

CENTRAL ALBERTA,

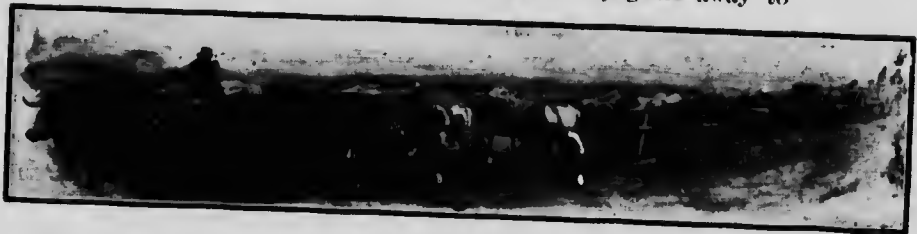
THE GARDEN OF CANADA'S RICHEST PROVINCE.



Long ago, away back in the dim distant **Early Development** past, as things go in the Farther West, that is to say along in the early 70's, the entire Canadian West was devoted to the purposes of the Indian and halfbreed hunters, and the white and halfbreed traders, with the exception of a limited area in Manitoba around where Winnipeg now stands, and on the plains surrounding Portage la Prairie. Here met all the transportation systems of the country, that

is to say, the great water courses; and agricultural settlements developed which were able to produce the main needs of the settlements in the way of food supplies. It might reasonably be supposed that from this nucleus, settlement would spread gradually and that settlers would have found their way into what is now Central Alberta only after the intervening territory was filled up.

This was not the case however. The conditions of those days rendered necessary long journeys by traders and voyageurs away to



the Northwest to meet the furs coming out of the Great Mackenzie Basin, and to exchange commodities with travellers from the far Northland. The early Manitoba settlers were in the habit of making great summer-long journeys into the plains of the far west in pursuit of the vanishing buffalo. A few men of science, and other travellers, in search of information or adventure, had penetrated the far western wilds in every direction. Those old time pioneers from the Red River Settlement were therefore thoroughly conversant with the country, and had a very clear idea where they were going, and why, when they **They Knew**