

the District of Alberta which now comprises the new local electoral districts of Edmonton, St. Albert and Victoria.

The town of Edmonton, which is about the centre of the district, is in latitude 53 deg. 29 min. north, and longitude 113 deg. 49 min. west. It is, therefore, as far south as Dublin in Ireland, Liverpool and York in England, Hamburg in Germany, further south than any part of Scotland, Denmark, Norway or Sweden, and 455 miles further south than St. Petersburg, the capital of Russia.

The western countries of both the old and new world enjoy a great advantage in climate over the more eastern portions, owing to the effects of the Gulf stream in Europe and the Japan current in North America. The isothermal line which passes through New York on the Atlantic coast in latitude 40 deg. north, comes out on the Pacific at Fort Simpson in latitude 54 deg. 30 min., one degree further north than Edmonton. The effect of altitude on climate is well known. Alberta slopes from a high elevation at the international boundary to 3411 feet at Calgary, and down to 2213 at Edmonton. Its low elevation, together with the length of daylight during the period of growth, combined with its fertile soil, renders it one of the richest agricultural portions of the world.

The scenery is of varied beauty. No stern, rugged and awful mountains, nor long dead monotony of flat, treeless prairie strain the vision here. Level and rolling prairie, hill and dell, clad in grass and flowers, dotted with groves of aspen, poplar and spruce, delight the eye. Lakes, lakelets and ponds reflect the bright blue skies above, and the deep and magnificent valleys of the great Saskatchewan and other smaller, but not less beautiful water courses, lend boldness to a landscape of otherwise ideally pastoral prettiness. Not only when in verdure clad is the country lovely, for the white raiments of winter lend to the prospect a new and additional charm of indescribably pure beauty.

Nature, not content with providing those grand agricultural resources, which it is the purpose of this work to describe, has also conferred on the country vast mineral wealth, the possibilities of which are now only beginning to dawn on the minds of the people. Inexhaustible supplies of coal underlie the whole country and crop out on the sides of the valleys, rendering the work of mining so cheap, that the fuel is sold at the mouth of the pit to farmers for 50 cents a ton, whilst it is delivered in the bins of the household-

ers of Edmonton at \$1.00 per 2,000 lbs. The screenings, unfit for burning in domestic stoves, are sold to the grist mills, elevators, and electric light works for only 50 cents per ton, and are found equally efficient as fuel, costing in less favored localities \$5 or more per ton. An export trade in this article has commenced on the Calgary & Edmonton railway: but the true development of this invaluable resource wants improved transportation facilities on the Saskatchewan down to Lake Winnipeg—where it will be required for smelting—and on to the great city of Winnipeg and the province of Maritoba.

Gold dust of exceeding fineness, both in size and quality, has for over thirty years been washed out of the sands of the Saskatchewan river for 100 miles above and 200 miles below Edmonton, during low stages of water by individual miners using only the primitive pick, shovel and grizzly. Quite recently scientific investigations have been made, with the result that some of the newest and best dredging and gold-saving machinery is to be put in operation, by a number of experienced miners with capital.

Meanwhile, those best informed on the subject consider that the dredging of the river bed and the hydraulic sluicing of the flats and terraces of the valley will yield enormous profits to capital skilfully applied. It is also believed that cheap and simple apparatus will be devised to enable the "poor man's diggings" to be prosecuted with greater profit and success.

THE NORTHERN OUTLET.

To all these gifts of nature—climatic, agricultural and mineral—have been added unique geographical advantages. Whilst the Calgary & Edmonton branch of the Canadian Pacific Company's trans-continental railway is that which now connects the district with the commerce of the world, it is not the only commercial route for the exports of the district. Starting at the end of the Edmonton and Athabasca wagon road (90 miles long) the navigable waters of the great Mackenzie basin, flow north for 2,000 miles to the Arctic Ocean. On this immense route on which steamboats ply, and its endless tributaries, there exists a large and growing demand for agricultural products in exchange for the rich furs and peltries of this great fur preserve of Canada. Upwards of \$100,000 of these furs are annually marketed in Edmonton, and this sum does not include the much larger