

Fort Saskatchewan.

Edmonton District's Queen Enthroned on Great River.

EARLY MORNING RIVULETS WHICH ONCE
BEGGED OTHER LONELY PLAINS, NOW
SHOWERS A BUSY COUNTRYSIDE.

*A Town with a Fertile Valley to the Great Peace
River Valley, and Centre of Rich Agricultural
Country Also a Valuable Cold Storage Plant
quarters and Prospective Railway Point—Why the
Home-Seeker Should Turn His Face Toward
Northern Alberta*

The farmers of Northern Alberta are happy. And why should it not be so? The golden sheaves of a good average crop have passed the threshers; the stock rounded up, sleek and fat; the season's gold-washing closed; and now, in the embrace of their mild winter season, may draw their own coal, market their produce, and prepare for renewed exertion in the early spring. Ninety-four, now hoary with age, will pass out, a year memorable in the history of the Edmonton district, the garden of the great Northwest, and a domain of which Canada is justly proud. While it can be truthfully said that no other portion of the Dominion offers such varied inducements to the new settler, it can also be said with the same degree of candor that the home-seekers of the world are beginning to realize this, a fact shown by the large inflow to the district during the season now just closed. Still the Edmonton district is but in its infancy, and tens of thousands of free and fertile home-steads yet lie in their virgin state, awaiting the ploughshare. There are many reasons why those tired of the slavery of thickly populated communities, and desirous of having a home they may call their own and opportunities for their children, should turn their faces toward the North Saskatchewan in preference to any other portion of the country between Lake Superior and the Pacific Ocean. It is an open secret that the climate of Northern Alberta is milder and the winters shorter, and that the country is subject to fewer radical climatic changes than any section to the south, Manitoba, the Dakotas or Montana, not excepted. The soil is fertile, and the yield of grains and vegetables to the acre are unsurpassed anywhere on the continent; the sands of the Saskatchewan, which, worm-like, traverse the districts, are rich in gold, easily obtained by washing; there is a brisk market for every pound of butter, cheese and bacon that can be produced; for the product of the henery, poultry, and all kinds of vegetables. This market is British Columbia, and is keen for the demand for supplies for the mining regions that the British Columbia wholesaler, although much preferring to buy close to home, has not yet been able to supply one-tenth of his needs in this district, and has been obliged, after taking in Manitoba's surplus, to keep on still farther to Ontario and the Maritime Provinces. And with the development of mining in the Pacific Province, this market is increasing and is bound to assume still greater proportions. Any honest man can acquire a home and do well in this district without making a slave of himself, even if he has only a very small capital to commence with.

FORT SASKATCHEWAN.

In the fall of 1874 Colonel Jarvis, then in command of the Northwest Mounted Police, was instructed by the government at Ottawa to look for a good site on the south side of the North Saskatchewan river for the erection of a barracks, to be headquarters for the force in this Northwest district. The Colonel was instructed to keep within a limit of twenty miles from the old Hudson's Bay trading post at Edmonton. After a thorough survey of the sur-

rounding country, Colonel Jarvis, who was himself an old army officer and competent engineer, decided that this was the best point for a basis of operations, and named the post Fort Saskatchewan in honor of the noble river upon whose bank it rested. The flag was flying in the breeze in the spring of '75, when the buildings of the Fort were completed.

Since that time, bearing out what this shrewd officer had foreseen, Fort Saskatchewan has occupied, as it always will, a prominent place in the history of the Northwest.

During the dark days of the rebellion of 1885 the scattered settlers of the district sought refuge under its friendly walls, and from here Major Griesbach dispatched his scouts and

patrols a busy countryside. During the past two years Northern Alberta has witnessed an inflow of hardy agriculturists unprecedented in the history of the Canadian Northwest.

THE REASON WHY.

There are many reasons why Fort Saskatchewan may lay claim to future greatness. Geographically, it is the greatest grain-growing and stock-raising centre in Northern Alberta, the markets for which will be the great Peace River country and the mining sections of British Columbia. The town also stands in line to be a great railroad centre.

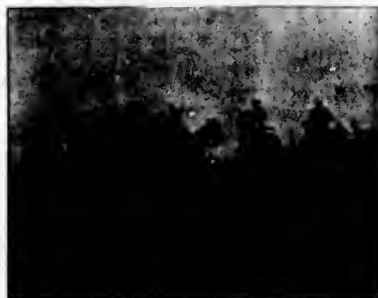
By the extension of the Calgary and Edmonton Railway from the south to the petroleum fields of the Peace River in the north, and by



MIC LEON MOHETS STOCK FARM.
Near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

routes to and from the east, where the trouble was going on. Since the suppression of the rebellion, the stockades around the fort have been removed, the square enlarged and a number of new buildings erected. Today Fort Saskatchewan occupies a more prominent position than it ever did before, and in the future it will be the basis of operations for police pro-

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A PATROL PARTY OF NORTH-WEST MOUNTED POLICE.
Specially photographed near Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta.

tection to the great Peace River country and McKenzie basin.

GREAT AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING CENTRE.

However, it is not only its military importance that is bringing Fort Saskatchewan so prominently before the eyes of the world today. The attention of home-seekers has been drawn toward the great fertile valley of the Saskatchewan, of which this point is the gateway. Twenty years ago next spring, when the bugle sounded its first reveille from the fort, its echoes were borne to the ears of the red-coats only; but to-day its early morning call

SANDS OF GOLD.

For years Fort Saskatchewan has been the centre of gold-washing operations on the Saskatchewan, and many thousands yearly derived from this source have been spent in the town. Anywhere along the river, on the bars or benches, when the water is low, man may be seen at work with "grizzly," washing out the "filthy lucre." The product of the Saskatchewan's sand is known as float gold, or the "poor man's friends," owing to the cheapness of the apparatus necessary to carry on the work. The washing begins in May, and ends generally in October. New settlers of limited means

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