

town for the greater part of a whole day, visiting some farmers twelve miles out, examining their crops and cattle, etc. I saw more of the Edmonton district than any other, because longer there. The grain, cattle and vegetables were fine, as elsewhere, and there was no evidence of frost; but on the potato vines, further south, we saw signs of recent frosts.

All through North Alberta, from Calgary north, there were evidences of progress, new buildings going up, the lumber being of a good quality of spruce, produced and sawed there. North Alberta evidently can supply itself with lumber, yet it is chiefly a prairie country. It also supplies itself with a good quality of soft coal, which crops out along the banks of the rivers and streams. Right in front of Edmonton the coal crops out along the banks of the Saskatchewan and I went 100 feet into one mine then being worked and the product being carted up and distributed about town.

When the weather settled at Edmonton I thought the climate fine. The sun was hot, the atmosphere clear and bracing, and the nights cool. The town is beautifully situated on the banks of the Saskatchewan; has a population of about 4,000, a business street about a mile long, well built, for the most part with an excellent quality of red brick, manufactured right there. It is quite a business centre, and seems to be growing fast. Farmers come in from many miles around, and I saw a big trade in farming implements going on. Four great implement firms are represented there, viz.: Deering, McCormick, Massey-Harris and Frost & Wood.

Alberta on the whole is a fine agricultural country, and offers a splendid opportunity to the would-be farmer. The country, even in its newness, looks well, and can be vastly improved by settlement; and no doubt harvesting will be earlier as the country is brought under cultivation. The citizens of Alberta assert that they have always matured their crops as they did this year, being favored with bright, warm weather after the 1st of September.

I left Edmonton Sept. 9th for Calgary, thence to Salmon, B.C., where I spent nearly a week, returning to Calgary Sept. 19th. All this time the weather was warm and sunny, and I learned on returning to Calgary that the Alberta crop was considered safe and business in the town brisk, the hotels all full.

I did not take up any land, my purpose being to see the country, and if favorably impressed, to go there later. I found the country highly satisfactory, all things considered, and will likely go there next summer.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

J. C. Barrett.