

ALBERTA

THE Provisional District of Alberta, the great ranching, dairy farming and mineral country of Western Canada, embraces an area larger than that of England and Wales together. In it are comprised 45 millions of acres of the most fertile soil on the continent, and some of America's best deposits of coal and metal.

General Features

Alberta may be described as having three distinct surface features, viz.: Prairie lands on the east, which are thickly timbered in the northern part of the province; then come the rolling land or foot hills, extending some 40 miles from the base of the mountains, mostly heavily timbered, and lastly the majestic mountains, containing vast quantities of gold and other ores.

That part of the District of Alberta, already proven to be well suited for general farming by the methods followed in the old provinces of the Dominion of Canada, as well as in the United States, extends from the American line on the south for 400 miles north, and from the foot of the Rocky Mountains for 200 miles eastward.

The southern half of this area is well adapted for raising horses, cattle and sheep, and fattening them without other food than the rich bunch and buffalo grasses which grow everywhere spontaneously, and which cures itself on the stem, retaining its nutritious properties all the year round, without cutting or covering, excepting that it might be covered by the light falls of snow during the winter months, which covering rather improves it than otherwise, and is very seldom deep enough to prevent the animals eating it off the ground.

During the last five years many thousand cattle, sheep and horses have been raised in the southern half of Alberta on the rich grass without any feeding or shelter other than the shelter found along the hill sides or in clumps of trees. The cattle and sheep, when taken off the pasture, are fat and fit for any butcher's shop in the world, and the horses are rolling fat.

Northern Alberta

Northern Alberta embraces the fertile tract of country watered by the Red Deer, the Battle, the North Saskatchewan and Sturgeon rivers. It is a country pre-eminently suited to mixed farming. It is well wooded and watered, and abounds with natural hay meadows. A settler going into this country with little means does not need to expend his capital in purchasing lumber to provide buildings for himself and his stock. As regards water, there are magnificent water courses, innumerable lakes, mountain streams, and creeks and springs. This district offers millions of acres of deep, rich soil, and possesses, beyond dispute, the most uniformly productive land at present open for free settlement. The railway to Edmonton was completed in the year 1891, and thus some of the finest farming districts in the North-West, hitherto practically inaccessible to the intending settler, have been made available.

A resident of the district writes that "the northern part may be described in general terms as rolling prairie, dotted over with bluffs of spruce and poplar, interspersed with lakes and meadows, and intersected with numerous small creeks, giving the whole a particularly park-like appearance, which, in point of natural scenery, is beyond the possibility of exaggeration. I have seen the most beautiful

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