

Viking, the Town of the Fertile Birch Lake District

Magnificent Country of Which This Live Town is the Centre Has Established Envious Reputation As Splendidly Adapted For Mixed Farming

The town of Viking was given its name by descendants of the Norsemen who ruled the seas in the days of long ago. The Norwegians settled in the southern extremity of the Birch Lake district preferred this name, freight with cherished associations, to the appellation, Meighen, chosen by the railway company for its townships.

Viking existed before the advent of the steel, several miles to the north of the present location of the town which now bears the name. A short distance to the south of the grade was a settlement known as Harland. The two places became one in Meighen, moving from their old location. For a time the post office of the town was known as Viking and the station as Meighen. Confusion arose. On a petition to the railway company the name of the station was changed to Viking. Thus the name of Viking was victorious over all, to the satisfaction of the many Norwegian families settled in the district and the end of a confusion of names.

A strong name is Viking, full of northern vigor, and the town which bears the name does not belie the

half miles north-east of Viking, 5,682 bushels of oats were threshed last fall, an average of 42 bushels to the acre. The field was that of Nels Hagerman. On a field of 20 acres on the farm of T. T. Bury, 3,255 bushels of oats were threshed, an average yield of 52 bushels to the acre.

A fifty acre field of wheat on the farm of Leonard Newby, seven miles northeast of Viking, yielded a thousand bushels of grain. Sixty acres of oats yielded 2,400 bushels. On the farm of Ed. Reihus, ten miles north-east of the town, 85 acres yielded 1,650 bushels of wheat.

A good deal of fall wheat has been sown in the Viking district and has made excellent progress, now being headed out in some places.

It fell to a Viking farmer to capture the Lieut.-Governor's prize at the annual Provincial Seed Fair in Edmonton this year, with an exhibit of Banner Oats. E. C. Swift, who lives four miles north of Viking, was the exhibitor who won the prize for the best seed oats.

Almost every settler in the Viking district is engaged in breaking at pre-

train elevators, a truck warehouse, 2 coal sheds, 2 blacksmith shops, 2 dairies, 2 auctioneers.

Lois in the Viking township, surveyed about two years ago, sold rapidly when put on the market. The total value of lots sold to date is estimated at \$15,000. The price of lots on Main street (25 x 130), ranges from \$175 to \$800. Residential lots (25 x 50), cost from \$75 to \$300.

A branch of the Merchants Bank was established at Viking last fall. The bank has been agreeably surprised at the amount of business to do here, said N. L. Standish, the manager, to a representative of the Bulletin. "We did not anticipate the amount of business we have had to do and will have to increase our staff shortly."

As an indication of the general prosperity of settlers of the Viking district it is worth noting that the machine agents of the town did a larger business than that done at any other point in the C.P.R. between Edmonton and Wainwright.

God Hotel Accommodation.

The King Edward Hotel, Viking, has a reputation far and wide am-

plished machine. The farmers who supply the cream take great interest in the test, wishing to know how their cream is graded.

The churn has a capacity of 600 gallons of cream or 2,000 pounds of butter at a single churning. In good weeks the output of the creamery will run from 2,500 to 3,000 pounds of butter.

The butter is all worked and finished in the churn and when taken out the cream is graded.

With a view to obtaining first-hand information as to the actual crop conditions, H. P. Fisher, secretary of the Edmonton Board of Trade, took an extended drive through the district this week, visiting the various places at which he has just returned.

Mr. Fisher went out prepared to find considerable damage, as a result of the long period of dry weather that has prevailed. The drought residing nature of Edmonton district soil is such, however, that plant life has been able to draw on the reserve moisture in the ground, to such extent that a stranger or anyone not familiar with normal conditions, would have no suspicion that there had been a most unusual period of dry weather.

Pastureage Rich.

On every hand the pastureage is rich and abundant and all cattle seen were in splendid condition. Many very fine fields of winter wheat were seen. Timothy and alfalfa, at present, somewhat short, but in good healthy condition, and with the rain, which has fallen during the last two days, these crops will spring up and furnish the usual heavy yield.

Spring crops are somewhat short, but a single field was passed which was as dry as gun powder, moisture was not apparent in thoroughly healthy and satisfactory condition. The plants are strong and of a good rich, green color. Even without the recent rains, a good average crop is assured. With the rain we are now receiving, a big crop may be looked for.

In many fields examined, tests were made for moisture and in every case, though the actual surface was as dry as gun powder, moisture was found quite close to the surface. This season will surely demonstrate the value of Central Alberta as a safe place for settlement.

Mr. Fisher states that the common impression that the fact that there is a drought in certain other portions of the west are badly burned out and suffering severely from drought, is due to an extreme lack of rain received here, is hardly correct. The difference is not so much in the rainfall as in the different soil conditions.

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EDMONTON DISTRICT CROPS IN FINE SHAPE

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ASHORE IN ST. LAWRENCE

The Aot Ran Around at St. Martin River, 25 Miles Below Quebec.

Montreal, June 29.—Another vessel went ashore this evening on the lower St. Lawrence route, when the Aot, of the new Canadian-New Zealand line, an aground at Martin river, 25 miles below Quebec. It was the first voyage of the Aot to Montreal, this being the opening season of the new line.

Little is known of the extent of the accident, which was simply reported by means of the signalling stations, but the spot where the Aot is reported aground is very exposed, and if it is hard ashore bad weather may mean considerable damage. Efforts are being made to intercept the wrecking the Lord Strathcona, which is now towing the Prince Oscar, which was recently pulled off the rocks of the gulf, up to Quebec, in order to send her back to the rescue of the Aot.

C.P.R. CROP REPORT IS FAVORABLE FOR NORTH

To South Rain is Badly Needed and Outlook Rather Discouraging—Prospects Could Not Be Better in Strathcona—Chastains and Penhold Are Rejoicing.

Calgary, June 29.—According to the C.P.R. weekly crop report the condition of crops are good north of the city, but south of this district it averages only fair, and is said to be in the Macleod and the Lehigh districts, and excellent at Pincher and on the A. I. and R. line. There has been sufficient rain in the northern part of Alberta to bring the crop up to as good a condition as could be expected at this time of the year, though in the southern portion of the province the report from a number of places is that it is not and dry and more rain is needed.

The following is the report from points on the C. & E. line:

Albany.—Crop conditions are fair. It has been mostly clear and warm, with five hours' medium rainfall.

At Carstairs the condition of the crops has been fine, with about four hours' heavy rain. There was no damage from any cause.

At Didsbury the weather has been warm, with sufficient moisture for the present.

Bowden.—Nine hours' medium rainfall during the week. All grain looking fine.

Penhold.—Three hours' heavy and two hours' medium rain. A slight frost, but no damage. Condition of crops good for settlement.

Lacombe.—Ten hours' medium rain. Prospects good; no damage.

Millet.—Six hours' rain during past week. Prospects fine.

Strathcona.—Ten hours' rain during past week. Crops excellent; could not be better.

On the Watkinson branch the conditions of crops are good. There was from ten to twelve hours' rain along this line, seven hours' rain at Swift, ten at Strone, twelve at Sedgewick, and thirty-six at Hardisty. Crops are growing fine.

From the Lacombe branch the report is to the effect that crops are looking excellent.

From points of the Macleod branch the following report:

Otokota.—Fine and warm; more rain needed.

High level.—Farmers claim that if it rains within the next few days there will be about a two-thirds crop, and if not the crop will be a failure.

Cavely.—Fourteen hours' rain during the week. If more rain next week it is estimated that there will be about a 60 per cent crop.

Nanton.—Only three hours' rain. Grain not growing on account of dry weather.

Stavely.—Sixty per cent of crop dead on account of dry weather.

Clareholm.—Six hours' light rain; hot and dry. Fall wheat is heading out, while spring is from 4 to 10 inches high.

Granum.—About 50 per cent crop failures on account of no rain. There was three hours' medium rain during week.

On the Crow's Nest branch, more moisture is needed, and in the Macleod and Lehigh districts prospects are poor.

HINDUS ENTER A PROTEST.

Against the Deportation of Member of Vancouver Colony.

Vancouver, B.C., June 28.—The Hindus of the city tonight held an indignation meeting over the threatened deportation of a prominent member of their colony. He came to Vancouver from Honolulu five months ago, entering as a tourist, but has since engaged in business here.

Now the local immigration authorities are endeavoring to deport him on the ground that he did not come by direct passage from India.

The protest of the meeting, which was called to Lord Morley, Viceroy, Lord Minto, and wired to Sir Willingdon, is as follows:

"Hindustani Association, Vancouver. In a special meeting protest against the action of the local Dominion immigration officer regarding the threatened unlawful deportation of Mr. H. Rahman, a British subject, a respectable Mohammedan merchant, manager of the Canadian-India Trust Company here, and holding land in the colony. As British subjects we demand our inalienable right to reside and move freely in the British Empire, and request immediate redress against the high handed and impolitic action of the local immigration authorities."

(Sgd.) G. D. KUMAR, Secretary of the Meeting.

330-340 Fire in Waterloo.

Waterloo, Ont. July 1.—The Dominion Box Factory was completely destroyed by fire early this morning. The building was entirely frame, and is a complete loss. The loss will reach \$25,000 or \$30,000, partly covered by insurance.

HON. FRANK OLIVER

AT FORT McMURRAY

Minister of Interior Made Trip From Edmonton to End of Rapids in Less Than Eight Days—The Resources of the Country.

Fort McMurray, June 10.—Hon. F. Oliver and party arrived here on June 9th, less than eight days from Edmonton. At Grande Rapids his canoe, with that of Inspector Tremayne, was loaded into an empty scow and run down the rapids and on to McMurray, making the trip in less than two days.

Northern Travellers.

The Hudson's Bay Co.'s transport of sixteen scows reached McMurray Wednesday, two weeks from the Landing. The Roman Catholic mission steamer St. Joseph, carrying McMurray from Chipewyan on Sunday, 5th inst., scows of the mission transport arrived last night, bringing Col. Saunders, Judge Noel and others on the way north. H. A. Conroy, treaty commissioner, arrived with the H. B. transport and pays treaty at McMurray today.

Locating Provincial Boundary.

Mr. Selby, D.L.S., also arrived with the H. B. transport to survey river claims at McMurray. His party was already at work, he being delayed by illness. Messrs. English and Cote also arrived with the H. B. transport on their way to Fort Smith to locate the northern boundary of the province. South of this line, the 60th parallel, the provincial authorities hold sway, and north of it those of the Dominion. The survey is to define the boundary for the purposes of administering law.

Wallace's survey party are working south of here carrying the old meridian north, so that township surveys will be possible here next summer. The prospects of a railway had created quite an excitement amongst squatters on the flat at the junction of the Athabasca and the Clearwater. This flat is a beautiful location, over two miles long, fronting on deep, quiet water.

Resources.

An immense body of limestone occurs in the river banks and extends for miles above and below McMurray. In the cut-banks immediately above McMurray, the limestone is the face of the banks of great thickness.

The season here seems to be as far advanced as at Edmonton. The country along the river from the Landing was originally heavily wooded, but fires have destroyed a considerable portion of the timber. Where this has occurred the country seems very well suited for settlement. The value of the timber destroyed in years gone by is stupendous and the destruction is still going on, though the timber remaining is chiefly poplar and willow.

At one time, however, within the memory of living men, the river was lined with spruce for settlement. The value of the timber destroyed in years gone by is stupendous and the destruction is still going on, though the timber remaining is chiefly poplar and willow.

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