

would not be hampered by any vested interests created by the alienation from the Crown of any of these lands. The project, the greatest on the American Continent, is now being pushed to its completion.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company undertook to construct the gigantic irrigation system above referred to, and selected as part of its land grant a block comprising three million acres of the best agricultural lands, which has now been opened for colonization.

Soil.

It is recognized that there are certain substantial agricultural advantages in connection with lands located in sub-humid districts. It is a fact that the richest lands in America lie in the vicinity of the 100th Meridian, where the rainfall is the lowest. The reason for this is perfectly clear. In humid countries the soil is continually subjected to leaching by heavy rains. The water penetrates the subsoil, washing with it valuable plant foods, which it is thus impossible to retain near the surface, where it is required for the sustenance of the crops. This accounts for the worn-out lands of the Eastern States, as compared with the lands in the semi-arid districts of Oregon, Washington and Idaho, that have been cropped with winter wheat, year after year, without showing any signs of depletion. The soil of the Irrigation Block is amongst the richest in America, and retains all the valuable constituents that nature has stored up during past centuries. It only awaits the plow to yield up its treasures. The opinion expressed by Professor Shaw that "there is greater wealth in the upper twelve inches of soil in Alberta than in all the gold mines in America," is nearer the truth than is generally supposed.

The marvellous growth of wild grass (tall bunch grass) with which these hills and plains are carpeted, furnishes indisputable evidence of the soil's fertility.

Climate.

Climate is a matter of vast importance to every person looking for a new home. Some will brave the rigorous winter of the Klondike or the parching desert of the "Death Valley" in the hope of quickly amassing sufficient wealth there to leave these inhospitable conditions behind and to settle down to enjoy life amidst more congenial surroundings. These, however, are not homeseekers.

Climate is very much a "matter of opinion," and it is a blessing that opinions differ. Otherwise the whole population of the earth would attempt to crowd into a few favored spots, and those who could not find room to dwell within the scope of the "ideal" climate, would have to be content with unhappiness elsewhere. Contrast is the spice of life. Human beings, and crops as well, for their own best good, must have a variable climate, an agreeable interchange of sunshine and cloudy weather, warm and cool weather. Such a climate has Southern Alberta, which is located further south than London, The Hague, Amsterdam, Cologne, Berlin and Dresden.

The colonization campaign of Western Canada has been fought largely on a basis of climate. Such was likewise the early history of the New England States, when, in centuries

gone by, the large British and Dutch trading corporations opened up these states for colonization and encountered all sorts of absurd superstition and prejudice in regard to the nature of the climate. History repeated itself further west, as it does in all new countries, and Southern Alberta is no exception to the rule. The most grotesque ideas are often entertained by people who do not know the country, and these erroneous impressions must be removed.

Some seven or eight years ago, Calgary had a population of perhaps three or four thousand souls. Three banks were doing all the business of Southern Alberta and a goodly portion of Northern Alberta. Since that time forty new banks have been opened up in this territory, and Calgary has grown into a city of some twenty-six thousand inhabitants, and the population is increasing daily by leaps and bounds. Hundreds of elegant and valuable residences, worthy of the rich cities of the east, have been erected, scores of flourishing industries are firmly established, giving employment to thousands of people; and enormous volume of civic improvements, aggregating millions of expenditure, have been completed, and Calgary now ranks as the foremost educational, commercial and financial centre between Winnipeg and the Pacific Coast. Retired army officers and others, who have lived in every clime under the sun, have been attracted to Southern Alberta, and have settled there permanently in comfortable homes.

The reader may ask: "What has all this to do with climate?" We answer: "Is it reasonable to suppose that the climate of Southern Alberta is, on the whole, otherwise than agreeable, healthy and congenial to the average person, in view of the facts above stated?" In other words: "Is it likely that thousands upon thousands of rational human beings will create homes and found cities in a country where the climate is such that it constitutes a serious drawback?"

Southern Alberta is not a gold-laden Klondike. It is an agricultural country where fortunes are not made over-night. Those living in such a country must make homes before they can make money.

A little reflection will convince anyone that the general question as to the merits or demerits of the climate is answered above.

Rainfall.

The following meteorological statistics, compiled by the Dominion Government, cover a period of twelve years.

Year	Inches.	Year	Inches.
1896	16.95	1902	35.71
1897	20.58	1903	21.98
1898	16.79	1904	11.16
1899	23.91	1905	16.51
1900	15.41	1906	16.14
1901	21.31	1907	16.45

Healthfulness.

The open character of the country in that portion of the Province of Alberta, its clear, dry atmosphere, the abundance of sunny days, its elevation, from 1400 to 3400 feet above the sea level, and the fresh breezes that blow across its plains, all tend to make it one of the most healthful countries