

agricultural capacities after leaving Rat Portage (north of Lake of the Woods), just before coming upon the Manitoba prairies. There were more new villages and greater crowds of people at the stations than I expected. From Sudbury the company runs a line to the Sault St. Marie to connect with lines it controls to Duluth and St. Paul. At Port Arthur we strike the Western Division. On the Western, Mountain and Pacific divisions the company has adopted the twenty-four hour system, by which a.m. and p.m. are abolished, and the hours from noon till midnight are counted as from 12 to 24 o'clock. For instance, the train reaches Eagle River at 24.35, Winnipeg at 9.30, and Brandon at 16.10.

"At Winnipeg we come into the real Northwest, and a condition of soil, climate and political development as different from eastern Canada as Montana is from New England. Its growth has been marvelous. Formerly known as Fort Garry, the chief post of the Hudson's Bay Company, it had in 1871 a population of only 100. It is now the capital of the province of Manitoba, contains the chief workshops of the Canadian Pacific between Montreal and Vancouver, and has a population of 25,000. It is laid out on a grand scale, with very broad streets—Main Street is 200 feet wide.

"The line of the road is very well settled, and yellow with wheat westward to Regina, but the farms are often off from the line, as the railway sections are for the most part still unoccupied; and there are many thriving villages: Portage la Prairie, from which the Manitoba and Northwestern Railway starts northwest, with a population of 3,000; Brandon, a busy grain mart, standing on a rise of ground 1,150 feet above the sea, with a population of 4,000 and over; Qu'Appelle, in the rich valley of the river of that name, with 700; Regina, the capital of the Northwest Territory, on a vast plain, with 800; Moosejey, a market-town toward the western limit of the settled country, with 600.

"Before we reached Medicine Hat, and beyond that place, we passed through considerable alkaline country—little dried up lakes looking like patches of snow. Medicine Hat, on a branch of the South Saskatchewan, is a thriving town.

"Here we saw many Cree Indians, physically a creditable-looking race of men and women,

and picturesque in their gay blankets and red and yellow paint daubed on the skin, without the least attempt at shading or artistic effect.

"The same day we reached Gleichen, about 2,500 feet above the sea. The land is rolling, and all good for grazing and the plow. This region gets the "Chinook" wind. Plowing is begun in April, sometimes in March; in 1888 they plowed in January. Flurries of snow may be expected any time after October 1st, but frost is not so early as in eastern Canada. A fine autumn is common, and fine, mild weather may continue up to December. At Dunmore, the station before Medicine Hat, we passed a branch railway running west to the great Lethbridge coal mines, and Dunmore station is a large coal depot.

"The morning at Gleichen was splendid: cool at sunrise, but no frost. Here we had our first view of the Rockies, a long range of snow peaks on the horizon, 120 miles distant. There is an immense fascination in this rolling country, the exhilarating air, and the magnificent mountains in the distance. Here is the beginning of a reservation of the Blackfeet, near 3,000.

"We went over a rolling country to Calgary, at an altitude of 3,388 feet, a place of some 3,000 inhabitants, and of the most distinction of any between Brandon and Vancouver. On the way we passed two stations where natural gas was used, the boring for which was only about 600 feet. The country is underlaid with coal. Calgary is delightfully situated at the junction of the Bow and Elbow rivers, rapid streams as clear as crystal, with a greenish hue, on a small plateau, surrounded by low hills and overlooked by the still distant snow peaks. The town has many good shops, several churches, two newspapers, and many fanciful cottages.

"At Cochrane's we were getting well into the hills. Here is a large horse and sheep ranch and a very extensive range. North and south along the foot-hills is fine grazing and ranging country. We enter the mountains by the Bow River Valley, and plunge at once into splendid scenery, bare mountains rising on both sides in sharp, varied and fantastic peaks, snow-dusted, and in lateral openings assemblages of giant summits of rock and ice. The change from the rolling prairie was magical. At Mountain House