

Interesting discoveries as to the resources of this vast country have crowded fast upon one another. The world talked long of the rich new wheat lands of the Red River Valley and the Saskatchewan; but it never seemed to occur to any one that the great plains farther west, to the Rockies, where millions of buffalo had roamed, were admirable grazing lands. That discovery was made later; cattle raisers flocked into Alberta with their herds, and ranches are still multiplying. Then, as the surveyors pushed up along the east side of the Rocky Mountains, they were surprised to find that there seemed to be no limit to the northern extension of the arable and pasture lands, influences from the Pacific warming the winter air.

Then along and near the line of the Canadian Pacific as it approaches the mountains, rich coal fields, both bituminous and anthracite were discovered. The Canadian Northwest, though not well furnished with timber, doubtless could supply the whole continent with coal for centuries to come. In the regions of the Belly and Bow Rivers alone, it is estimated by the Geological Survey that there are about 800,000,000 tons of good coal; and farther north, at Edmonton, the citizens are supplied with the product of their own coal miners at a cost of less than three dollars a ton. Canadian anthracite has been sold in the California markets.

The discovery of large areas of petroleum basins was reported several 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. Professor 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 that long promised railroad which was to bring his wheat field within reach of markets. But it takes years to lay even the foundations of so great a social edifice as the Canadian Northwest 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 men 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.