

varying from a clay to a sandy loam of from 5 inches to 12 inches in depth, with a sandy clay subsoil; while the land at the west end of the tract is a rich dark loam, 8 inches to 14 inches deep, with a sandy clay subsoil. Those who have examined the lands express themselves confident of their fertility, and it is but reasonable to look for the early settlement of this large section of the North-West. The railway is now built some distance beyond Calgary; but, in my opinion, this place, owing to the vicinity of the great cattle ranches to the south and the fine agricultural land surrounding it, is destined to be one of the most important cities in the North-West. Knowledge gained from my fellow-traders, in the old days, led me to look forward to the time when rich gold and silver deposits would be found in the Rocky Mountains. This has already to some extent taken place; and altogether I am inclined to place great faith in the future of Calgary. Another circumstance that will add largely to the attractiveness of that region east of the mountains, more especially to tourists, is the opening up of a national Canadian park. Reports recently to hand from Winnipeg state that a representative of the Dominion Government has, for some time past, been engaged in laying out a national Canadian park in the neighbourhood of the Rocky Mountains. The site chosen is about sixty-four miles beyond Calgary, the present western terminus of the Canadian Pacific Railway, and is in the first range of the mountains. The park is well laid out, covering an area of 1,200 acres, and is described as rivaling in scenery the beauties of Yellowstone Park, the national park of the Western States of America. The surface is rugged and broken with rocky cliffs, interspersed with lakes and springs, while the whole is heavily timbered. The Canadian Pacific Railway will pass through the grounds, and there is said to be a probability of a large summer hotel being erected for excursionists.

Before giving you some details of the capabilities of the North-West for settlement, I should like to speak of the Indians. The noble red man depicted by Fenimore Cooper has, I fear, long since passed away, if ever he existed. From my experience amongst them, the Indians, with few exceptions, possess little nobility of character; they are, as a rule, dirty, often cruel, and treacherous. Their one redeeming quality is gratitude for kindness shown them. When I first visited the country there were, it was estimated, somewhere about 45,000 Indians between the Red River and the Rocky Mountains, the principal tribes being the Plain and Wood Crees, Blackfeet, Saulteaux, and Swampies. There were also minor tribes scattered throughout the country. The Blackfeet were considered the most treacherous, and on several occasions, very many years ago, they attacked trains of carts for the sake of plunder; but the Canadian North-West has never had an actual outbreak among the Indian tribes within its territories. This happy feature—in such marked contrast with the experience of the