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To the Editor of the Critic:—

DEAR EDITOR,—September the 21st—the equinox—and a perfectly Heavenly day On the 10th there was a heavy fall of snow, followed by a frost which left an inch and a quarter of ice on tubs outside, but in two days genial warmth and the loveliest fall weather had returned. This it appears is customary, and, indeed, our experience in 1874 in the great march of the mounted police to a point about 100 miles south of Calgary was similar. This, with the almost certain recurrence of a sharp frost about the middle of August and the liability to draught in the earlier part of the summer are the great drawbacks to the otherwise marvelous crop-producing capabilities of the N. W. Of these the September snow, though it certainly comes too early, is the least.

The first impression of anyone arriving in Calgary, say at the end of May or early in June, would be that the sun almost never sets. For two months, roughly speaking, it is light till ten o'clock at night. This extreme effect is, however, partly due to what I believe to be the fact that the town time kept is not the true solar time, but the railway time of the nearest divisional point. I was led to this conclusion by observing that the latitude of Calgary is almost identical with that of Greenwich, and that the latest sunset by Whitaker's almanac is 8.15. The effect is scarcely agreeable, and in this matter, at all events, the more equable summer days and nights of the latitude of Halifax are decidedly more pleasant. Of course the days will be corresponding y short in mid-winter.

There is much that is delightful about Calgary. The pure, sweet, clear air, the compact plateau on which the town stands completely surrounded by the Bow and Elbow Rivers, with tolerably high hills on the outer banks, and the splendid view from various points of the Rockies, some eighty miles distant, contribute to make it the gem of the Prairies. The glorious sunsets are a perpetual feast for the beautiful. There do not seem to be many old folks in the town, but if there be any who have begun to weary of life, the "plains of Heaven" laid out in the west in gorgeous mystery evening by evening seem to the imaginative mind, however perille the fancy, typical of the rest which most imagine, and which may, for ought we really know, be every whit as delusive as the sunset pageantry.

The population of Calgary was estimated in the C. P. R. guide book for last year, at 3,400. The estimate was probably not far from the mark. I should certainly say it is up to that figure now, and steadily increasing. Several new houses have gone up this summer, one of them of the handsome Greenwich buff-colored stone, which is abundant in the neighborhood, and which promises, at no distant date, to make Calgary a very handsome city. The Court House, the Bank of Montreal, the Albert Hotel, several business blocks are built of it, and the Hudson Bay Company are now erecting a splendid three-story new store of the same material. Town lots are held at high figures, but not at such extravagant rates as to afford the probability of collapse so frequent in real estate where a place has been unduly boomed.

The fine and well settled ranching country round about affords the great desideratum of a good "back country," while the Calgary and Edmonton Railway is fast pushing up northwards, and if the fine weather of the fall is prolonged may reach Edmonton this year. They are laying from one to two and half miles a day, and are increasing their force. Next year the road will be pushed on 100 miles south to Fort Macdonald, they traversing Alberta north and south. The assemblage of "beauty and fashion," the handsome turnouts, fine horses and stalwart men drawn to Calgary at the turning of the first sod would have astonished a stranger. There must have been at least 5,000 people present. The pipes for the water supply are nearly laid, and the future city will be able to congratulate itself on the purity of the element furnished by the rapid Bow River. The town is very well lighted with electric light, which is also in most of the houses. It is the residence of my old friend Bishop Pinkham, and has four good churches—Episcopal, Methodist, Presbyterian (a handsome stone building) and Baptist, besides rejoicing in the lively ministrations of a not particularly objectionable detachment of the Salvation Army. The Bishop presides at present over the combined sees of Calgary and Saskatchewan, but it is intended to separate them as soon as financial considerations will admit, when the bishop will doubtless remain at Calgary. Meat is cheap and good. Bread, milk and hardware no dearer than in Halifax. Coals, at present, \$8.00 per ton, a price which, however, will probably soon be reduced. Vegetables are reasonable, and there is a good supply of California fruit at not extremely expensive prices. Coal oil is 50 cents a gallon, but will doubtless soon be cheaper, especially if the supposed oil region up in Athabasca answers the confident expectations formed of it, but it costs you fifty cents to get your wig cropped, and temperance (not miscalled in this case) is not a little promoted by the high price of liquor.

The weather is still (Sept. 26) lovely, and likely to remain so, the "old-timers" say, till nearly Christmas. There is a probability of the C. P. R. concentrating two of their work-shops at Calgary, if the townsfolke don't annoy Mr. Van Horn by squabbling about east and west locations. If it come to pass it will be another lift for the town.

The social atmosphere is clearer here than in the east of the detestable personalities of politics, and is otherwise healthy and pleasant. The quietness of the town is illustrated by the fact that its municipal police consists of a chief and (I believe) the moderate force of one constable. There is, however, a troop of the mounted police in exceedingly comfortable barracks, whose red coats and excellent discipline set up and enliven the place. There is lots of cricket, football, base ball, lacrosse, but not so much base ball as down in the east, and there are occasionally some theatricals—a very good amateur performance in aid of a charitable institution took place for two nights about a fortnight ago, altogether Calgary, undoubtedly the queen of the western prairies, is not half a bad place to have one's lines cast in if