

"American Desert." The newer maps, especially those containing the explorations of Prof. Macoun, have corrected this wholly erroneous idea. For two days' march—that is to say, for about sixty or seventy 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 farm yard. Let us hope that the *entreat* will not be long before the disappearance of the buffalo on these scenes is followed by the appearance of domestic herds. The Red Deer Valley is especially remarkable as traversing a country where, according to the testimony of Indian chiefs travelling with us, snow never lies for more than three months, and the heavy growth of poplar in the bottoms, the quantity of the "bull" or high cranberry bushes, and the rich branches that hung from the choke cherries showed us that we had come into that part of the Dominion which among the plainsmen is designated as "God's country." From this onward to the Bow River, and thence to the frontier line, the trail led through what will be one of the most valued of our Provinces, subject as the country is to those warm winds called the "chinooks." The settler will hardly ever use anything but wheeled vehicles during winter, and throughout a great portion of the land early sowing—or fall sowing—will be all that will be necessary to ensure him against early frosts. At Calgary, a place interesting at the present time as likely to be upon that Pacific Railway line which will connect you with the Pacific and give you access to "that vast shore beyond the furthest sea," the shore of Asia, a good many small herds of cattle have been introduced within the last few years. During this year a magnificent herd of between six and seven thousand has been brought in, and the men who attended them, and who came from Montana, Oregon and Texas, all averred that their opinion of their new ranche was higher than that of any with which they had been acquainted in the south. Excellent crops have been raised by men who have sown not only in the river bottoms, but also upon the so called "bench" lands or plateau above. This testimony was also given by others on the way to Fort Macleod and beyond it, thus closing most satisfactorily the song of praise we had heard from practical men throughout our whole journey of 1,200 miles. Let me advert for one moment to some of the causes which have enabled settlers to enjoy in such peace the

Wonderful  
natural  
resources.

Bow River  
district: