

The winding Bow River is followed closely at times then seemingly left for good, then a return is made through rolling green knolls and brush-covered gorges alternately, onward the course leads, the peaks of the Rockies growing plainer and plainer, until finally the train pulls up at Calgary, the second city of the Canadian Northwest.

CALGARY.

Although a trading post existed at this point away back in the sixties, it was not until near the close of 1883, when construction on the C. P. R. was nearing the place, that anything like a town began, and then it was located on the opposite side of the Elbow river from where the city now lies. A year later when the railway depot was located there was a general movement across the river, and the present site began to fill up rapidly with business and other buildings.

The site of Calgary is a beautiful and at the same time a sheltered one. It is built upon a natural amphitheatre scooped out by centuries of the flow of the Bow and Elbow rivers, which join waters close to the city. Around this natural amphitheatre are ranged pallisade-like bluffs, behind which rise green hills and away beyond these peer up the angular points and snowy caps of the Rocky mountains. Lying in this natural basin, no one at first sight could imagine that the town site stood at such an altitude. The light dryness of the atmosphere however, and its invigorating feeling will in a few days convince the traveller that he is some height above the sea level.

The city of Calgary is the most populous, and at the same time the best business point between Winnipeg and the coast. It has not much of a farmers market as the country around is mainly taken up in ranching. The growth of the city, and the demands from the mountain country westward almost do away with any necessity for grain exporting to the east, the local demand being almost equal to the supply. Still there are hundreds of thousands of acres of fine farming lands around the district on which the agriculturalist will in time in a great measure supplant the rancher. The city is commercially the key to the whole mountain country, and furnishes supplies as far west as the second crossing of the Columbia river. The construction of the Calgary and Alberta railway south to Fort McLeod and north to Edmonton has also opened up quite a jobbing field for the leading merchants. Although the city has only a little over 5,000 of a population its annual mercantile turn over must be equal to that of many cities nearly double its size. Unquestionably therefore Calgary is a live business point, and ere many years pass, it must become a busy jobbing centre. At present the city has over two hundred business places of every class, and about a score of the leading mercantile concerns do more or less of a jobbing business.

THE MANITOBA LAKE DISTRICT.

BEFORE leaving the prairie country it is necessary to go back to pick up a drop stitch as the ladies might say, and the stitch to be taken up will prove the beginning of a very interesting seam, as it will be the following up of the development of the rich fisheries of Manitoba.

To follow this seam we shall leave the Manitoba capital and go north twenty-two miles to the lake port

town of Lake Winnipeg, Selkirk. This town is but little heard of among the glowing accounts sometimes published about the agricultural wealth of the prairie province, but it is one of the most solid, if not one of the large towns of Manitoba. It has a population at present of about 1,400, and is steadily adding to this number. It is without doubt the greatest fishing point in all the prairie country of the vast Northwest, and is the source of supplies for all the Lake Winnipeg fishing and lumbering operations. The town itself is one of the loveliest locations in Canada. Lying as it does along the west bank of the Red river, where that river widens out to an average of over 1,000 feet in width, before it seeks its way through the various channels of the Delta to the great lake beyond. A view of the town in a bird's-eye shape it is impossible to secure as the bulk of its buildings are hidden from distant view by the tall oaks, elms and poplars which grow in such luxuriance along the river bank, and stretching for a mile or two inland giving to the surroundings of the town an English park-like appearance.

Nestling amid these forest giants, and peering through their foliage lies this town of 1,400 people with over fifty places of business, many of which are included among the largest industrial concerns of the Province. But to commence with the most closely built thoroughfares, the traveller will find there about a score of stores connected with the various lines of trade, and some carrying heavy stocks of goods and doing a volume of business which would astonish some of the merchants in larger cities. Another point worthy of notice is the neat and commodious hotels, where the traveller can put up. Most prominent among these is the Canada Pacific House, to which a large new addition has been made during the past year while the old part has been all overhauled and refurnished. In this house forty guests can find accommodation and comforts such as are seldom found in a town of double the size. The Lisgar House is another well managed tavern with but little less accommodation and with equal comforts. There are several other minor houses any of which would be considered good hotels in a town of 1,500 people.

First in the industrial affairs of Selkirk stands the lumber trade. There are two firms engaged in this business, and each on quite an extensive scale. Messrs. Robinson & Co., have two saw mills at work out on the lake, and have their lumber yards in town. Their business alone, if we include the fishing operations, in which they are largely interested, furnishes employment for nearly 200 hundred hands. Hooper & Co. have a planing mill in the town, and a saw mill on the lake, and their business employs nearly 100 hands. Mitchell & Co. are now building a saw mill near to the town, and their business is but little short of their competitors in magnitude. Thus the lumber industry of the district lays the foundation for a live and populous little town, without calculating upon other influences contributing to Selkirk's commercial and industrial importance.

Although this lumber industry mounts up to a cut of over 20,000,000 feet annually there is closely connected with it another industry of not much less value to the town, namely the business in cord-wood and railway ties. During the spring freshets, while water was high on the Red River, over 10,000 cords of wood were sent in barges and by boat up to the city of Winnipeg, while hundreds of thousands of railway ties are also provided, and sent out of the town.