

transport. The great cretaceous coal seams at the headwaters of the rivers rising in the Rocky Mountains, or in their neighbourhood, and flowing towards your doors, should not be forgotten. Although you have some coal in districts nearer to you, we should remember that on the headwaters of these streams there is plenty of the same which can be floated down to you before you have a complete railway system. Want of time, as well as a wish to see the less vaunted parts of the country took me southward from Battleford, over land which in many of the maps is variously marked as consisting of arid plains or as a continuation of the "American Desert." The newer maps, especially those containing the exploration of Professor Macoun, have corrected this wholly erroneous idea. For two days' march—that is to say for about 60 or 70 miles south of Battleford we passed over land whose excellence could not be excelled for agricultural purposes. Thence to the neighbourhood of the Red Deer Valley the soil is lighter, but still in my opinion, in most places, good for grain—in any case most admirable for summer pasturage, and it will certainly be good also for stock in winter as soon as it shall pay to have some hay stored in the valleys. The whole of it has been the favourite feeding ground of the buffalo. Their tracks from watering place to watering place, never too far apart from each other, were everywhere to be seen, while in very many tracts their dung lay so thickly that the appearance of the ground was only comparable to that of an English farmyard. Let us hope that the *entreact* will not be long before the disappearance of the buffalo on these scenes is followed by the