

Old-Timers' Re-union, Fleming, Sask., 1882-1909.



Old Gentlemen's Re-union, Pioneers of 1882 of Fleming District.

NOT to the statesman, soldier or Dreadnought alone belong the credit of the preservation of the British Empire and the extension of its boundaries. The stalwart pioneers whose energy and perseverance brought Western Canada into the family of nations and made it the granary of the Empire can surely be called Empire Builders and Preservers.

The Canadian West a little more than a century ago was roamed by the hunter and trapper—"the great lone land" that appealed to romance and imagination. The history of its transformation, when fully written, will add an interesting chapter to the absorbing story of the colonization and development of the important outlying territories of the British Empire and of the great plains of the American Republic.

Many of the sturdy men and women who laid the foundation of the Western Provinces with their marvellous prosperity are still hale and hearty. The Western Home Monthly has pleasure in reproducing photographs recently taken in Fleming, Sask., on the occasion of the re-union of 1882 pioneers. The gathering was a memorable one not to be forgotten in the town and district of Fleming, for it represented those who made possible the excellent conditions that now exist in this portion of the West. Where in '82 there was nothing but dreary plains with no sign of human industry—there now can be seen many miles of prosperous farms, deep verandahed farm houses surrounded by well kept lawns and big trees, neat fences and gravelled paths. The veteran farmer and legislator, Mr. W. W. McDonald,

ald, Ex-M.P., who can be seen in the group with flowing white beard, has kindly sent us the following particulars of the town of Fleming and its district. Situated about 210 miles west of Winnipeg on the main line of the C.P.R. it is termed the gateway to the Province of Saskatchewan and was settled in 1881, 1882 by Eastern Canadians. Railway facilities of the period terminated at Brandon, and the long journey from there was made by prairie schooner, drawn by oxen, a means of conveyance not uncommon then. The progress of the settlers has been rapid from the beginning and great strides have been made in all desirable development. The town has a goodly population and all branches of trade are represented, namely, three general stores, one hardware store, tinsmith, butcher and cattle exporter, jeweller, drugstore, a photographic studio, two blacksmith shops, laundry, two wood repair shops, painter, carriage factory, two lumber yards, three implement firms, a baker and confectioner, a large livery and sales stable, etc. The professions are represented by a doctor and veterinary surgeon, while the religious interests of the community are looked after by the Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist denominations. A hotel, and a good grade school employing three teachers complete the modern advantages that make Fleming so desirable a locality. Among the pioneers may be mentioned Abram Winters, Abram Markey, John and Thomas Fitzsimmons, C. O. Saxton, Wm. Lamon, Hugh McPhee, Jos. Kirby, J. T. Day, Wm. Thersman, Arch. and David McCormick, W. and T. Lipsey, W. W. McDonald, and



Ladies' Re-union, Pioneers of 1882 of Fleming Dist.

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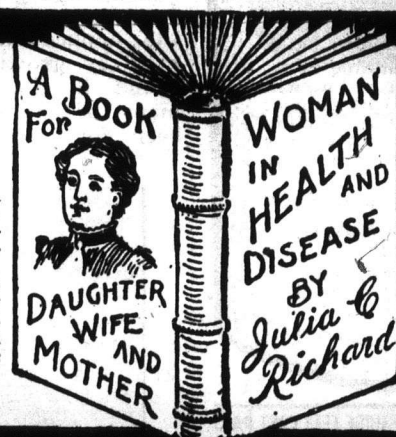
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