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a source of constant moisture to the roots of plants all through the early part of the summer. In fact, the portion of the so-called American Desert which extends northerly into Canadian territory, is proved to have no existence as such, for in the very worst parts of the country many tracts of good soil were found, and almost invariably the grass was rich and nutritive, offering excellent facilities for stock-raising. There is but one drawback to which Professor Macoun calls attention: the want of wood, for long distances. Lignite, however, underlies all this part of the territories, the outcrops of which will furnish fuel; and the introduction of railways will enable settlers to obtain lumber supplies. Streams are not plentiful, but there is an abundant supply of water to be found everywhere by digging wells, and at no great depth.

The advantages offered by the North-West for stock-raising are now receiving that attention from capitalists and experienced cattle breeders which they deserve. Already numerous applications, backed up by the most substantial proofs of the *bona fides* of the applicants, are before the Department, for leases of grazing lands in various sections of the Territories, and the purchase of the property on which to erect the necessary buildings. On the faith of a promise that his enterprise would receive every legitimate encouragement from the Government, one experienced Canadian agriculturist and stock breeder of large capital, the Hon. Senator Cochrane, has gone to Great Britain, with a view to an extensive purchase there of thoroughbred stock as the foundation of a ranch which he proposes establishing in the Bow River region. It is hardly necessary to say how important it is to the future of that country, how intimately connected with the development of its best interests, that this and kindred schemes should be successful, and how much it will contribute to the convenience, profit and prosperity of the settlers in this new land that they should find at once at their very doors the best breeds of cattle from which to stock their farms. To the pioneer farmers of Canada, and to all who have had any experience of the difficulty of procuring well-bred animals in new settlements, this is a point which will suggest itself as of the utmost possible consequence.

Although it is, of course, an admitted fact that there are large prairie areas which are but indifferently provided with wood, yet the more the Territories are explored, the more apparent does it become that the timber supply is not so limited as was at one time supposed, that properly husbanded it is sufficient for all practical requirements, that within a reasonable distance of the treeless plains there is plenty of building and fencing timber which can be procured at no very great cost when the means of internal communication have been improved, and that on the north slope of the valley of the Saskatchewan River there are, easily accessible to the lumberer, continuous forests of fir timber, for the manufacture and transportation of the products of which that river and its tributaries afford facilities.