

A watershed cuts across the district from east to west. South of the watershed the drainage is to the Missouri river by numerous coulées, and north of it, by an irregular system of shallow-valleyed streams to an interior basin. The basin is small and really lies within the drainage area of the Saskatchewan river.

TRANSPORTATION AND COMMERCIAL POSSIBILITIES.

The open-plains nature of the topography makes all parts of the area easily accessible by wagon, and, until recently, this has been the only means of communication; but now the area is tapped by two railways. The Weyburn-Lethbridge branch of the Canadian Pacific railway cuts across the northern part of the area and the Radville branch of the Canadian Northern railway reaches as far as the town of Bengough in the eastern part.

The building of these railways has given a great impetus to grain growing and practically all the good farming land has been taken by homesteaders. The yield of grain is above the average yield for the prairie provinces, and the area promises to become a well populated and very thriving district in the near future. Much of it is, however, too far from railways for successful grain growing, particularly the part south of the main watershed. Here, numerous coulées with a north-south trend make railway construction difficult. This part is, however, admirably suited for ranching, for which close railway accommodation is not so necessary as for grain growing.

Several towns are growing up about railway stations and as development proceeds, will doubtless gradually become centres of manufacture and distribution. It is in connexion with this development that the coal and clay industries become important. The use of the coal for heating and power and of the clay for the manufacture of building bricks, sewer-pipes, and other ceramics will increase steadily. Development up to the present time has been confined to the mining of coal for local use at various localities. No brickyards are worked within the area, but some have been established in similar clays outside the area; and clay is being shipped by railway as far as Medicine Hat for the manufacture of sewer-pipe.