculties were bright, and he would spend hours conversing with his sons and friends, recalling with wonderful accuracy and detail, occurrences of long bygone years. During the past few days he has evinced a keen interest in the progress of the new button factory here. He was the pioneer of the button industry in Canada.*

*The late Jacob Y. Shantz was a native of Berlin having been born on May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1822, on the Shantz farm just south of the East End Mennonite Church. His parents were pioneer residents and aided in reclaiming a hitherto wild and undeveloped region for the purposes of civilization. His father operated the first sawmill in this section and was in many ways connected with the material growth and upbuilding of this portion of the province. The maternal grandfather of Mr. Shantz<sup>28</sup> took a very active and helpful part*

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<sup>28</sup> The father of Mary Yost. His name is unknown to me.



*in laying out the early roads of the country and in otherwise advancing those interests which indicated that the seeds of civilization had been planted and that this was to become some day a populous district.*

*Mr. Shantz was reared in Berlin where he acquired a common school education. His early life was devoted to lumber interests. He engaged in the operation of a sawmill, conducted a lumberyard and became an extensive contractor and builder. He was prominently identified with manufacturing interests in later years. He was almost 88 years of age. His life has been one of intense and well directed activity, in which he made good use of his opportunities, and he belonged, too, to that class of representative men who while promoting individual success also advanced the general welfare.*

*He has always been deeply interested in the welfare of Berlin, but has been content to do his public service as a private citizen, never seeking or desiring office. He acted, however, as mayor of Berlin a short time when the citizens offered him the position unanimously. He accepted it as an honor and then resigned. Another important labor which Mr. Shantz performed has been in connection with the development and upbuilding of Manitoba and the Northwest. He began operating there in 1874 and on behalf of the Mennonites devoted a large portion of his time in making a general prospectus setting forth the advantages of the country, its natural resources and its climate in the districts mentioned. In order to accomplish these results he gave liberally of his own private fortune, and though his endeavors secured large sums from other friends of the Mennonite Society for the purpose of forming the colony, and for the development of that country which constitute the first white settlement in Manitoba and the Northwest. When he first went to Fort Garry – now Winnipeg – in 1874, he saw only three white men in many weeks. In 30 years he went from here west 27 times, the last time when he was 85 years old. He has thus been instrumental in having thousands of people of this sect becoming colonists in that district and thus settling up the country, aiding in its reclamation from a wild and unimproved district and converting it to the uses of civilization.*

*In Berlin, he did a great work in assisting the early German settlers when they reached here. He built scores of houses for them, and gave them all the time they desired, to repay it. He was the soul of honor and integrity, and his life was a noble example of the true Christian. He was a faithful member of the Mennonite Church and a liberal supporter.”*

And, finally:

**[Berlin] News Record, October 31, 1909**

The Late Jacob Y. Shantz

*One of the finest characters this district has produced was laid to rest in God's Acre on Saturday, in the person of Jacob Y. Shantz. He was beloved for his virtues, upstanding [sic] among, which were honor, industry and courage. We would say that he was a man after the type of Abraham Lincoln. He had a real purpose in life. He delighted to be of service to his fellow man.*

*His trials and struggles in building up the button industry in Canada are well known. While doing this and thereby aiding in giving Berlin its manufacturing bent, he*

*was infusing his fellow citizens with civic enterprise. The Berlin market was one of the children of his mind. When the Canadian Northwest was a wilderness, the government of Sir John A. McDonald and the C.P.R. united his services in immigration. He wrought well in this as in other things he undertook.*

*Seldom do we find so genuine a sorrow expressed in a community over the death of a citizen. "He was born. He was married, He died", expresses the life story of so many. Not so here. He was so industrious and useful to his generation that his going is sincerely mourned. And like the good Arab; He quietly folded his tent and departed. Peace to his ashes.*

Other tributes include:

A Tribute By a Methodist Minister, Rev. S. E. Marshall

*"He commended his charitableness, his broad minded, tolerant, attitude towards others of different faith and education a mark of a true citizen as well as Christian, also his unselfishness, abounding examples of which could be adduced from his long and varied life. In this point he perhaps came nearest to the Example of our Blessed Master the Most Unselfish One in all history, giving His All, nay Himself for the good of others.*

*His patriotism was the more remarkable in that it was the more rare. He was a patriot who sacrificed for his country. His patriotism did not find vent in loud acclaim or in going to the battlefield. His was the patriotism of peace not war. Patriotism designed to build up the National life in a sound and deep manner, and never at the expense of a neighboring people. Well may the rising generation of young men today emulate his example in this respect and if they do, we shall indeed possess a Dominion, which shall extend from sea to sea and from the rivers unto the ends of the earth".*

Extract from a Letter to the Bereaved Family by an unknown person

*"Jacob Y. Shantz was born in Waterloo, Co., Ontario, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1822, and died Oct. 28, 1909, at the age of 87 years, 5 months and 26 days.*

*Brother Shantz, notwithstanding his busy life in building up several leading manufacturing industries in his native town, took a deep interest in the welfare of his fellowmen. There are many people in the Great Western Provinces of Manitoba and Alberta today, who would mourn with us the death of this benefactor, who attributes to his untiring efforts, their present comfort in life in that prosperous country. At great sacrifice to himself he accompanied many of the first settlers to these provinces and helped them to secure homes for themselves.*

*He was converted to God at the age of 12 years, and early in life he cast his lot in with the people of God, and always took an active part in religious work and reforms. He in connection with a Baptist Minister organized the first Sabbath School in the County and he was the first S. S. teacher in the County.*

*In his quiet, unselfish and unassuming way he was the means of encouragement to many a troubled heart. His great theme was the Love of God to a sinful fallen human race.*

*He declined public offices in general, with the exception of Public School Trustees, in which capacity he served the town for 35 years in succession.*

*He was a member of the M.B.C. Church for many years, and took a deep interest in her publications from the beginning, being a member of the Publishing Board for a number of years.*

*We need not multiply words. His life is with us and speaks for itself. May God Bless and comfort the bereaved family."*

**JACOB Y. SHANTZ**

Pioneer of Russian Mennonite Immigration to Manitoba

Extracts from the Waterloo Historical Society

By

H. M. Bowman, Ph.D.<sup>29</sup>

In 1808 Barbara (Reiff) Shantz, widow of Issac Shantz (1748-1802) came to Canada with her fourth and fifth sons, Isaac and David from Pottstown, Montgomery County, PA. And settled on the North East side of the Preston Road about one and a half miles from Berlin. Two years later she was followed by her third son Jacob Shantz (1781-1867) (who became the father of Jacob Y. Shantz), and his wife Mary Yost (1784-1869) whom he had married in 1805, Jacob Shantz in 1810 bought several tracts of land on King Street East including the site of the family homestead, which was owned by him and his descendants for 101 years until sold in 1911 by his grandson Jacob B. Shantz.

Jacob Y. Shantz, the son of the original settler Jacob Shantz, was born May 2, 1822, on the family homestead in the South ward, and died October 28, 1909 at 105 Queen Street North, now the residence of his daughter Miss. Ida Shantz. He was the sixth son and eighth child in a family of eight sons and two daughters. He outlived all his brothers and sisters, and was well until within an hour of his death.

The family residence still stands at the southeast corner of South and Maurice Street. The house is a good specimen of the rural architecture of its locality and time. It consisted of two complete dwellings, having access to each other within, but otherwise independently arranged. A wide verandah with an entrance to each dwelling extends along the entire south front. Two roofed porches on the north front (facing Maurice Street, recently opened) were the kitchen entrances. On the west kitchen porch is painted clearly, in figures about eight inches high, the date 1856.

Habitations are like people. They breathe the spirit of their origin and form associations. An occupant of the homestead, who knew not Mr. Shantz or his people, and scarcely knew his name, but years after he and they were gone from it, dwelt in the home said, "I like this old house. There is in it a feeling of peace".

The residence stands on the original Lot No. 1 (448 acres) in Block No. 2 of the German Company Tract. The recorded descent of title of the part of the Shantz lands in this lot, containing the family homestead, is as follows, from the beginning until the farm and residence passed from the family's possession.

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<sup>29</sup> H.M. Bowman received his PhD degree from the University of Toronto in 1899.

### Farmer, Builder, Industrialist, Empire Builder

Mr. Shantz operated the homestead farm from shortly after his first marriage (1843) till the sale of the place to his son in 1883. Besides the extensive farm buildings, there was on the place a sawmill southwest of the house, with power supplied by Shantz' dam, a landmark of this locality well remembered by older citizens and especially by the younger generation of that day.

The sawmill was first operated by Mr. Shantz' father.<sup>30</sup> It formed a natural introduction to Mr. Shantz' activity as a builder and contractor. He was the builder and owner of the Canadian Block at the corner at King and Ontario Streets. Mr. Shantz built also the four-room addition to the Sunday School, which is the only part of the old school now remaining. He was one of the earliest of the extensive builders of private residences in the town. He entered the industrial field through the solicitation of those needing money to float infant industries.

Mr. Shantz assisted also in starting a felt boot and shoe factory, and the Maud Foundry, later I. E. Shantz & Co., at the northeast corner of King and College Streets. His chief and most permanent industrial venture was in the Ivory Button Industry first introduced into Canada and into this community by Emil Vogelsang in 1866.

### An Impressive Figure

Mr. Shantz, in connection with his large real estate holdings and transactions had frequent need of the services of a surveyor. Upwards of thirty such transactions appear in my father's description book. The only person in whose case this number is exceeded is Samuel B. Scheider, with some forty-five". Mr. Schneider subdivided and gradually sold nearly all of his large farm on Queen Street South; while a large part of Mr. Shantz' being farther from the business center, was continued as a farm by his son Jacob. My first recollections of Mr. Shantz are from seeing him in my father's office in connection with the above transactions in the eighties, when Mr. Shantz was about sixty years of age and I a boy in my teens. He was an impressive figure physically and in every other way. His height was six feet; and this was emphasized by an erect carriage and massive frame, with no spare flesh.

A key to character is the voice; and Mr. Shantz' voice was one that could not fail to attract notice. I have a better memory for voices than for faces, and, while the lineaments of his face are still clearly in my mind, and I expect always will be, his voice decidedly was a case of once heard and never forgotten. I am sure that blindfolded, any time, anywhere, I could have recognized that deep, organ-like note; and I judge that he, as a young man, was an excellent singer, or might have been if he wished.

### Russian Mennonite Immigration

As a pioneer of Russian Mennonite Immigration to Manitoba in 1874 to 1880, Mr. Shantz shared in the events of more than local significance. That movement caused a great development in the Canadian West and it may cause now another and greater.

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<sup>30</sup> Jacob Shantz (1781-1867).

Russian Mennonites were originally Hollanders. In the period of early Mennonite persecution, when Holland was intolerant of religious dissent, these people took refuge in West Prussia, then a province of Poland, which was liberal with respect to religious belief. In West Prussia the Mennonites lived for two centuries, before the removal to Russia in the vicinity of Marienburg, south of Danzig. Russian Mennonites still remaining in West Prussia use High German exclusively in school and church; but in the home their ordinary language is Platt-Deutsch or Low German, so called because it is the language of the lowlands next to the Baltic and North Seas, as opposed to the High German spoken in the more elevated interior.

In the first division of Poland (1772), West Prussia passed to Frederick the Great of Prussia. In 1786 and 1803 and in later years, many Mennonites in West Prussia, uneasy as to military service accepted the standing invitation of the Empress Catharine and her successors to settle on the wastelands of South Russia, with a guarantee of military exemption. In Russia, they, with several million Lutheran and Catholic immigrants from Germany, were still recognized as German subjects with German protection; but this political guardianship was cancelled in 1870 by agreement between Germany and Russia during the Franco-Prussian War. This change and the introduction in Russia of universal military service led 15,000 Russian Mennonites to leave for America. In order to end this movement, the Tsar's government compromised with these people on a modified military exemption. 80,000 Mennonites remaining in Russia at the outbreak of the recent war are now reduced to 50,000 most of them looking for another home. As an agricultural people they are most desirable citizens for a country with vacant lands in need of development. The districts of Russia in which they settled a century ago were then empty prairie like our Canadian West; yet an American traveler visiting these districts in 1874 remarked of their villages that they were certainly the best appointed farming communities that he had seen anywhere.

Of the 15,000 Russian Mennonites who came to America in the seventies of the last century, one half, by the exertions of Mr. Shantz, chose Manitoba as their home. They settled in two colonies southward of Winnipeg, east and west of the Red River. Large overflow colonies were founded in the nineties at Swift Current, Osler and Rosthern, Saskatchewan. The Mennonite Board of Colonization conducting the present immigration from Russia operates at Rosthern. The Red River settlements of 1874 and following years were based on an exploration in 1872 by Mr. Shantz, on behalf of the Canadian Government in company with Bernard Warkentin of Russia. Together they left Berlin on November 5, 1872, and traveled by rail and stage, via Detroit, Chicago, Duluth and Pembina, to Winnipeg. In connection with the Mennonite settlement Mr. Shantz made twenty-seven journeys to Manitoba, the last time in his 85<sup>th</sup> year. He gave freely of his means as well as of his time.

The individual service, which he himself rated most highly, was his part in preventing a near-disaster. On returning from one of his first trips to the west he found at Toronto a party of Mennonites whom the Ottawa government was sending to Manitoba via the Daeson route from Port Arthur to Winnipeg. This lake and river route west of Port Arthur is feasible for trappers, hunters and Canadian voyageurs; but to send over it a party of inexperienced Europeans was to court death by starvation. Mr. Shantz protested to the official in charge at Toronto. The official pled higher orders, but finally referred the point to the government in the shape of a telegram from Mr. Shantz. The reply from

Ottawa to Mr. Shantz soon followed, "Do as you see fit". To Mr. Shantz it was always a keen satisfaction that he was privileged thus, by timely intervention, to forestall a fatal disaster.

"The Narrative of a Journey to Manitoba"  
and  
Mr. Shantz's Literary Powers

Mr. Shantz left few literary remains. The only product of his pen, in manuscript or print, available to me is a copy of his "Narrative of a Journey to Manitoba." This is an official report of his exploration tour with Mr. Warkentin in 1872. This narrative was printed in a number of languages by the Dominion Government in April 1873, and distributed freely as an inducement for immigration by Russian Mennonites and other Europeans, as well as from the United States. It is now a rare document. Inquiry at Ottawa about eighteen years ago brought the reply that no copy was to be had there. Local parties named at Ottawa as likely to have a copy had in fact none. But in 1909 a list issued by an antiquarian book dealer at Albany, N.Y. offered a single copy of this narrative. I have received such lists almost weekly for almost 20 years and the offer was never repeated. The price of a 32 page, unbound pamphlet was three dollars. An ordinary octave volume of 300 or 400 pages, at a corresponding rate, would cost \$30 to \$40. Mr. Shantz thus holds the record as the highest priced author which this Locality has produced.

The quality of his style, and also, to a certain extent, his character, is illustrated by his letter of transmittal to the government, printed at the opening of his narrative, and reprinted here. Mr. Shantz had only a common school education; but men unschooled if they be saturated with scripture, may develop a better style than the stylists themselves. No mere stylist surpassed or approached Lincoln, whose only school in English was the Bible. Mr. Shantz was also a man of the Bible. The letter of this man born on a frontier, and taught in a log house by primitive teachers, appears to be above improvement:

*Berlin, Ontario, 28<sup>th</sup> February, 1873*

*To the Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa:*

*Sir,*

*I herewith enclose to you a brief narrative of my journey to Manitoba and my opinion respecting that Province. The readers of this report may rest assured that it contains a true and impartial statement of what I saw and learned there. Tastes differ - some may like what others dislike and some persons are so constituted that they can be content nowhere. Fish and game are abundant in the Province but even these must be caught before they can be cooked and eaten. Of this one fact, however, I am certain, that Manitoba affords a splendid field of immigration, not only from Europe and Canada, but also from the United States, for those desirous of acquiring a good and cheap homestead*

*for themselves and their family. Such are sure of becoming independent, if they are only willing to go to work, to be industrious, and live temperately.*

*I have the honor to be,  
Sir,  
Your Obedient Servant,  
(Signed) Jacob Y. Shantz*

### **MEMORIAL**

“Both justice and decency require that we bestow on our forefathers an honorable remembrance.”

### **THUCYCIDIES**

For this purpose we erect memorial stones which suggest the enduring purpose to remember. They also have a stabilizing effect in keeping the family tree alive and suggest the immortality of good deeds and community interests.

In the cemetery less than half a mile from where he was born, and where much of his seventy years of active life was given for humanity; there where repose the dust and ashes of many of his kin, his remains were laid away and the place, like many of the others, is marked by a plain substantial granite, suggesting stability of purpose in keeping with his life and character.

A “monument” has been suggested. We know, however, that his ideas of monument would have coincided with those of an ancient Spartan King who said: “If I have done anything worthy of remembrance, let that be my monument. If not, no monument will take the place of worthy deeds.”

### Acknowledgements (MBS)<sup>31</sup>

To all those who have in any way contributed information which assisted in the preparation of this outline history, I desire to express my sincere appreciation especially those who have made efforts in response to my various requests. May I mention a few of these:

To George S. P. Wanger of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, for the family history from the time of the progenitor, Jacob Shantz, was born in Switzerland in 1710 and arrived in the village of Philadelphia in 1737 and became the founder of the family on this continent, and also the story of a portion of his decedents who, almost a century later, moved to Upper Canada (Ontario), where Jacob Y. Shantz was born and lived all his life.

To M. C. Herner, University of Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg, for writing the *Foreword* and *Manitoba after Fifty Years*.

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To M. Weber, Didsbury, Alberta, for supplying the material for *Alberta's Progress up to Schedule*.

To J. G. Pyle, Librarian, J. J. Hall Reference Library, author of *Biography of J. J. Hall*, for suggesting sources of valuable information.

I am also under obligation to the many others who assisted and were willing to rummage the garret of their memory to bring forth odd facts that have been there for a quarter to a half-century, to serve as links in the chain of events contributing to this history.

While I have not had the training or special instruction for writing or compiling, but having for and with father during the most active period of his busy career, and probably made it possible for him to devote such a large part of his thought, time and energy, to get Manitoba and the Northwest development underway on a large scale, it gave me much knowledge that no-one else had the opportunity to obtain. Many who knew the

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<sup>31</sup> This is reconstructed from M.B. Shantz' manuscript copy.



circumstances have for a number of years urged me to have it published. If this can be done so as to bear out his motive for doing this strenuous work in such a way that it will be an inspiration to others, for noble efforts, it will be considered a pleasure and an honor.

### **Acknowledgements (JRS)**

Thanks are due to several people for help in preparing this volume. To Birgit Horn Sabin for proofreading and suggestions. Also to Jo Evelyn Butler for typing and proofreading and to Judy Parker for help with style and settings.

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