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THE VIGOR OF VEGREVILLE

By Cy. Warman in Canadian Life
and Resources.

Among the wonders worked by the
builders of the Canadian Northern
railway recently opened for business
between Winnipeg and Edmonton
Vegreville is, to my mind, the most
remarkable.

Other towns have been born along
the line, have been named for other
purposes, for trade, for business,
and have prospered, often beyond the
wildest dreams of the builders, but
Vegreville is almost in a class alone.

Nobody seems to have known that
Vegreville lay just below the "grass-
roots," pasting to be nobody but the
barren boy, who as a townsite
agent for the railway, is sowing the
seed for cities along the line. He
must have had a hidden hope some-
where in his system for he had the
audacity to ask four hundred dollars
a lot the first time he stepped upon
the stump (figuratively speaking) to
sell them off.

Men on the spot representing large
interests—banks, implement houses,
etc., who had to have corners, put
up their money grudgingly.

It is not pleasant to pay ten dol-
lars a front foot for land that yester-
day sold for ten dollars. And yet the buyers of
the first corner lots saw others pay eight
hundred a lot and in a few months
twice eight hundred.

The west is strewn with the
crumbling carcasses of camps that
budded and bloomed as vigorously
as Vegreville, but these were for the
most part mining camps. Vegreville
is rooted in the soil. It sits in the
centre of a fertile plain and has a
wide reach into the surrounding
country.

We were till as our train ap-
proached this prairie metropolis,
that there was a typical western town
—seven months old, seven hundred
people, and corner lots sell at
seventeen hundred dollars.

The wheels under our car had
scarcely stopped rolling when our
party of an even dozen writers, jour-
nalists, authors and newspaper men
began to get out. "This is the real
thing," said a man from the sea-
side. "Let us tie up and go
achoo."

This we did. Main street was
busy, but the back streets proved
most interesting. One side street
looking west of the rear of shops
and stables, and east into an open
world, resembled a country lane.
There were horses and buggies, oxen
eating on racks of grain or walking
the broad smooth streets that were
paved with prairie grass.

We flagged a Russian Mennonite
whose face was as full of smiles as
his pockets were full of dollars. He
asked him how he liked it as
far as he had gone. "Good," said he.
"Good country, good people, good
homesteads about two miles. Plenty
growing, plenty wife, some milk and
a school house just now built."

"You like come back Russia?"
We asked, and instantly a cloud over-
shadowed the smiling face. "No,
oh no," he cried, and then, seeing
our smiles, he let drop the old trou-
ble face he had worn in the dark
days, and donned once more the
sunny face he had found in the open
fields of this new free world.

We bailed for an hour in Vegreville
for as already estimated, Vegreville
is unique. One gets the impression that
God in his goodness has set aside this
Last West for the home-hungry, the
weary and oppressed of the earth.
Strangers from many lands have come
together here, have set up their tents
and call it "Home." They are not only
contented—they are happy in their
new home and their cheerfulness and
optimism is contagious. In seven short
months, with many in seven weeks,
they have become convinced that Veg-
reville is the best town on the line,
and if you are not careful you will
carry away with you the conviction
that it is true.

The day we were there they were
selling stores and cattle of all sorts
at public auction, and we pictured the
auctioneer in many striking poses as
he passes the horned goods from the
old owner to the new.

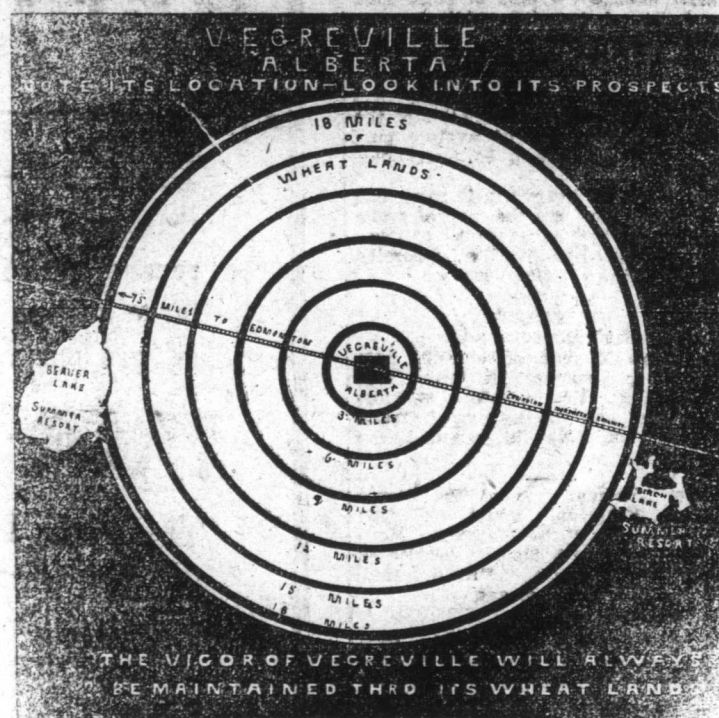
Among the odd sights we saw a
post-office even by nine, and by its
side the substantial Canadian Bank of
Commerce building, showing how much
more nimble a private enterprise
is in any country than a government
controlled concern.

I wanted especially to call the atten-
tion of my journalistic friends to this
contrast, but the post master or a
citizen whom we took for the post-
master, failed utterly to appreciate
the joke, and rebuked us mildly for
our criticism of the post office. But
the lesson was there just the same—
a striking illustration of what would
be the result if the government ran
the railroad—all of it—either above
or below the line. It would be about
as big as the post office at Vegre-
ville.

Worth & Holden Vegreville

C.N.R. Town Site Agents on Main St.
Two corner lots, a snap at \$2,800.
Two good lots, centrally located at
\$1,999 each.

The above is a copy of an adver-
tisement taken from "The Vegreville
Observer," 23rd January, 1907, showing
the present value of Main street
lots, which Cy. Warman's "barren boy"
had the audacity to ask \$400 a lot
for lots less than a year ago. (See his arti-
cle on Vegreville above.)



When Investing, Don't Overlook the Historic
Fact That Vegreville—Like All Western
Cities—Will Grow North and West.
Invest Accordingly and you
Won't Go Wrong

VEGREVILLE

While Edmonton people have every reason to have great
faith in the real estate of their own city, they should not over-
look the fact that vigorous and large towns are springing up
around them and that these towns offer just now splendid
opportunities for the investment of a small amount of money.

Take the town of Vegreville for example. You can buy
valuable lots, 50 x 150 feet right in the town limits anywhere
from One Hundred Dollars to Four Hundred Dollars, only
paying one quarter down and the balance on such time that
the investor is almost certain to make from 50 to 100 per cent.
before his final payment on the lot falls due. It is just like
Edmonton was four years ago (a money maker for the man
who has judgment enough to make an investment in it.)
Vegreville needs houses and stores to accommodate its people
and they are willing to pay good rents. You can improve
your property and get rent from it at once if you wish.

Don't you think, Mr. Stay-at-Home, you had better wake
up and look into some of these gilt edge out-side investments?
We think so and are going to give you an opportunity to
make a small but save investment in the wide-awake and
rapidly growing Town of Vegreville.

Read what Cy. Warman says about it in the "Canadian
Life and Resources." Read what the correspondent of the
"Winnipeg Free Press" says about it. Note that the Lots
that Cy. Warman's "Beardless Boy" offered at \$400 less than
a year ago are now held at \$1,600. (See side columns).

Vegreville is a town that contains a class of citizens that
will make it a city in a few years. It has flowing wells of soft
water, it is surrounded by eighteen miles of the very best land
in Alberta. It has fine agricultural shows each year. A
splendid race track and exhibition grounds and buildings. It
has a live board of trade and town council, schools, hospitals,
banks, hotels, town band, weekly paper, three grain elevators,
etc., etc.

We are offering for sale in the town limits of Vegreville
very valuable lots on very reasonable terms. Call and ex-
amine our list and maps.

APPLY TO
THE SETON-SMITH CO.
REAL ESTATE AGENTS
McDOUGALL STREET EDMONTON.
P.O. Box 378. Phone 250.
OR TO
LOWE & CARPENTER
Two Doors West of Merchants Bank
39 JASPER AVE. EAST, EDMONTON.

Newly Incorporated Vegreville

Winnipeg Free Press.

What was merely prairie a few months
ago, is now the site of bright, go-ahead
Vegreville—on the line of the C. N. R.,
seventy-three miles from Edmonton.
—very young, not twenty months old,
but a bounding baby—a most promising
kid. Before the advent of the railway
there was a small hamlet about four
miles south of the Vegreville station,
called by this name also. This ham-
let was isolated, isolated to no purpose,
and the railway survey called in the
loudest tones, you are not in it by
four or five miles! Then the man of
this little place, looking along the road
as it made its way over the prairie,
for the Vegreville that is to make his
mark! Their choice being its present
site. Before the eyes of these men was
nothing but the raw prairie and the
hard sods, but they began to grow and
thrive, as it probably will continue to
do, having everything in her surround-
ings that could be asked to keep things
going.

Vegreville has her air-els regularly
laid out, graded and subdivided,
necessities so often neglected until the
last minute in new places. Her houses
are commodious and stocked with all
that an up-to-date community could
wish for.

There are two hotels, both built in
generous proportions, and giving most
satisfactory service.
There are also two banks, the Com-
merce and the Merchants—the latter is
building at a cost of \$10,000, very
substantial quarters of brick with some
finishing; the contrast between the
handsome structure, and the pretty lit-
tle frame shack at present in use, is
astounding.

Vegreville has a planing mill which
is kept in perpetual motion, it is so
busy. It is not very large as yet, but
is heading that way, and is a neat and
snug workshop. Mr. Jacob Mohr is its
proprietor.

Another mill is promised for the
spring—a 100 barrel flour mill to be
built by W. Parker & Co. This mill
will look well beside the three large
elevators, standing so conspicuously in
her midst. There are also more than 100
yards, implement houses, heavy barns
and blacksmith shops; but as the way
of this world is, there is always some-
thing wanting, so this good town was
a genius.

Steady employment is guaranteed
to a skillful operator. There is also
an opening for a steam laundry; the
Chinaman has been here and done all
the mischief he can; his patrons would
almost be willing to pay a \$500 po-
lice to see him out of town.

A considerable amount of building
has been done north of the track; all
months ago there was not a house
there, now there is quite a village;
and the piles of lumber, and the
kegs of nails and the various needs
of the men who build, that are to be
seen in all directions, are evidence
that many more houses and business
places will soon be added. But what
is the point. Hushie the decorator with
his brushes and a colors alone, and
let him use out the unusually won-
derful aspect of the place.

There will be a great difference in
the appearance of Vegreville when her
splendid quarries are opened up.
With this valuable material close at
hand—this light grey, easily worked
sandstone—it will be a matter of a
few years when she will be known as
the Sandstone City; the Kingston, Ont.,
is called the Limestone City. In all
probability the legislative buildings at
Edmonton will be built of this Vegre-
ville stone.

Another new enterprise was started
last June, with the shipment of a fine
bunch of 500 head of cattle, for which
the tidy sum of \$20,000 was received.
There are two creameries in the dis-
trict, one at Morina, twelve miles to
the south, and one at Warlock, the
distance to the north, and one in
town all privately owned. A cream-
ery always means a steady supply of
ready money, and is, therefore, a land-
mark adjacent to any town.

Water is found here in abundance—
water that stands the test of the high-
est analysis, and is obtained by boring
from 40 to 150 feet. Artesian wells,
with a flow of 200 barrels in 24 hours.
The presence of alkali in only found
in surface water.

Recent excavations, well boring, etc.,
have revealed the presence of natu-
ral gas. No development work has as
yet been done, but it is believed that
as soon as sufficient capital can be
secured for this purpose an inexhaust-
ible store of this very valuable com-
modity will be obtainable.

There are also valuable coal mines
at Beaver Lake, only eight miles off.
This coal can be put into the cellar of
the Vegreville householder at \$5 per
ton.

Applications for a franchise for sup-
plying the town with electric light and
power have been laid before the council
but the likelihood is that the town it-
self will own the electric plant, the
general feeling being in favor of mun-
icipal ownership of public utilities.

The Alberta government is at present
constructing a trunk telephone sys-
tem through the province, with
which the local systems will connect.
Work on the latter (at Vegreville) is
now under way. At no distant date the
number of farmers who will be with-
out telephones in their homes will be
very small and how this will facili-
tate business need not be dwelt upon
here.

With a view of securing fire pro-
tection, the town has very wisely given
most generous votes for the necessary
appliances. A gasoline engine, a chemi-
cal engine, a pump and ladder truck,
etc., and an engine hall to house them
in, make a good investment, and speak
volumes for the progressive spirit of
the men who direct the affairs of this
burg.

For its material and moral well-
being there are at present two very
conspicuous churches. Presbyterian and
a Methodist, and the Roman
Catholics are building a handsome
edifice that will cost \$5,000.

A joint stock company has been formed
for the purpose of putting up a club,
wherein the roaring game, as well as

skating and hockey, will be encourag-
ed. The sum of \$5,000 will be requir-
ed for this.

For the sportsman who would en-
joy a day's outing with dog and gun,
this locality would afford endless
pleasure, game is plentiful, a good
bag is sure.

Government roads are being built,
through a choice agricultural dis-
trict, to Soda Lake, 12 miles to the
north, and Whitford, 20 miles in the
same direction.

The C. N. R. is building a freight
shed and adding 200 feet to the pas-
senger platform, and the staff at the
station has been increased; in addition
to the agent there is now a day and
a night operator.

Vegreville is now a regularly in-
corporated town with a population of
800, and assessed property to the value
of \$600,000, which was not twelve
months ago. Mr. W. Clements is may-
or, and an active board of trade has
been formed with C. R. Morton, man-
ager of the Merchants Bank, as presi-
dent, and P. A. Morrison, as secre-
tary.

Not by any means least of Vegre-
ville's possessions is its weekly bag-
ette, the Observer, published by A.
L. Horton, formerly of Carberry.

Vegreville is fast becoming an in-
stitutional centre. The Rowland M.
Boswell hospital, built by Mr. Boswell
of Elora, Ont., at a cost of \$10,000, will
take one of the highest places in the
list of benevolent institutions of the
province. While its use will be that
of a general hospital, the primary idea
of its establishment was the treatment
of the sick and afflicted among the
Gallians. It is the story of the good
Samaritan practically applied. The
furnishing of the building has been
undertaken by the W. H. M. S. of the
Presbyterian church, and is progressing
to its utmost need and comfort for the
patients has been most generously en-
dorsed. There is accommodation for
twenty patients. The surgical depart-
ment has been equipped with the latest
appliances. A medical staff has not yet
been appointed, in the meantime the
local physicians give attention to the
cases coming in, and Miss Playfair, the
matron, has a staff of efficient nurses
to assist them.

There is also a training school for
Gallians in Vegreville; for the youths
of the branch called Ruthenia, the
term begins in November and continues
until the spring; there were thirty pu-
pils in attendance last year, and a great
many more are expected this year. The
girls are trained for domestic service;
and the boys are taking their positions
creditably beside our native Canadian
youths. This work although under the
auspices of the W. H. M. S. of the
Presbyterian church, with the Rev. T.
A. Broadfoot in charge, is more patri-
otic than ecclesiastic, a strong under-
tone running through all its teachings
being "Canada first."

like all west-
ern cities will
cities will
gr W
NORTH
AND
WEST
INVEST
accordingly
and you won't
go wrong.