

The Monetary Times

Absorbed the INTERCOLONIAL JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, 1860;
the TRADE REVIEW, Montreal, 1870; and the JOURNAL OF
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CALGARY, ALBERTA.

Calgary will have the Dominion Exhibition this year. If other cities are jealous of this honor their feelings have no outward appearance. After all, jealousy is only a phase of ambition. Edmonton, Lethbridge, Moose Jaw, Brandon, Regina, Medicine Hat, may all have their eyes on the Government exhibition grant; but this year they will pack their grips, travelling with light hearts and heavy purses to a city born with many silver spoons.

Pathos is in the appeal issued by the Exhibition promoters. Come, they say, before the Indians and cowboys and the fascinating Western life are forced far into the background by the energetic wheat farmer. An illustration of a horse-backed rancher brought to bay by a wheat stook adds significance. Wheat is making a fight against romance. Business is ousting sentiment. The binder is chasing the wild horse over the horizon. When you visit Calgary in July they will show you some "old-time rough riding by real cowboys." You will see also "some real Indian races." The farmer knows well enough, that the Indian and the cowboy have all but changed their home from the prairies to the circus. Rough riding and the squaw races will be tendered as amusement. Just as in Delft, and Rouen, and Berlin they put up quaint figures and customs like puppets for the tourists' inspection.

Where years ago there was one cowboy there are now hundreds of stooks. Western wildness clings to Calgary, but only a tinge to remind one it was born of the prairie. The story of the ranchers who upset the travelling show blows around as the winds. It happened at Calgary. The feature of the circus come to town was an exhibition of lariat throwing, probably by men who could tell you more in a minute concerning populous cities than in a week regarding the real West. But the Calgary boys rescued tradition from the bottom of the circus drum. They turned up at the show and roped in with their lassoes the whole contingency of cowboy

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nummers. This smacks of the West; the moral is that the West knows, and knows that it knows.

One might think because the things which were, are not now, that Calgary suffers disappointment. But the song of Alberta Red has a counteractive effect on dirges of reminiscence sung by sentimentalists. Who cares a jot for the past when the future is bounded only by enterprise? Visitors to the Exhibition will extract from the Japanese acrobats a train of thought on the Oriental labor problem. The vaudeville show is second in the minds of men who come from afar, men who want to know something about irrigation, of land values, of the sheep industry. When Toronto can begin to compare statistics with big cities across the border—granted one is looking far ahead—and Calgary becomes an enlarged Winnipeg in Alberta—folks will hark back to the days of 1908. Then they may tell of the good work of exhibitions—ingenious advertising mediums.

What led the Government to choose this city? For one reason, it is a general divisional point on the Canadian Pacific Railway; and again, the rails of the Grand Trunk Pacific, the Canadian Northern, and the Great Northern will glisten in Calgary sunshine shortly. Another reason: it is growing; it deserves to grow. Nearly twenty-three thousand souls there carry on the daily task. The Board of Trade and the Hundred Thousand Club have helped to trumpet its name abroad. Then there are grain, and cattle and dairy farms, all within the district. An American settler east of the city will tell you that he broke and seeded to Alberta red winter wheat five hundred acres of land on his farm. This yielded him thirty-eight bushels to the acre, altogether some nineteen thousand bushels.

This City of Silver Spoons knows its fair will advertise, first Canada, secondly Alberta, thirdly itself. Thus, the event is important. It will preach the gospel of Alberta to congregations everywhere. Something for pride, that is, when you know that some sixty per cent. of their red winter wheat grades Number One. Weigh up Alberta oats, too; it varies anything from one to