

The Cheese King

ANOTHER BIG PROPOSAL.

**The Scheme Which Mr. George Morton
Has Submitted to the
Government.**

The Kingston *Whig*, of the 29th ult., contains the following :—

Mr. George Morton has submitted to the Government an application for a grant of a portion of two townships, and twenty sections adjoining one of them, in the North-West Territory, as per plans which he has forwarded to the Department of the Interior.

In 1881 George Morton from Kingston Ontario applied to the government for a huge land grant on the north side of Whitewater Lake under the condition that he settle at least 75 families on the land. His plan was to create 108 dairy farms, 36 stock farms and cheddar cheese factory.

By 1882 The Morton Dairy Farming and Colonization Company, had about fifty men employed on the farm and everything was said to be progressing as planned

He acquired a sawmill recently established at Max Lake, and built a store at the new community of Waubeesh. Before long equipment and cattle were making their way westward.

Mr. Morton had a very good plan – on paper.

As so often happened throughout the west, the railway didn't come through with its promise; it actually built south of the lake, and not until 1885. By that time the dairy operation was long gone, for the first harsh winter killed most of his stock, and it was downhill from there.

The city newspapers which had devoted so many paragraph to the great plans, summed up the end result in one sentence

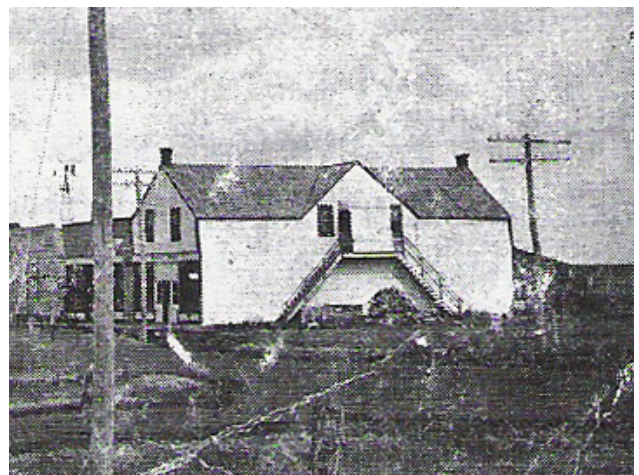
**The Morton Dairy and Colonization Co.,
at Turtle Mountain City, are out of business.**

From the Winnipeg Daily Sun – May 5, 1883



George Morton

Mr. Morton however proceeded with his other businesses (stores, sawmills, and elevators) and did very well. The Municipality of Morton is named after him.



George Morton built this store in Whitewater and owned several businesses in Boissevain.

Turtle Mountain City & Waubeesh

**Turtle Mountain
City,
Whitewater Lake**

—

This is the Banner Town of the far-famed Turtle Mountain country, and is the business centre of the best settlement in the great North-West.

Being on the lines of the
**Manitoba Southwestern Rail-
way and Syndicate South-
western Branch,**

It will be a competing point for these railways
Merchants and others should secure lots there as
soon as they are placed upon the market.

Section 3, Tp. 3, Range 21 West.
“ 32, “ 2, “ 21 “

Winnipeg Times January 7, 1881

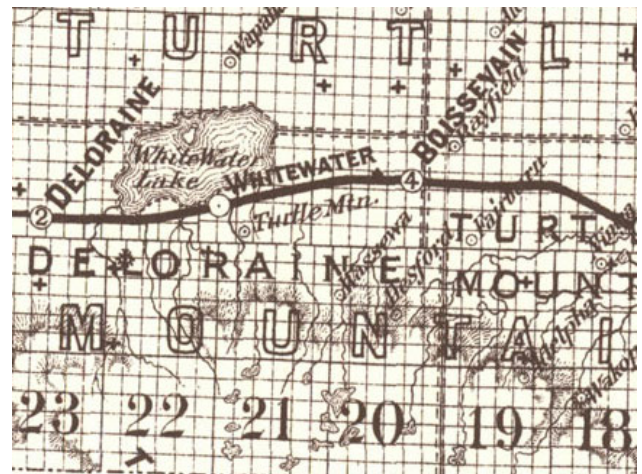
Ads like this one ran in Winnipeg newspapers regularly in 1881 and 1882.

It was a time called the Manitoba Boom. Everyone wanted to get rich by buying land and hoping that the price would keep going up. Then they could sell at a big profit.

These “cities” had several things in common. They all claimed they were going to be the main town of a region. They all claimed that the railways would pass nearby. They all simply lied about what was there.

An early settler was quick to have one such city surveyed on his land. He called it “Turtle Mountain City” and claimed it was “The Banner town of the far-famed Turtle Mountain country”

Turtle Mountain City actually consisted of a store, a post office and a Stopping Place.



By the time the railway arrived in 1885, Turtle Mountain as it was then called was just a post office. The railway passed to the north and the new town of Whitewater was created.

Waubeesh

Nearby an actual village called Waubeesh had been started with stores, a blacksmith shop and even a church. But even with those services, it couldn't survive when the railway passed it by.

George Morton had a store there, and as soon as the railway came to Boissevain he moved it to the new town.