

spots of five of the eastern provinces, and of several of the states across our southern border, but I have never seen any section of country which, in its natural state, could compare with this."

During the session of 1890, Rev. Leo. Gaetz was examined before a Parliamentary Committee concerning the country watered by the

Red Deer River

crossed by the railway about half-way between Calgary and Edmonton (vide map). He spoke of it as THE GARDEN OF ALBERTA, "a country pre-eminently suited to mixed farming. It has some peculiar features in this respect, that it is a well-wooded and a well-watered country. It is a country where a settler going with little means does not need to expend his capital altogether to provide shelter for himself and his stock, but where, if he has not timber on his own land, he can get a permit from the Government and get 1,800 lineal feet of building timber, 100 roof poles, 2,000 fence rails and 30 cords of dry wood for 50 cents, and put up his buildings. He can husband his resources to expend in fitting himself out with stock and implements to carry on his work.

"I have seen wheat and oat straw that grew to the height of 5½ and 6 feet and yet well headed and filled with plump grain.

"Our young stock, or yearlings, simply go in the shed in the night, and around the straw stack in the day. Our breeding cows we house. My young horses were out this winter until the last week in January, though one of the coldest winters since I have been in the country. They were in perfectly good condition, and healthy. It does not take any very great skill to raise cattle, which at twenty-eight or thirty months old will dress, without an ounce of grain, 650 to 700 pounds of beef, or a three-year old that will dress 800 to 850 pounds. I am speaking of what I have seen, and am testifying to what I know by personal experience. Then it does not take a very great deal of skill in farming. Even a novice like myself in average years can grow crops of grain—oats from 50 to 75 bushels to the acre, and weighing from 46 to 50 pounds to the bushel; barley from 45 to 55 bushels to the acre, and weighing from 51 to 57 pounds to the bushel; wheat from 35 to 40 bushels to the acre, and weighing from 62 to 64 pounds per bushel."

The Edmonton District

When the traveller reaches the Saskatchewan River at Edmonton, he beholds a scene of true grandeur. The high banks of the river rising over two hundred feet from the water, impresses him with the fact that he has reached a land where no floods can trouble him. Then the view up and down the river with its steep embankments, crowned with woodland in every direction, and the deep, clear and majestic stream flowing onward in its course to Lake Winnipeg, all combine to make up a view such as not likely soon to leave the memory.

Away north of the Saskatchewan River, far beyond the reach of settlement, or the influence of civilization, the same rich belt of land stretches to districts known only to the