

from Macleod, where, joined by neighboring ranchers, we committed her body to the lonely grave by the side of the stream close to the home where she had spent the last few years of a short and happy life.

So far as the progress of the country is concerned, I might pass over the next few years with a dry pen.

The winter of 1886-87 was a very severe one, and had an injurious effect upon the country for some years; but as the seasons came and went things resumed their normal condition, cattle increased, and the ranchers prospered.

In Alberta they were secure from any invasion from the cattle ranges south of the boundary line, owing to the operation of a duty imposed of twenty per cent.; and lest this tax should not be sufficient to shut out the unwelcome strangers, a quarantine of ninety days was declared at the frontier. There was also protection from an invasion of settlers in the ranching district, in a statute prohibiting them from taking up land along the stream or enclosing springs. This practically excluded settlement.

While the interests of cattle companies were thus safeguarded, there was no amelioration in the social condition. The few families were separated by many miles—there was less than one family to a township of thirty-six square miles. Social gatherings happened but seldom. A dance in Macleod at the Christmas season, the annual stock meeting, or a visit to the round up, filled in the year's entertainment; varied occasionally by a visit from a Governor-General, a Cabinet Minister, or some other more or less important functionary.