

in a systematic manner. The country soon becomes more broken, while numerous lakelets and ponds occupy the hollows. After the trees are left behind, the land seems more desolate, and is covered only with the thick buffalo grass. The occasional farms near the line appear to be prosperous, and large vegetables grow in the gardens around.

At Chaplin the Old Wives' Lakes, very large bodies of water, appear to the left of the road. They have no outlet, and consequently are alkaline. Skirting past these, we find ourselves in a veritable paradise for sportsmen. Some of the lakes are salt, but the most of them are clear and fresh. Here are myriads of wild ducks and geese, of plovers and snipe. These are all to be seen on the low ground, while "prairie chicken" are plentiful on the high ground, and antelopes numerous on the hills. The surface of the prairie is now marked in all directions with the old buffalo trails, and pitted with their "wallows." This noble denizen of the prairie is all but extinct. The great piles of white bleached bones, reared here and there along the line, show that these animals roamed in millions, and held undisputed sway over the entire west country before their extermination commenced with the appearance of the white man. At the stations along the route are to be seen many Indian squaws, with their papooses—not generally a very tidy-looking lot. They excite considerable curiosity among the passengers, and try to trade with them by exchanging pipes and trinkets for tobacco and silver. They are generally clothed in blankets of brilliant colours, mostly red. The Indians, notwithstanding the attention paid them by the Government in the way of provisions, &c., are gradually disappearing, and will soon become as extinct as the buffalo.

Before we arrive at Medicine Hat large herds of horses may be seen on either side of the line feeding on the rich grasses. Medicine Hat is a busy and important centre, with over 1000 inhabitants. There are several churches and other public buildings. This district, especially in the direction of Lethbridge, abounds in extensive coal mines, from which large supplies are daily shipped. After passing Medicine Hat, the high prairie is again marked deeply with the trails of