

years ago in the Athabasca region. Comparatively little is known yet of the value of these finds or of the extent of Canada's coal supply. Prof. Dawson, of the Geological Survey, thinks the oil district comprises nearly 150,000 square miles. The whole world will be interested in the expedition headed by Pennsylvania experts, which the Dominion Government is now fitting out to explore the oil regions. Another scientific expedition which will start this year has the mission of studying the resources of the Great Mackenzie basin and suggesting the best means of preventing the extermination of fur animals.

The newer parts of Canada are a country of the future, for their resources have not yet been carefully studied, much less utilized. The hardy yeomanry who are planting civilization in these former wilds have suffered for several years from early frost and blighting drought. Far north, along the Northern Saskatchewan, many a farmer is freighting on the road and almost despairs of ever seeing the long promised railroad which was to bring his wheat fields within reach of the markets. But it takes years to lay even the foundations of so great a social edifice as the Canadian North-West is destined to become. The railroads will be built and plenty of them. Progress and growth are apparent everywhere. Already the colonies outside of Manitoba, weary of the régime of the mounted police and the Council at Regina, are petitioning the Parliament at Ottawa for separate Provincial Governments. Manitoba and Assiniboia have raised 13,000,000 bushels of wheat in a year, and on the plains of Alberta, which no white man save a few hunters had seen twenty years ago, 150,000 cattle are grazing. There can be no doubt of the bright future of a country whose resources are so ample, whose climate invigorates both mind and body, and whose enlightened people are so ambitious to achieve success.—*Chautauquan*.

THE CALIPHATE.*

The history of the Caliphate recalls to our imagination the bazaars of Cairo, Damascus and Bagdad, and the legendary story of good Haroun al Raschid. It is a strange blending of romance and realism, of the picturesque and the tragic. One of the strangest phenomena in history is the rapid spread of that gloomy fanaticism which in a single century extended from Bokhara to Cordova, from the Indus to the Loire. Its fierce and fiery energy swept away the corrupt Christianity of the East, save some lingering remnants in the secluded Nestorian valleys, in the Armenian monasteries, and among the mountains of Abyssinia. The schools of Alexandria were scattered, its library destroyed, its glory extinguished.

But before the early flush and vigour of conquest passed away, the Saracens applied their eager energies to the cultivation of learning. It is their greatest glory that they conquered the domains of science as rapidly as they overran the territories of the earth. They soon became heirs of the learning of Alexandria. They eagerly adopted the philosophic method of Aristotle. They swept the monasteries of the Levant and the Ægean for the writings of the Grecian sages. From the Arabic translations of these, much of the literature and science of Europe is derived. An intense national life and preternatural vigour was developed. Their active commerce from Alexandria and Cyprus civilized the maritime states of Europe.

**The Caliphate, its Rise, Decline, and Fall; From Original Sources.* By SIR WILLIAM MUIR, K.C.S.I., LL.D., D.C.L., Ph D. (Bologna). Author of "The Life of Mahomet," "Mahomet and Islam," etc. Second edition. Revised, with maps. The Religious Tract Society, 56 Paternoster Row, 65 St. Paul's Churchyard and 164 Piccadilly, London. Toronto: William Briggs. Price \$3.65.