

possess a charm of their own, but beyond this, serene and unbounded ignorance is the rule. Furthermore, so far as I have been able to ascertain, no observations have yet been published as to the effects of the climate of the North-West on the human system. It is in my mind a subject of almost national importance, and I have an earnest hope that my temerity in venturing to introduce it in this discussion will inspire others better fitted than I to follow it up.

It will be readily understood that a country almost equal in area to Russia must have many diversities of climate. As I cannot undertake to speak for the whole of the North-West, I have limited my remarks to that part with which I am best acquainted—viz., that strip of country lying along the eastern base of the mountains, and more particularly the southern part of this, bounded, say, on the north, by the Canadian Pacific Railway. I make the eastern limit a line drawn north and south through Lethbridge, although, for all practical purposes, this line can be extended as far east as Medicine Hat; on the south is the international boundary line, and to the west the summit line of the Rockies and British Columbia. This Southern Alberta comprises an area of 150 miles square of mountain, foothill and prairie. It is intersected every few miles by mountain streams, where clear and sparkling waters rippling over their gravelly beds are as yet unpolluted by the filth and garbage of more thickly settled communities. Its general character is treeless, save along the valleys of these streams, which are fringed by the willow and cottonwood, and on the sides and bases of the mountains, whose rocky framework is clothed by the grateful germ of the spruce and fir.

To the outside world, this is known as Canada's grazing country, whence England will draw a large part of its future beef supply. As a sort of corollary to this, it has also been known, in a general way, that it was reputed to have a milder climate than the rest of the North-West Territories. To most of you, the following description will be not only interesting but necessary to a proper understanding of what follows. It is taken from an admirable paper by Mr. C. C. McCaul of Leth-