

lands lying west of the Mississippi and north of the Gulf of Mexico, all the way up to the North Saskatchewan, pronounce unhesitatingly in favor of the great ranges of Alberta either for cattle or horse rearing. Wherever cattle are expected to winter on the grass some animals will be lost every year, but this is not thought of as a very serious drawback to the prosperity of a ranching enterprise, except when the loss foots up to something much higher than the average losses have ever reached among the cattlemen of the Canadian North-west."

After enumerating the advantages possessed by the ranching regions of the North-West as to grasses, the article refers to the water supply in the following terms:—

"Another important factor in making up the good qualities of our North-Western ranges is the abundant supply of pure cold water, which is furnished by numberless mountain streams, fed by the melting of purest snows on the summits of the Rockies, and filtered through pebbly beds of limestone gravel. The hotter the summer heats become, the deeper and colder grow these limpid streams of melted mountain snows."

With regard to the all-important question of climate the *Globe* says:—

"Of course the climate is another matter of great importance in any ranching country, and it is of the climate of the Canadian North-West that capitalists are most afraid. As a rule, of course, high latitudes make low temperatures in winter. There can be no doubt that even the most favorably located portions of our North-West are occasionally visited by intensely cold 'snaps,' but it is equally certain that in the ranching regions these periods of intense cold are usually of very short duration. In any region where a west wind means a warm 'Chinook,' one cannot look for long-continued periods of intense cold. Be this as it may, however, it is very certain that the value of a very large portion of Alberta as an all-the-year-round cattle range has already been fully established by cattlemen, who have reared cattle there without intermission or serious mishap for a dozen years or more. It is one of the most difficult tasks to be found to convince anyone who has not spent a winter in the far western portion of the Canadian North-West that such peculiarly favorable winters can prevail in such high latitudes. Elsewhere such high temperatures as are induced by the Chinook winds would cause floods which, on the re-appearance of cold weather, would be converted into ice and crust, which would effectually lock up the grass from both cattle and horses. Fortunately, however, the Chinook has a singular property of absorbing the last drop of moisture wherever it blows, so that the same agent which so suddenly melts the snows of Alberta in the depth of winter, dries up the moisture incident to the sudden thaw just as rapidly as it is created. If the snow be not all swept away before the cold returns, the frost finds it completely honeycombed, dry, and as friable as it was before the thaw. In places where the friendly Chinook has swept the whole volume of the snow away, the sod is left refreshed, but not more than moistened, while the ground is never rendered boggy or spongy by the sudden thaw. But its favorable winters do not constitute the

only good feature of the climate on the great Canadian cattle range. Cool summers are as desirable as mild winters. It is quite true that every summer brings some intensely hot days in Alberta, but these are always followed by deliciously cool nights. No matter how hot the day may have been, cattle and horses are sure of a comfortable night.

"And these cool nights are not alone favorable to stock-raising but to butter-making as well. Indeed it would be hard to ask for a condition favorable to the production of really choice dairy butter which does not exist in a very large portion of Alberta. Pure cold water the whole year around, mild winters and delightful summer temperatures, clean sweet grass abundant everywhere with not a rank ill-flavoured weed to be found anywhere. In fact there is not a spot on the continent better adapted to the production of really choice butter than Alberta."

After pointing out that cattle-raising has proved a thorough success throughout a very considerable portion of the territory, the writer defines the ranching localities as follows:—

"The best horse and cattle ranching country in the North-West may be described as a belt about 150 miles wide lying along the base of the Rocky Mountains, and extending from the international boundary up to where the Red Deer River is crossed by the Calgary and Edmonton trail, the length of the belt being in the neighborhood of 230 miles. Of course it is quite possible that the stocking of all the Territory within the limits described might necessitate the sinking of artesian wells in some cases, but for the most part the country included within these limits is well watered. There are, however, many portions of this belt that will never be given up to pasture lands. In the village of Bow River, and in the lower benches bordering its valley, are to be found some of the most beautiful sections of choice farming land to be found on this continent. Here the crops are not liable to injury from late or early frosts; and here must sooner or later be located several large communities of thrifty and prosperous farmers.

"But the stock-ranching regions proper are not the only portions of the Canadian North-West where stock-growing can and will be profitably carried on. Cypress Mountain offers some of the choicest summer ranges to be seen anywhere. Here are numerous unfailing streams of the purest and freshest water, whole townships of mountain slope, where natural grasses of the best quality would yield an average of fully two tons of hay to the acre, abundance of good timber and firewood, and excellent grain-growing plains from fifteen to twenty miles distant. Indeed, it would take columns to describe, however hurriedly, the localities in the Canadian North-West where the energetic settler could reap abundant returns from stock-growing or dairying, while as for the wheat growing capabilities of the country, that is still to a certain extent an unknown quantity. It is safe to assert that many regions will be found where as at Battleford, Qu'Appelle, Prince Albert, and Wood Mountain, grain-growing will yield excellent returns to the prompt and energetic farmer."

The article concludes with the following common-sense remarks:—

"On the other hand, however, it must always be borne in mind that the Canadian North West is not such an El Dorado that men without capital, brains, or industry can make sure of a fortune in a few years. There, as everywhere else, Fortune must be wooed and won by the ordinary every-day methods. Anybody who has made a dismal and disastrous failure of everything he has ever undertaken would doubtless find first class facilities for doing the same thing in the Canadian North West. Men having the qualification for pioneers, whether they go out as farmers or cattlemen, will find in the soil, climate, and natural conditions all that a reasonable man could wish for."

BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND.

It is not uncommon to see some old farmer who, by dint of hard grubbing for a life-time and a degree of economy that amounts to stinginess, has laid aside two or three thousand dollars which is loaned on mortgages drawing exorbitant interest, descanting on the disadvantages of "book-larnin'" as applied to those engaged in agricultural pursuits. Such a man will prove to his own satisfaction that under-draining is a delusion and a snare, that the cheese factory and the creamery are devices of the Evil One, that books and newspapers (especially those devoted to agriculture and stock raising) were especially designed to ruin farmers, financially, morally, and spiritually, and that thoroughbred cattle were destined to "wipe out" the unfortunate farmer who indulged in any dealings concerning them. Such men are happily not so numerous in enlightened communities as they were fifteen or twenty years ago, though, unfortunately, the breed is not yet extinct in Canada. But if intelligent farmers should feel pained that one or two such fossils are still to be found in almost every one of our old settled townships, what will they say to the announcement that these people have an organ which divides its energies between "championing" their views and providing its readers with recipes for gooseberry jam, patterns for crochet work, etc., etc. Its editor does not believe in agricultural education save as it can be furnished through his journal, published monthly at one dollar a year, with proportionate reduction to clubs and agents, besides sundry and divers presents, prizes, and rewards.

Not very long ago, the editor and proprietor of this same alleged agricultural paper was, through the intercession of a friend, invited to appear before a parliamentary commission to give evidence as to the propriety of establishing experiment stations for the purpose of furnishing practical information to farmers in different parts of the Dominion. Of course there could never have been any real doubt in the minds of the commission on the subject, as the value of these institutions has been fully established in other countries, and in the very nature of things, they should recommend themselves to the common sense of everybody who knew anything about farming.