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TOWN OF RED DEER ESTABLISHED BY GREAT RAILWAY ACTIVITY

Midway Town on the C. & E., Where That Line Crosses the Red Deer River, Showing Remarkable Progress—Alberta Central Railway Now Constructing Bridges to Cost \$2,000,000—Commissioners Municipal Government, But Private Company Owns and Operates Utilities—Aldermen Simply Legislators.

Bulletin Staff Correspondence. Red Deer, March 7.—In the early days of western Canada the buffalo hunters needed a more pliable leather for some of their garments. To secure a change of diet and procure hides for tanning for jackets, leggings and mittens they would make hunting trips to the wooded country where the deer were plentiful. Hence the name Red Deer has stuck to one of Alberta's rivers.

Later the white men travelled the trails of the hunters. The pioneers, both red and white, journeyed to and from the old Hudson's Bay Fort at Edmonton, and these trails crossed the Red Deer river not far from the present town of Red Deer. The trail from Morley and Calgary crossed at a ford near the present site of the Indian industrial school. The settlers and pioneers came up the Missouri river to Fort Benton, thence via Macleod to Edmonton, travelling a trail which crossed the river at a ford a little east of the present town.

In the early '80's white men first settled near the crossings of the river. But when the Canadian Pacific railway came to Calgary the Calgary and Edmonton trail became an important trade route. Rev. Dr. G. W. G. Galt and family, with other settlers, came and located in this vicinity. An enterprising merchant started a store at the crossing near the Calgary and Edmonton trail. But when the railway came north from Calgary in 1891 it crossed the river a few miles east of the old ford and the building of the railway definitely located the town which has made steady progress ever since.

A village it was in 1891, a town in 1891, while in 1911 it has reached the dignity of a city. Next year the present town will be five years old. The population was 1,500 in 1907, and now it is 3,000. The next five years may see a larger rate of increase.

Private Owned Public Utilities. Though a self-sufficient town, Red Deer differs from many of Alberta's towns in that it does not own its electric plant; it hires its water power, and it has a telephone system which is not owned or operated by either the municipality or the government. These utilities are operated by the Western General Electric Co.

Still the town has a commission form of government. There are no regular committees of the council and the aldermen are not burdened with all the details. The council meets only when the public own and operate the public utilities.

The council for 1911 is composed as follows: Mayor, E. B. Welliver, and Aldermen H. H. Gaetz, P. W. Galbraith, S. N. Carscallen, Reginald P. Alford, J. H. McLean, and J. M. Galt. Their duties are to enact legislation while the executive department of the municipality is assigned to the commissioners.

The commissioners consist of Mayor Welliver, who gets a salary of \$400 per year, and Commissioner A. P. Stevenson, who also acts as secretary-treasurer for a salary of \$1,800. The plan works very satisfactorily.

Commissioners Report to Council. The commissioners attend to all correspondence and report to the council, offering any suggestions they deem advisable. The aldermen see copies of all reports before the meeting. This plan divides the legislative and executive burden of work. There is no irksome committee meetings. Details are dealt with systematically. The commissioners get daily reports from the police, from the firemen, the works and from the chief of the fire brigade.

The rate of taxation is 15 mills for general and 7 mills for school, less five per cent. discount. The assessment of property is based on about two-thirds of its value, and the total assessment for 1910 was \$1,459,920 on buildings, \$200,000 on real property, \$2,400 on income and \$18,750 on personal property, with \$242,950 of exemptions, principally factories and churches. The aldermen's report is \$118,099.58. Municipal equipment, \$6,369.65; value of public works constructed, \$143,334.10. The auditor in his report for 1910 stated that the town is to be congratulated upon its splendid financial position for the capital account shows a surplus of \$106,363.47 of assets over liabilities, something to be proud of for a town the size of Red Deer.

The fire hall is probably the best of the best equipped for any Alberta town of its size. Upstairs there is accommodation for eight members of the volunteer brigade, who sleep here. The central room is furnished with billiard tables, a piano and some gymnasium apparatus. The walls are decorated with trophies won at fire brigade tournaments. Regular weekly meetings are held at which a practical discussion is held on fire-fighting problems. Chief H. Meers and a driver are paid salaries, while the 25 members of the volunteer brigade are paid for fires and practices.

But nearly every evening the young men of the brigade gather in the hall to enjoy the games or the music. The billiard room. The council find the furnishings a paying investment.

A Wide-Awake Brigade. In company with a citizen the writer visited the fire hall one evening. We could hear the music and the fur the men were having upstairs. While the chief showed us the special combination hook and ladder and chemical engine with its drop harness, the hose wagon with its sharp single drop harness, and the two old hand reels, relics of earlier days. The citizen remarked how quiet the three horses were standing.

The rates are subject to arbitration and are supposed to be similar to that charged in any town or city in similar conditions. Under agreement with the city, the company also pump the water from the river into the town owned pipes of the water-works system. The rate charged is \$5 per year per hydrant and 60 per cent. of the gross receipts from the domestic service. There is no tank or reservoir but the water is piped directly into the mains securing a domestic pressure of 30 pounds to be raised in case of fire to 75 pounds at the first alarm and when needed, up to 120 pounds of fire pressure.

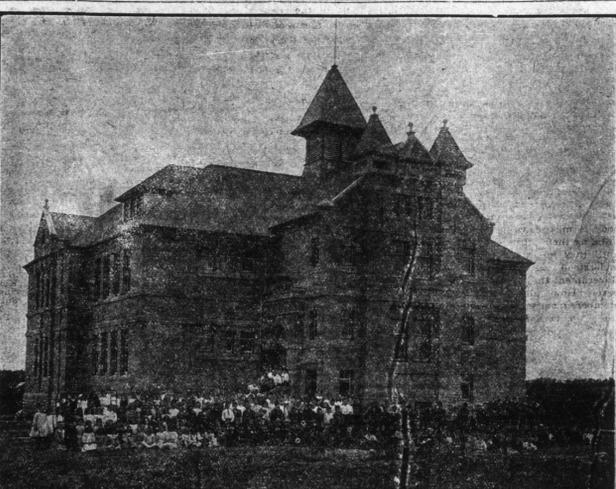
At the street corners are neatly painted covered tin can receptacles for paper and fruit skins. This tends to keep the sidewalks and streets clean.

Good Public and High Schools. Red Deer has two fine brick public school buildings, with a total attendance of 415, of which 65 are in the high school buildings. The old four-roomed brick school cost \$15,000, but the new school cost \$50,000, and has eight rooms and an assembly hall. J. G. McKenzie is now principal with a staff of ten assistants.

There are three teachers in the high school teaching standards VII, VIII and VIII and matriculation. The Red Deer high school has secured splendid success at the departmental examinations, no doubt due to the untiring work of ex-Principal W. J. McLean and the present staff of teachers. The public school department has the nucleus of a provincial marksmanship team. The provincial government have bought a site for a new court house but in the meantime court is held over the land office by Judge Lees, who is located at Red Deer.

Red Deer has two newspapers. Both own their buildings, which indicates success and the support of the public. The Red Deer Advertiser is published by P. W. Galbraith and P. Turnbull, and the Red Deer News by J. A. Carawell.

Memorial for Soldier Heroes. The Red Deer Memorial Hospital built by public subscription in memory of Charles Crutchebanks, Angus Jenkins and John McNeill, who were of the Strathbons Horse and were killed in the South African war. The hospital is in charge of Miss Kingston, matron, and a staff of five nurses. The expenses are met by taxes, subscriptions, a yearly town grant of \$500 and a government grant. It is managed by the Red Deer Hospital Board, under the presidency of F. H. Tallman. Under one roof are beds for 25 patients in an operating room and the kitchen.



PUBLIC SCHOOL AT RED DEER.

Friends, Loyal Orangemen and the Woodmen. The curling club have a fine rink with three sheets of ice. The town football team won in both district and league, and the High School football team won the Rutherford cup for two seasons.

Sylvan Lake is a fine summer resort 14 miles west, convenient to new branches of both the C. N. R. and the Alberta Central. The boys of the Calgary Y. M. C. A. have enjoyed a summer camp there and in 1911 it is expected that the Boy Scouts will camp at the lake. A summer school is also expected. About 25 miles east is Pine Lake, a pretty resort nestled in hills.

An Interesting Museum. Dr. Henry George has an interesting museum, containing a collection of rocks of all kinds of many lands but principally things of interest of Albertans, such as 100 eggs of wild birds, of which 129 are of Alberta birds; 70 Alberta animals (in skins, 70 mounted birds, 1,000 curios, 6,000 stamps, a collection of old newspapers, volume 3, number 1.

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The pioneers here before about 1892 have organized an Old Timers Association, with Captain Cottineham president, and P. Pigeon secretary. About a hundred people enjoyed the recent Old Timers' banquet at the Red Deer. The association is not now so by way of Calgary and the new route is much quicker than the old. For example, right at the New Year holiday season a Red Deer merchant received a small consignment of freight which was billed at Winnipeg on December 31st, and arrived at Red Deer on January 4th. The C.P.R. are turning over a new leaf and now send the freight around

much to the astonishment of the lady mail driver. Water Power Waiting Development. The Red Deer river is about 400 miles long and drains a basin of about 19,000,000 acres. At the mouth of the river the water is about 300 feet wide. The water is used for domestic purposes and there is plenty of power. An expert engineer estimated that 200 horse power is going to waste at the mill-boom dam. Water-power could also be generated at the canyon on the Red Deer river, about ten miles east. The river is a valuable asset to the town, though crossing the deep wide valley is rather expensive for the railways.

Transportation Facilities. The C.P.R. employ about thirty married men, whose homes are here. A fine new brick depot, 112x32 feet, two stories, has been built and the old depot used for a freight shed and express office. There are a lot of men employed around the large yards at the pumping plant, the coal chutes, the machine shop and the four-stall round-house, which, according to reports, will soon have six new stalls added. A wrecking train is kept here in readiness for any emergency.

The principal exports from Red Deer are grain, hay and dairy products, cattle, horses, fogs, sheep, poultry and eggs and lumber, wood, posts, brick and overalls. Gravel and sand are shipped to the prairie towns for making concrete. Thirty cars of ice were recently shipped from here this winter.

Red Deer Freight Taker Short Out. The last freight taker operating between Wetaskiwin and Winnipeg make quite a difference to the freight business between Red Deer and Winnipeg. This traffic does not now go by way of Calgary and the new route is much quicker than the old. For example, right at the New Year holiday season a Red Deer merchant received a small consignment of freight which was billed at Winnipeg on December 31st, and arrived at Red Deer on January 4th. The C.P.R. are turning over a new leaf and now send the freight around

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The Dominion Land Office at Red Deer looks after the Dominion lands for townships 35 to 42 inclusive and from the 4th meridian to B.C. In this district there are only about 6,000 quarters available for homestead entry, mostly in eastern and western extremities of the district. The settled portions of the district are making steady progress and the settlers are of a good class. To the east of Red Deer the settlers are principally from the old country, from other parts of Canada or from the United States. To the west, some Scandinavians are settled. Nearly 200 homesteaders have been applying for patent nearly every month. The homestead entries show an increase of about 25 per cent. over last year.

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handed at the present C.P.R. station at Red Deer town. Progressive Agriculturists. Mixed farming has been an assured success in the Red Deer district and among the successful farmers are Messrs. J. J. Richards, Gummow Brothers, John Greening, George Domoney, E. P. Geo. Parker, W. Pearson, W. Beckley, John Holgren, W. P. Code, W. Reay, John McLaughlin, James Spiers, D. W. McKinnon, A. H. Trimble, J. H. Comfort, Geo. White, C. White, and E. Carawell.

Among the farmers who have splendid dairy herds are A. H. \$30,000 per month. Work is chiefly done by Trimble & Sons, Ayrshires; Michener over the line from Red Deer to Brothers, Holsteins; and C. A. Julian-Sharman, Jerseys, with a few Julian-Sharman's cow, Rosalind of Old Baving in 12 months' official test, gave 647 lbs. of butter and ranks first in western cows, first in Jersey cows in Canada and fifth in all cows in Canada. She is surpassing this record this year.

The dairy industry is an important one in the Red Deer district, as the following list of creameries shows: The Red Deer Butter and Cheese Manufacturing Association has a successful season, resulting in a surplus of \$17,000 in the bank. The stock of this association is now worth 200 per cent. A. H. Trimble & Sons have creameries at Red Deer and Pine Lake. Milk is bottled and taken daily to Red Deer and cheese made at their Red Deer factory.

G. B. Millar, of Sylvan Lake, has cheese factories at Burnt Lake, Sylvan Lake, Pitcoy and Eckville, all 15 to 20 miles west of Red Deer. G. W. Ball, of the Cash Meat Market, purchased in the month of October, December and January about 4,000 live birds—chickens, turkeys, geese and ducks, which he plucked. About half were shipped to outside points, principally to Calgary. Thus the poultry raisers are assured of a ready cash market without the bother and success of killing and plucking.

Poultry raising is succeeding. For example, Mrs. Higgs sold about \$40 worth of turkeys and chickens in one load about a hundred live chickens, which, with a few live keys, brought a cheque for \$55. L. Cook brought in a double-decked wagon full of turkeys, geese and gobbling turkeys. Business has been increasing year by year for the last five years and as many as 400 birds are received on one day.

The Red Deer U.F.A. Co-operative Association is the only one in the province. The association has produced for two months totalled \$25,000. The West Jobbing Company have recently started in the wholesale grocery business. Among the industries adding valuable business to Red Deer are the Great West Lumber Co., which employ about 100 men at their mill at town; the Valley Lumber Co., which has limits and mills about sixty miles west, along the route of the Alberta Central Railway, and have large gangs at work there; the Martin & McDougall's limits and mills about forty miles west. These mills will sell lumber to the A.C.R. and C.N.R. for their construction west of the Brazeau coal fields. Other industries are two brick yards and a machine shop.

The Alberta Pacific Elevator Co. have a 40,000 bushel terminal elevator and grain is gathered from their elevators in the district and here cleaned and sacked and shipped to B.C. or Mexico by their own line of four steamers. A midsize flour mill is also used for doing custom grinding for farmers.

The Land Question. Land values of town property are rather of an upward tendency, owing to the building of the Alberta Central Railway. Farm values were quoted as from \$12 to \$15 per acre for wild land and from \$12 to \$20 for improved land according to distance from town.

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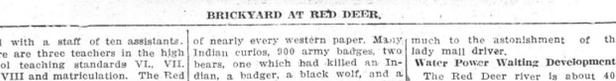
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BRICKYARD AT RED DEER.



PUBLIC SCHOOL AT RED DEER.



SIR WILFRID LAURIER Driving the First Spike of Alberta Central.

B Jasper W. manufactory

Always gum- cate Avenue 2. Edmonton

ist Co. \$1,000,000

Atagu Allan

FOR SALE

KILLOP

Several camps located along

and telephone poles will

lumber companies will