

THE NOR-WESTER.

WARNER & COMPANY, Proprietors.

TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1884.

THE DISTRICT OF ALBERTA.

The fact that this portion of the North-west is especially favored is one which must have some weight in influencing those who intend to immigrate from older lands. Here, therefore so long as an immigrant knew that he was coming to a country with a fertile soil he felt sure that he was all right. The other features of the country, such as climate, topography, water, timber, scenery and society were to him of little moment. He supposed that a rich soil was all that was necessary to ensure laughing crops and golden harvests. This like many other impressions of the present day is a fallacy. It has been discovered that a country may possess a rich soil, and yet its winter climate be unbearable, and its distance from the sea such as to make it commercially isolated from the outer world; that it may be an overdone country in more ways than one and that a bare living is at best all that ninety nine out of every one hundred persons can ever hope to realize. All experience goes to show that most persons who go to new countries seek not only to improve their condition, but to advance even a step further and this step is to make money. The North-west today is crowded with refined and well brought up people who have come to it to make money and then leave it. Hence the unsettled and uncertain condition of things in the eastern portion of it, where the winters are long and the climate very severe. These remarks in the main do not apply to this district. To the old Manitoban this region presents new and entirely different scenery. A street scene in Calgary for instance will not compare with one in Winnipeg or Brandon. There everything is like it would be in places a hundred years old. In Brandon you see the handsome phaeton of the latest style, or the delicately constructed democrat and as clean as you would see it before it left the maker's hands. You may also see the "dude" that lamentable result of an age which has lost its gender, and the dudine—the young lady of the period, who whenever she appears in a new place despotically draws the line of demarcation with her own hand. You do not see these here in the heart capital of the District. Instead you see the "cayuse" and the "Mexican saddle," the "cow boy" and the "lasoo," the "backboard" and more democratic than all the "Red River cart"; and you hear its discordant music not with pain now but with pleasure. You meet a real lord in homespun suit and a mountain hat and a major who is not particular whether you call him "major" or "major" because he has been all over. You at once see that you are in a district that has not merely lost itself to recommend it. To the north of you stretches as fine a farming region as there is in the North-west. We say region because district or section is too limited in area to convey the idea adequately. To the south stretches the magnificent pasturage country of the ranches. To the east for a distance of fifty miles a country admirably suited for settlement. To the west is the great mineral and timber region bounded only by the highest peaks of the Rockies themselves. Then you have a winter climate that is tempered with the warm Chinooks. There is not here that terribly long and severe cold so characteristic of Manitoban winters, and so well known to the old resident of that province. The district of Alberta therefore, is varied in its resources, it is a farming country as well as a stock raising country, it is rich in mineral deposits, coal underlies it all over. Its streams contain the purest and clearest waters on the continent, abounding in trout, and furnishing a water power that would be hard to surpass. Is not this then a favored district and does it not offer better inducements to the settler and the new comer than any other portion of the North-west? We positively say that it does.

THOSE "CONDITIONS."

Mr. Browning, in his letter which we published last week further says:—"Past experience has shown that squatters generally choose those portions of the leases which are indispensable to the cattle men, such as hay, desirable river front and springs upon which cattle have to depend for water during the winter. Those unacquainted with the stock business and the country, would naturally suppose that there is abundance of hay to be had all over the country, but such is not the case. Hay worth the cutting is only found in

small patches often at a considerable distance from the ranches, and has frequently to be drawn six or eight miles to stock. From what I have said it can easily be seen what the effect would be if squatters were allowed to settle upon the grazing lands wherever they wish. The fact is it would only take a year to drive every stockman out of the country. This I think you will admit is neither desirable in the interests of settlers nor the country at large."

It is only natural that squatters in seeking land should select the very best spots—the very best ones which the leaseholder needs for his own purposes. There is nothing to show that the squatter in this respect is less particular than the bona fide settler would be. The squatter having no intention of settling permanently, naturally wants the pick of the country to realize the best figures when the bona fide man comes along. This is about the position and it is easily understood. A complaint has been made us that Mr. Browning does not put the case fairly in his letter. Of this we know nothing, but we are not inclined to disbelieve his statements. The complaint is, that when bona fide settlers do go and ask permission they are generally sent "on the top of the hill," which we suppose is synonymous with being directed to the bad spots. If this is the case the permission is not worth much, yet on the other hand how can it reasonably be expected that stockmen must surrender from time to time the choicest locations on their leases, even to bona fide settlers. No one but an unreasonable person would expect this. Altogether we must regard Mr. Browning's letter as a fair exposition of the question. The question as to how far the stockmen themselves have complied with the law, is a distinct one, and we purpose dealing with it as such. To arrive at the truth is our object and we will do this if it takes all summer. It is needless to say that we have not a grain of sympathy for the speculative squatter.

What the North-west, especially Regina would have done without Mr. N. F. Davin there is no knowing. Nothing in the shape of a want from a town pump handle to a reservoir, seems to escape his eagle eye. What is the use of territorial representation when Mr. Davin has a newspaper in Regina, and a seat in the Ottawa library? Just listen to this from Mr. N. F. Davin to Mr. Nicholas Flood Davin. "As telegraphed you Sir John embodied two or three clauses I drew up in the Amendment Act—giving appeals from J. P.'s and removing doubts as to the powers of Municipal Councils to impose and collect taxes. When he had put them thro he looked up at eve and holding up two fingers, nodded good-humoredly as much as to say, 'I have given you two of the three—because I had prepared a third clause regarding representation which last he thought premature.'"

Mr. Davin has still very much to do. He must secure such legislation as will do away with the severe winter climate of Regina; he must also secure to us the Habeas Corpus Act that great tenet of British liberty, and further—Whiskey liber. When he accomplishes this then let the Lieutenant-Governor step down and out.

The sooner the notion that Regina is the North-west territory is set aside the better. Regina aspires to be the brains of the North-west territory just as Winnipeg endeavors to be the brains of Manitoba. Sir John A. Macdonald was right when he said that territorial representation is premature. It is true the Territory is nominally divided into districts, but there should be some organization of these districts. A certain autonomy before there is territorial representation in the Dominion Parliament should be asked for. We believe Sir John A. Macdonald has such a plan in view. The step from a nominal district to a province is too great, but the required probation will be found in organizing the nominal districts into real districts, and then from this stage they may readily pass into a Provincial status when there is a sufficient interest and population to justify it. The growth will then be healthy.

local politician, blames the Dominion Government for this, but he does not explain how it is possible for local government to succeed when a majority of the men who come to the surface neither possess training nor the education for the position, to which they aspire? That fact will never dawn upon the local politicians themselves, but it is rather surprising that it has not occurred to the electors.

The Brandon Daily Sun has collapsed, presumably because the corporation cow has been milked dry. The Chesterfieldian editor will hereafter divide his time in scribbling for the weekly and "wallowing small boys" an art in which it is said he has had many years active experience in the back woods of Ontario.

Mr. Davin quotes Philosopher Mills as against the Minister of Justice in the matter of the power of the North-west council to incorporate municipal bodies which bodies have the power of imposing taxes. We do not wonder at the Minister of Justice summarily dismissing this question because the body that will impose the taxes is not the North-west council itself but the various municipal councils which will be elected by the people. We could see some force in the objection presented by the Regina delegation if the North-west council was the tax-imposing power, but it is not, its functions are merely legislative—it makes the ordinances by which municipal bodies are elected. However, there was nothing in the contention on the part of the delegation in respect of this particular matter, and so the Minister of Justice dismissed it.

Now that there is some prospect of immediate incorporation some townsmen are inquiring as to the expense that will be attached to the municipal duties which are to be conferred on our towns. Is they ask, the expense which will be involved by incorporation to be small or large and what are the benefits which the town is to derive from a chartered existence? These are pertinent questions, and we presume that they have been looked into already, though quite a number of persons here talk as if incorporation should not be asked for until another year at least. The great necessity of fire protection is admitted on all sides, and this has been one of the chief reasons why incorporation is asked for. The choice of the right kind of material here for Mayor or Councillors we know is somewhat limited. In another year no doubt there will be a greater number to select from. As it is however, there is no danger of a lack of candidates. There will be more than a sufficiency no doubt when the time comes. If those who have a great deal at stake in the town do not take hold and see that proper men are elected, incorporation will be an injury not a benefit to the place. We are not disposed to be too slow in a matter of this kind, but we will not hesitate to raise our voice against high pressure and eminent incompetency if these should be selected as candidates for municipal honors. We are solicitous for the prosperity of Calgary even if we incur the displeasure of a score of aspiring candidates who may be seeking their own advancement instead of that of the city.

The Coming Journal.

The newspaper that fulfills the largest functions of journalism must be owned by the men who make it. The most threatening evil of current journalism is the hidden hand of the outside capitalist, laid upon it to shape its opinions and manipulate its views.

If this evil gains ground, as seems inevitable in an age when a rage for money getting has taken possession of the mass of intelligent minds and obscured higher aims, the remedy will be found in journals of opinion. The costly work of news gathering may be left to the papers which control large capital, while the public turns for aggressive and candid views on the events and issues of the time to small and cheaply-made sheets which are under no obligation to stockholders. In France there are scores of successful journals which make no effort of covering the field of the world's news. They are organs of opinion only. Each is the production of a group of original minds, and each represents the general ideas of a segment of French political life. There are indications that such a phase of journalism is approaching this country.—V. E. Smalley in Manhattan.

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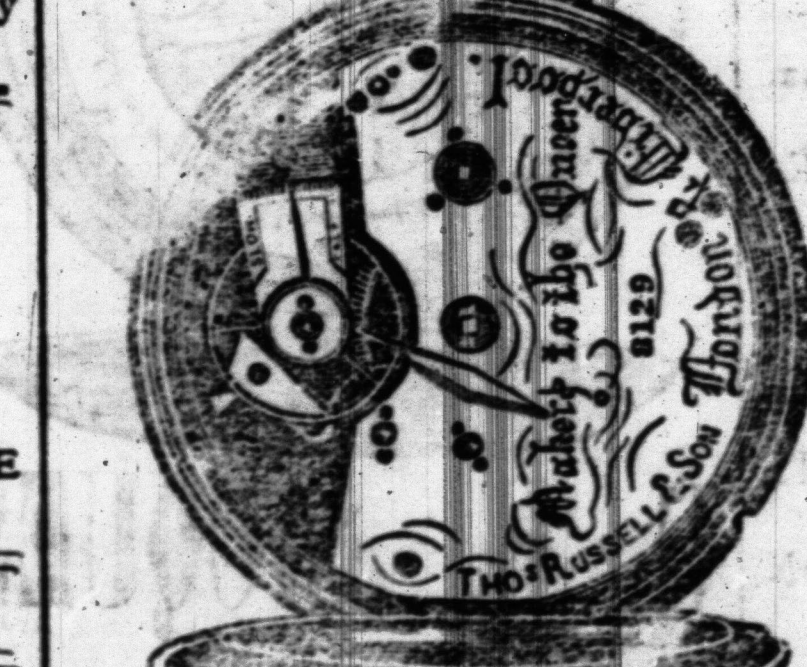
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