

CATTLE RANCHING.

FORTY THOUSAND HEAD AT THE FOOT OF THE ROCKIES.

THE WONDERS ACCOMPLISHED OUT WEST.

THE SETTLERS AT CALGARY SEND A MEMORIAL TO OTTAWA.

A reporter of the *Daily Sun*, one of Winnipeg's brightest journals, interviewed Mr. J. E. Chapman, of the Halifax Cattle Ranching Company, one day recently. This gentleman was one of the famous Cochrane party, and this is the narrative he relates:

"We got out on the Bow River early in July, 1881, and stayed there six or seven weeks. I selected 100,000 acres on the Kootanie river, near Fort McLeod. It is just at the foot of the mountains. The Kootanie valley is famous as one of the richest stock grazing districts yet found north of the Union Pacific. I got back to Halifax, and afterwards completed arrangements with the Government for the lease of the land. We were one of those eight companies, you will remember, who got in under the first regulations. After completing all the preliminary arrangements I again left last April to purchase a supply of stock and take them through to the range."

"How long do you propose to keep the animals in Canada before selling?"

"The average age of a marketable beast is three years. It used to be four, but the demand is so great that we can't keep them beyond three years. And a three-year old western ranche-fed animal is superior to a four or five-year old beast raised in the east, so that we sell three-year-olds as soon as we get them on the ranche, and sell the others yearly as they attain that age."

"How long do you keep cows for breeding purposes?"

"There is a diversity of opinion on that point, and we are not yet decided as to which of the systems we shall adopt. Some ranchers turn their cows into beef before they become aged, others think it more profitable to allow them to breed as long as they can, and then let them die from old age. They breed every year, from two or three years of age up to twenty. A cow costs, say \$50 on the ranche. When ten years of age she has bred seven calves, which, when three years of age, realize say from \$300 to \$350. If turned into beef, the cow is then worth \$50. If continued as a breeder, at the end of another five years she has raised five more calves, which would realize say \$250. This is calculating at the lowest rate. On the one hand, the amount realized is, say \$350; on the other, it is \$600."

"How does the Canadian grazing ground compare with the stock raising American States and territories?"

"I wanted to purchase a superior herd, and therefore went to the best stock raising States in the Union. I met several Canadian ranchers there, among them, Stimson, managing director of Sir Hugh Allan's Company, Capt. Stewart, of the Stewart Ranche Company, Ottawa; and young Jones, son of D. F. Jones, ex-M.P. for Leeds and Grenville. We had no ranches to buy or sell there, and were not interested in exaggerating in the slightest degree. We were unanimous in coming to the conclusion that one acre in the Bow River

country would feed more stock than five acres in the most famous of the American districts. But when we again returned to our own ranches, with the grass in many places up to the horses' girths, and nowhere below their knees, we were convinced that one of our acres was fully equal to ten of theirs. And any disinterested Americans, after seeing both the countries, would frankly admit that."

"How many acres to each animal is supposed to be sufficient in the States?"

"About fifty."

"And in the Bow River district?"

"The government calculation is ten acres, but in most of the districts it will require more than one animal to eat all the rich grass found on three acres."

"What number of cattle do you estimate are in the Bow River country now?"

"When I went there just fifteen months ago there were less than 1,000 head all told. There was then no ranch in existence. These 1,000 head were owned by squatters. Now there are fully 40,000 head, and the whole country from beyond Fort Calgary on the north to the boundary line on the south, a distance of about 200 miles, and from the foot of the Rockies fully one hundred miles east, is now taken up, and I am told that cattle can be grazed all the year round as far east as the Cypress Hills, over 250 miles from the Rockies. These 40,000 cattle represent a value of \$2,000,000. And all this has been accomplished within the last fifteen months! Besides the cattle, there are over 1,000 horses up there, worth \$150,000."

"If you have accomplished this within fifteen months, what will the next three years show?"

"Nobody can even guess. Look at the progress of Winnipeg within the last three years. Just think of what the last fifteen months has accomplished in cattle ranching. There is not one-twentieth of the ranches yet stocked. Ten thousand head will be raised this year from the cattle now there. The men who brought in 40,000 head this year will bring in at least 30,000 head next year. Then the new ranches have to be stocked with imported cattle. I think I am under the mark when I say that there will be 100,000 head there next year. That means at least 250,000 head at the end of three years."

A PROTEST FROM CALGARY.

A copy of the *Fort McLeod Gazette* of Oct. 24th, shows that the people of Calgary do not approve of the system of letting out large tracts of land for cattle ranches, as the following resolutions show:—

"Resolved,—That whereas the Dominion Government has seen fit to grant leases for cattle ranges already covering nearly all the good agricultural land in the best portion of the proposed Province of Alberta, and whereas it has seen fit to absorb nearly all the remainder of it in Indian reserves and town site reserves, it is the opinion of this meeting that the reservation of three and a half townships in and about Calgary has not only been unwise, but manifestly unjust to the many settlers and pioneers who have come hither to make their homes, while it cannot but act as a check upon the settling up of this portion of the northwest territory. That it is also the opinion of this meeting that the provision in the leases empowering and compelling the lessees of cattle ranges to prevent the location of settlers upon the land so leased, is objectionable and contrary to the best interests of the country. That it is also the opinion of this meeting that the plan of granting timber licenses in a country so destitute of timber, is calculated to retard the settlement of the country and very seriously embarrass the settler. That whereas, the Government have given a reservation to the Sarcee Indians in the heart of one of the most important sections of agricultural country between the Elbow and Fish Creek, it is the opinion of this meeting that the Sarcee Indians should at

once be removed to their own proper reservation, which has never been taken from them, and which is laid down in Treaty Seven."

A resolution was also passed asking the Government to give the notice required for the termination of the leases in two years, with a view to the adoption of the ranching system which has proved such a pronounced success in Montana.

THE TERRITORIES.

PROPOSED DIVISION INTO SEVERAL NEW PROVINCES.

The question of the subdivision of the North-West into new provinces, or rather, territories, is not very clearly understood, and with a view to making it intelligible to our readers, the text of an Order-in-Council passed some time ago is reproduced: The new names and locations are as follows. Assiniboia, containing about 95,000 square miles, is bounded on the south by the International boundary, on the east by the western boundary of Manitoba, on the north by a line drawn near 52° latitude, and on the west by a line drawn between 111° and 111° west longitude; Saskatchewan, containing 114,000 square miles, is bounded on the south by Assiniboia, on the east by Lake Winnipeg and Nelson River, on the north by a line drawn near 55° latitude, and on the west by a continuation of the line marking that boundary of the previous district; Alberta, containing 100,000 square miles, is bounded on the south by the International boundary, on the east by the Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, on the west by British Columbia, and on the north by the continuation of the line bounding Saskatchewan; Athabasca, containing about 122,000 square miles, is bounded on the south by Alberta, on the west by British Columbia, on the east by the line bounding Assiniboia to the west until it intersects Athabasca River, then by it and the lake of the same name, and following Slave Lake to a line near 60° latitude, which forms the northern boundary. To sum up, the Saskatchewan district includes Battleford, Carleton, and Prince Albert. Assiniboia includes Qu'Appelle, South Saskatchewan and Souris rivers, and forts Pellee and Elice. Alberta includes the Battle, Bow, and Belly rivers, the cattle ranche district; and Athabasca takes in the celebrated Peace River districts. This division of the vast country, hitherto known as the North-West, will have the effect of localizing points which hitherto were very indefinitely comprehended, and, by having each its capital assigned it, will form nuclei for settlements more compact than the straggling homestead of prairie squatters.

THE occupants of the eastern reserve of the Mennonite lands in Manitoba are carrying out an enterprise of considerable magnitude to render their farms productive in wet seasons. This is a drain which when finished will be fifteen miles in length, twelve feet wide, and in many places six feet deep. Six miles have already been dug. Another drain will be commenced when this one is completed. The Mennonites pay for this work by taxing themselves \$3 on every homestead occupied, which is but a trifle, although enough to make the low land of farms in a few years the very best and richest.