

through one of the immense stock-breeding ranches which are situated on the western slopes of the Rocky Mountains. According to all accounts, this industry has not been a paying one so far. On this ranche alone 4,000 head of cattle died from the severity of the weather and depth of snow during the winter of 1882-83; and residents affirm that without winter protection it cannot prove a success. I would not advise any of your readers to come within 100 miles of the Rockies with the intention of taking up land for general farming purposes, as the perpetual snow lying on the different peaks is the fruitful cause of summer frosts within this radius. I prefer the eastern to the western part of this vast territory for agricultural pursuits, and special inducements are offered to the farming class to settle in certain localities. Twenty miles north of Broadview, on the Canadian Pacific Railway, you can find the Temperance, Primitive Methodist, and some other five or six colonisation companies' lands. Seeing an advertisement of the York Farmers' Colony, I stopped at Broadview, and took a run up there on the stage, where I found the land to be A 1 in quality, fairly well watered, but sparsely timbered. They are willing to help a settler to erect his first house, and plough sufficient land for his requirements during the first year. They give every other section away to actual settlers, and depend for their profit on the sale of the remaining sections to those who prefer to buy land rather than proceed to uninhabited regions. Silver City, where I am now located, is about 20 miles east of the summit of the Rockies, and lies in a valley called the Bow River Pass. It has a population of nearly 200 men, four married and two unmarried women, and 50 dogs. The single women I really pity, as the number of eligible young men who go to see mamma must frighten them. The only work here at present is manufacturing timber to suit the requirements of the railroads, and a small amount of silver-mining. The mines are situated at a height where vegetation has ceased to exist. The wages paid to competent men is ten shillings per day and board; but whether the ore will contain enough silver to pay cannot be told till the crushers and smelters are put to work. If they "pan" out good we shall have a big rush here in the spring. To tell your readers the wages paid for timber work is quite a difficult thing, as we work by the piece. So much depends upon one's skill with the axe, that it would not be fair to say that any one coming from England, and unused to this kind of work, could command very high wages. I have averaged during December a trifle over 11s. per day, and there are some in camp whose averages have exceeded £1 per day. I do not think I am going too high when I say that the wages for loading, cutting roads through the woods, &c., would be 8s. per day. Out of this has to be deducted £1 per week for board. The food supplied is rather poor. Bread, butter, pork, beans, and a strong cup of tea form the staple articles of consumption. One thing to be said in favour of this mountain air is that it prevents you quarrelling with your food. Anything you buy in the shape of clothing is very dear—9s. for a pair of stockings, made very thick and suited to the country; 10s. for a common working shirt, and other things in proportion. A married man whose wife would be willing to wash could do very well in these small towns. There is a half-breed woman here who has all she can do at the rate of 15 cents ($7\frac{1}{2}$ d.) per article. Need I say more? The class of men one meets out here are a curious mixture of good and evil. Curt in their speech and rough in manner, they would lead a stranger to suppose that they were an unsocial set of beings, yet underlying this there is a firm will, a tender heart for misfortune, and a reverence for women; and though I advise no one, yet I should be the last to dissuade any young man from trying his fortune in the North-West, provided he is prepared to work hard and exist without those luxuries which have grown into necessities in older countries. My plan now is to work hard and save all I can, until I have enough to take up a piece of land