

Some Ranching Districts of the West.

BY A COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE

PINCHER CREEK.

The last year has been one of the best in the history of Pincher Creek, and a large number of settlers have come into the surrounding district and a large increase is also to be seen in the town. A large number of dwellings were erected. A Catholic church, valued \$6,000, is now nearly completed, and a public school house is to be started this year, at a cost of between \$3,000 and \$7,000.

Heretofore the Pincher Creek district has been given up entirely to ranching, but recently a number of settlers have been coming in and have started mixed farming, and as a result the ranchers have been so taken up that the ranchers have had to either leave the example of the others and start mixed farming, or else move to some other section. This change has resulted in a much larger business for the merchants of Pincher Creek. It is said that the crops grown last year fell well wheat, producing over 40 bushels to the acre.

MACLEOD.

Macleod is one of the oldest places in this country, it having been an important station of the North-West Mounted Police in the early days. It is still one of the chief stations of the officers of the Police, but so far as an important business place. It, of course, is supplied with stores of all kinds usually found in a frontier town, and has also a branch of the

C. P. R. shops are located here now there are a large number of railway men who make this their home and do business in connection with them helps to a large extent to swell the profits of the merchants. Besides the Macleod branch of the C. P. R. is a line running north to Edmonton, and with the main line extending to the west and south, it is well situated to become a large distributing point. Recently the C. P. R. Co. has reduced the freight charge and given commodity rates so that Calgary is now on a better footing than ever before to do business with the surrounding country.

It is also the centre of a good ranching district from which it derives a large volume of business. The city owns its own water works and is provided with telephone and electric light systems, the streets are well lighted, there is an efficient fire department, and in almost all respects Calgary is an up-to-date city. The population, according to the recent census is 4,500.

The citizens of Calgary are justly proud of their business blocks, the most of which are built of stone, granite in the immediate vicinity, and are handsome and substantial buildings. A large number of the residences are also very handsome buildings. During the past year a large amount of money has been spent in erecting new buildings and making improvements to some of the old ones. Hull Bros.

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Everyone familiar with this country has heard of the natural gas found in this district. Until quite recently almost no use was made of this gas, although several wells had been sunk, but the town of Medicine Hat has had a large well bored with the object of using the gas as a fuel in connection with the running of the water works plant, and it is the intention to have the gas piped all through the town to be used for heating and lighting purposes. Gas is also to be used for running the plant of a woollen mill erected this year by the Western Canada Woollen Mills Co. This company has a capital of \$125,000 and intends to manufacture tweeds, hosiery, etc., on an extensive scale, employing 25 to 30 hands.

This town is kept up by the railway men who make it their home and by the surrounding district which is one of the finest ranching sections of this great country. All branches of business are well represented and the merchants appear to be doing a satisfactory trade. Some changes have occurred during the past year, the most important of which are: A hotel, built by Wm. Cousine, general merchant, the general store business of Sarah McArthur is now run by L. G. Cochran & Son. J. P. Fingert took over the drug business of D. A. Black. J. W. Marshall, butcher, R. H. Hill, started a fruit and confectionery business; S. Charlton & Co. started a butcher shop; R. Marshall started a business in the hardware business; Samuel Harris started a bakery and confectionery.

has taken over the general store business formerly conducted by Palmer & Smith. A brick church was erected by the Methodist congregation this spring and a number of residences built. W. P. Lawrence has started a brick yard. He is running this on a large scale and expects to be able to turn out between 8,000 and 12,000 bricks a day with the machinery is all in place. The power is supplied by a gasoline engine.

SWIFT CURRENT.

Swift Current, the next place reached, is the most easterly of the ranching districts of this country, and a good ranching district and is, besides, a divisional point on the C. P. R. W. Murray and Chas. Reid have general stores on W. Sanders keeps a butcher shop.

Fruit Prices.

The average daily trade reporter usually makes a news of things when he undertakes to discuss business matters. This has been particularly true of several articles which have appeared in Winnipeg dailies of late regarding the fruit trade. A short time ago a daily paper reporter allowed himself to be "stuffed" with a silly report about peaches. More recently another misleading article appeared in one of the dailies regarding fruit prices in Winnipeg this season, where in it was claimed that the city retail fruit dealers were not able to make any money this season as they could not turn over their stocks on account of the high price of fruit. In reply to this it may be said that the sales of

MANITOBA FARM HOMES—Buildings of Jas. Robertson, Treherne

Union bank, a private bank and two daily newspapers.

Lake Pincher Creek, the district surrounding here has until quite recently been a ranching one, but now settlers have been coming in during the last year or two and have turned their attention to mixed farming, and those who still wish to keep to ranching are being drawn farther back in order to secure pasturage for their stock. Grains have different kinds have given good returns, particularly wheat, which produces a splendid crop. It is said that last year the wheat crops around here yielded 40 bushels to the acre.

Since our visit a little over a year ago several changes and improvements have taken place. The new hall, a brick building erected between \$10,000 and \$7,000, has been built. The Union Bank building has been completed. Dr. Greer built a two-story brick block, which is occupied by a drug store, with a music hall on the second floor, and a good number of dwellings have been built.

The firm of Barker & Gardner, general merchandise, has been changed to Barker & Co., and J. A. Struthers has started a dry goods and clothing store. The Macleod section of the C. P. R. is 100 miles in length, extending from Calgary to Macleod. A train makes only once a week over this line from Calgary, going and returning the same day. There are two or three small towns along this line. The River town is a large general store, the High River Trading Co. is a general store, there are two or three business places.

CALGARY.

Calgary is one of the most important places in western Canada. It is a busy divisional point, and as the

cattle dealers, are building a block on Stephen avenue which will be one of the finest in the west, Senator Lougheed is erecting a block on the site of the one burned last winter. James Riley has built an hotel, the Commercial, and S. J. Clark has built a large addition to the Queen's hotel and a large number of dwellings have been built, some costing \$6,000 or \$7,000 and one now being built will cost, it is said, some \$20,000. House accommodation is very scarce and as a result rents are high, but the number of people being brought in should provide ample accommodation.

A large number of settlers have been coming into this district, but the greater proportion have gone north along the line of the Calgary and Edmonton railway, as this is more immediately tributary to Calgary is good only for ranching, the rain fall being too light to permit of growing crops. A system of irrigation through the district lying between Calgary and Medicine Hat and the C. P. R. Co. has had a party out making surveys to find out whether this scheme is practicable or not. It is proposed to take the water from the Bow river at a point near Calgary and to spread it over the district in a similar manner to that now in use in the Lethbridge district. If this plan is successfully carried out it will mean a great deal to Calgary.

MEDICINE HAT.

Medicine Hat, 180 miles east of Calgary, is an important railway divisional point, and is very situated in the valley of the south Saskatchewan river and enjoys the finest climate of the Northwest Territories as it is in the direct line of the chinook winds and thus has lit-

tle or no winter, the cold weather they have only lasting for a year or two at a time.

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Among the buildings erected, is a solid brick hotel, built by A. Watton, a two-story brick block built by W. Cousine, a brick church erected by the Methodist congregation at a cost of about \$11,000 and a number of dwelling houses.

Still travelling east we next reach Medicine Hat, a town of about 500 of population. This is probably the largest cattle shipping point in the Northwest Territory, as it has tributary to it a fine grazing country extending for about 100 miles east, 40 miles south, 20 miles east, and 20 miles west. This district has some fine hay and grazing land, as parts of it are watered by creeks rising in the Cypress Hills so that even in the dry season there is no scarcity of feed or water for the stock. Cattle raising receives the most attention although large numbers of horses and sheep are also raised. A number of ranchers have been putting in good sized crops of grain during the last few years but as a usual thing this is cut green for fodder. A good immigration has been coming into this district, particularly during the past year, but there is no much vacant land here that it will be a long time before it is all taken up.

There have been several changes in the town during the last year, indicating that it is keeping pace with the growth of the surrounding country. G. H. Hustler, shoe maker, has put in a stock of ready-made boots and shoes, and J. G. O'Connell, a jeweller, has opened a branch of the Merchant's Bank was opened last February. Dr. Dean has opened a branch of the Merchant's Bank, and J. C. Parsons built a stone block last year, part of which he occupied with his business of harness, etc., the bank also having offices in this building. A. J. Smith

fruit have been unusually large this year in Winnipeg, and they would have been considerably larger if the supply had been equal to the demand. Several times during the season city wholesalers were unable to obtain supplies sufficient to meet the demand. This was particularly true during the early part of the season, when the stock received comes mostly from the west. The fruit was more abundant when the Pacific coast varieties came to market, but prices were high, and the regulation of the cost of this fruit is not within the power of local jobbers. The trouble with the retail fruit trade in Winnipeg is, that it is not done on a business basis. Retail grocers sell fruit practically at cost, and this reckless custom is felt very sorely by the fruit grower who handles fruit alone. The grocers cut on fruit to draw trade for their regular business, and the fruit grower depends on sales of fruit alone, and is to suffer from this foolish custom.

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It is estimated by a New York holder of the orange and lemon supply, that the total amount to little over 20,000 pounds, of which not more than 10,000 pounds will be sold in the fruit season there with about 80,000 pounds in this market alone. With an average of 100 pounds of oranges and lemons sold, about 250,000 pounds of which about 120,000 pounds are required for export, it is evident that the prices seem assured. There is practically no root in London, and what little is there is at a very high price, at present prices—Old Paint and Drug Reporter, New York.