

RANCHING.

West of Moosejaw, there is a change in the character of the country. The humid districts are left behind and the sub-arid portions approached. The prairie ceases to be suited to the



Saskatchewan; it then drops down in a southwesterly direction to the mountains in Southern Alberta.

Great herds of range cattle roam at will all over these seemingly boundless pastures. The profits to the stockmen are large, as may be readily understood when it is known that \$40 to \$50 per head is paid on these ranges for steers that cost their owners only the interest on the original investment of stocking the ranch, and their share in the cost of the annual round-ups.

In this part of the Northwest the winters are mild and the snowfall is so light that cattle, horses, and sheep graze the whole year. There is little cropping, and only where irrigation has been effected by the construction of cheap ditches. This method has proved highly successful.

The Swift Current Creek region is excellent as a stock country. It is everywhere thickly covered with a good growth of nutritious grasses—mostly of the short, crisp variety, known as "buffalo grass," which becomes to all appearance dry about midsummer, but is still green and growing at the roots, and forms excellent pasture both in winter and summer. One is amazed at the rapidity with which emaciated animals brought from other parts fatten on the buffalo grass of the plains.

FUEL.

The supply of timber on the hills is considerable. There is also an abundance of fuel of a different kind in the coal seams that are exposed in many of the valleys. Settlers in this section of the country have thus an abundant supply of timber suitable for house logs and fencing, and both coal and wood for fuel.

CLIMATE.

Western Assiniboia feels the effects of the Chinook winds from the Pacific Ocean, which quickly remove much of the snow that falls during two or three months of the year. This circumstance, together with the rich growth of grass, has of late brought parts of Assiniboia into favor with

cattle, sheep, and horse raisers, while portions of it are also noted for adaptability to grain-growing. The town of Medicine Hat, which is a divisional point on the railway, is situated on the South Saskatchewan River, near the western boundary of Assiniboia. Here is found natural gas of good quality.

This portion of Assiniboia offers splendid opportunities for intending settlers who desire to go in for pastoral pursuits and dairy farming, and numerous choice locations may be had. The natural grazing advantages enable one to keep a large number



of cattle, sheep, or horses, which need no feed except for short intervals during exceptionally stormy weather in the winter months. During the past couple of years considerable has been done in the Medicine Hat district in grain-raising and mixed farming. Near Irvine there is a fairly large and prosperous German community. The remaining portion of the plains region along the northern and western boundaries of Assiniboia affords excellent summer grazing for cattle and sheep. Some favourable locations are also to be found along the valley of the South Saskatchewan River.

In writing to his paper, The Farmers' Review, of Chicago, Mr. Henry F. Thurston, after speaking of the remarkable yields of oats and wheat obtained in the vicinity of Moosejaw, says:

"Here agriculture and ranching go hand in hand; for near the town was seen a herd of beef cattle several hundred in number, while on another side was seen a good-sized herd of dairy cows, the property of citizens in the town.

"Instances were cited to the writer of men who last year cleared from their wheat more than the land on which it was grown originally cost them. This is easy to believe in view of the large crop and high price for wheat last year.

"There is thus not a mile of this country which can not be used for some agricultural purpose—either for tillage or ranching.

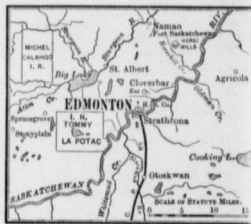
"The Moosejaw country is especially suitable for mixed farming. Indeed, almost the entire population consists of farmers with small bunches of cattle and a few scores of acres of land under crop. Creameries are easily accessible, and thus wheat-growing, dairying, and beef production, all on the same homestead, is a common feature. In most portions good water is obtainable at reasonable depth. At Indian Head larger wheat-growing areas are common, and the region of big grain fields is reached.

"The groves and clusters of trees scattered over the vast area appear like thousands of beautiful islands and complete a picture of beauty and utility.

"The poplar bluffs afford shelter to horses and cattle during stormy weather, and provide excellent fuel, and in some cases good material for buildings and fences."

SUMMING UP.

The possibilities of Assiniboia are shown by the averages of tests made at the experimental farm in 1902, when eleven varieties of the most suitable wheat, sown on April the 19th, were



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