

Canada's Wild Western Land

Nell Munro Meets Alkali Ike And the Bronco Busters.

Calgary And the Great Cattle Country Are Well Described.

All Canadians will read with pleasure the following description of the great Saskatchewan valley from the pen of that keen observer, Mr. Nell Munro, of the Glasgow Evening News. It presents some novel aspects of a well known case and gives the truth of the old pun that "new eyes behold what old ones cannot see."

In a hotel at Fortage la Prairie, which is by no means so interesting a town as its name would lead a person of imagination to expect, there was a young Englishman, newly come from the old country. He wore unattractive leather leggings, which are the unmistakable badge of the English tourist in the West, and for some reason or other invariably excite contemptuous amusement on the part of the native born. He was a hand vaguely to the northwest, comprehending in his gesture a territory as wide as the western prairie, and on the north by eternal chaos, and told me he was "going to see or—ranching." Doubtless he has by this time discovered that Western Canada is a little bigger than the Maywell Hill district of London, and that even "a sort of ranching" is not prevalent in the West. He did not know that the facts myself told him had spent a week travelling might all that thought of the Saskatchewan, and Alberta, that look on a map no bigger than Scottish counties. Winnipeg, with its electric tramways, its opera house, and its embarrassment of banks, is a most deceptive introduction to the prairie. When you have left it, pursuing your westward way, you have the feeling that—in spite of the evidence of the C. P. R. timetable—time cannot after all have so very much more prairie to see, and that Winnipeg is the prairie center. But having reached Regina, over 300 miles west of Winnipeg, to discover still the boundless sea of grass or corn on every hand, you begin to realize that the prairie is merely on the eastern edge of the prairie. Winnipeg has got a quarter of a century start on other towns in the West, and will doubtless yet greatly extend in size and importance; but with this great lead to the west, her racing up fast with settlers, and new railways opening up the grain lands to her north west, she cannot long remain in the lead. It is the darling hope of many little cities nearer the setting sun than she that they will in some way or other be great as she is, or even greater. Of several towns that cherish this pleasing faith in their own future, the first we saw was

REGINA.

the capital of the North-West Territories, a place with a population of 2,645, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The impressions that remain with me of Regina are of a strenuous community, up to date in its ways and means, and in fact, by cereals on every side that it was a relief to discover Regina had the features of a city. It was the headquarters of the North-West Mounted Police. The President of the local Board of Trade, a man of high standing, through so many miles of wheat five feet high, and estimated to yield anything from 30 to 50 bushels to the acre, if at all, in the summer. Here and so glowingly painted Regina's future that we threw ourselves on the protection of the police force, and where the word "Police" has sinister connotations, I fancy we realize something of the feeling of the men of 1850 picked men has the admiration and respect of all Western Canada. To the west, the land is dry, and the stand for chivalry. They are on the shoulder strap of a man whose work in many respects is the most adventurous and romantic in all America, who must be prepared at a moment's notice—and for 50 cents a day—to travel a thousand miles by horse, canoe, snow shoe, and being from the heart of an Indian reservation to a mining camp. At present a considerable proportion of the N. W. M. P. are on the Yukon, and perhaps that I quite understand, and perhaps on behalf of the Bovic disease, which is expressed by one sergeant in the far West he might be expected to be called "the letter 'X' is probably the most honest and peaceful part of the Dominion. This is a fact the intending emigrants should make a note of. His country should be as much of an ascension in Assiniboia, where the prairie is a prairie, and there are a thousand more chances of his being robbed in Glasgow than in Assiniboia. Nevertheless, the North West Mounted Police have some quaint cases to deal with. In a heap of mail, I saw a dozen or two of the

DOCKHOBORS

who—men and women—some moultie prairie shocked Saskatchewan by setting their homes, and set out on a procession to the coast. It was at much the fanatical rapture in their eyes, and their luxuriant hair and beards and their Russian peasant dresses and belts that made them all look colorable imitations of the one and only Tolstoi, whose doctrine of non-resistance and primitive

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CLARK & PEARSON, SOLE AGENTS.

The portrait of the Dowager Empress of China now being painted by his Kate

THE WEEK'S DIG

By H. M. L.

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