

WAINWRIGHT--CHIEF TOWN OF EASTERN ALBERTA

Story of the Growth of an Important Divisional Point of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, 126 Miles East of Edmonton.

Close to the steel of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, ten miles beyond the broad valley of the Battle River and 126 miles east of Edmonton, Wainwright, one of the most renowned and progressive of Alberta's youngest towns, nestles in a fold of the rolling prairie. Twenty-four months ago the town of today, with its business blocks, commodious hotels, churches, opera house, graded streets and half-mile of cement sidewalks, was represented by four shacks, dumped down ahead of the railway steel, a few rods north of the grade of the new transcontinental. The population of Wainwright, today is close to the thousand mark. In April of last year the community was organized as a village, and the era of municipal enterprise was ushered in. Three councillors were elected: Messrs. J. H. Dawson, George Richardson and Wesley Small.

An Ambitious Village.
Wainwright is ambitious: avowedly so. Properly speaking it is not yet a town, as it is still awaiting incorporation. By courtesy, however, it is always spoken of as such. From the first, its head councillor has been known as the mayor of Wainwright. Application has been made to the Lieutenant Governor of the province for the erection of Wainwright into

habits of the resources of the district by the Board of Trade.

Branch Line Coveted.
Wainwright coveted a branch line to Calgary. The nearest thing to disappointment which the town has known in its short life-time was experienced when Manager Chamberlain, on his first through trip from Winnipeg, last August, informed a deputation of townspeople that it was the intention of the company to run the branch line south from a point several score miles nearer Edmonton. Every effort was made to induce the company to locate its line to the south from the divisional point. The branch is now nearing completion from another point and Wainwright's hope of securing a line to the south has revived. It is generally thought that it is the intention of the Grand Trunk Pacific to run branch lines from all divisional points. A line is now looked for to run 150 or 200 miles to the southwest to connect with the branch leading to Calgary. Yet there are a number of Wainwright's most prominent

there and the crops, if not big, have been most promising. Fifteen miles north, in the Platon settlement, the oat crop last year ran as high as 30 bushels to the acre. On the farm of W. J. Platon an 80 bushel crop was reaped last fall.

Wheat yielded well, running as high as 30 bushels to the acre. A one hundred acre field on the farm of Herbert Dean averaged 30 bushels to the acre. Twenty bushels to the acre would be a conservative estimate of the total crop of the district last year. The total crop acreage of the district has been increased about 20 per cent. this year.

The country in the Wainwright district is open prairie, some of it rolling. The prairie is interspersed with numerous small lakes and bluffs. Timber for firewood and fence posts exists in ample quantities. The soil varies from deep black loam to light loam, with a constant sub-soil of clay, the best land known for growing grain.

It is estimated that between 200,000 and 300,000 bushels of grain were

quently insufficient to meet the demand. There is a splendid opening for the market gardener and the raiser of poultry in the district.

Example of a Settler.
A great many farmers from the United States have settled in the Wainwright district and have been uniformly successful. A letter from one of these, H. E. Mabey, written from Wainwright in February of this year, appears in an official circular of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, and speaks for itself.

Wainwright, Alta., February 20, 1910. To those whom it may interest: I came to Wainwright district in October, 1905, from Lake City, Minnesota, U.S., and took up a homestead, my idea being to go in for cattle ranching. In the following spring, being a little short of funds, I took up some grading work for the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, which was then under construction. This along with my homestead duties, kept me on the jump. In the following fall, I bought 150 head of cattle and went into partnership with Mr. Wells, who was ranching on Ribstone Creek, about twelve miles from my place.

We did so well that we were able to supply the Grand Trunk Pacific construction gangs with beef for a distance of 26 miles east and west of the Battle River. This was the year before last.

Our cattle are increasing and at the present time we have 520 head, 120 of which are four year old steers and are being fed for spring market. Last summer we took a contract to put up 1,030 tons of hay for the big buffalo herd in Wainwright in case the winter turned out very cold—so far they have used none of it. In addition to this we put up 750 tons for ourselves.

Ideal Ranching Country.
The rolling prairie provides unsurpassed grazing land; the numerous lakes supply a constant source of water for stock, and the bluffs afford protection from winter winds.

An almost ideal ranching country is found in the Ribstone Valley, which lies a few miles east of Wainwright, running into the Battle River Valley a few miles to the north. The cattle business booms here on land better adapted for ranching than for farming. The stock has a wide range over the hills. It is estimated that six owners in the Ribstone country have between them nearly a thousand head of cattle on the range. A couple of hundred head of fine stock will be shipped shortly from Wainwright, the bulk coming to the packing plant in North Edmonton. Over 500 head will be

transferred to the national park reserve at Wainwright. A number of head were also brought from the park at Banff.

Hard to Find Herd.
The greater part of the herd is left free to roam over the wide expanse of grazing land within the bounds of the park, which is in the form of an irregularly shaped polygon, extending from the east bank of the Battle river to the Ribstone Creek, a distance of about 26 miles. Some of the finest specimens in the herd, together with a number of young calves, about 150 head altogether, are enclosed in an inner corral, four sections in area, for the more convenient inspection of visitors to the park. A day's search might not cover the main herd in the outer park.

The park entrance direct to the town, shortening the old route by three-quarters of a mile. Both sides of the road have been fenced and about a thousand spruce trees have been planted along the margin of the driveway. A thousand more will be laid out, lining the road from the park to the town.

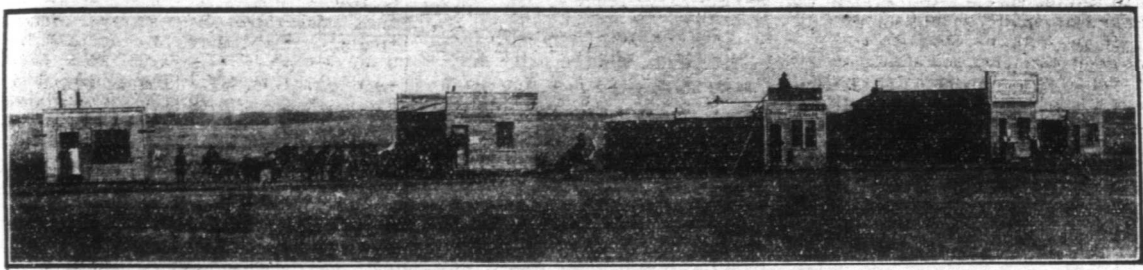
To prevent the incursion of prairie fires, a double fire-guard has been thrown around the entire park. A thousand tons of hay were cut and stacked last year to provide winter fodder for the buffalo, but so mild was the season that the animals were able to forage for themselves and scarcely any of it was used.

Hotels Are Crowded.
At the present time, through service from Winnipeg to Edmonton not having been established on the G. T. P.,

one produce firm, two chartered banks, one large public hall, \$10,000 opera house and roller skating rink, two painters, one photographer and four contractors.

\$15,000 School Building.
The school board have called for tenders for the erection of a brick school building. Application will be made to the minister of education for authority to borrow \$15,000 for building and equipping the structure, by the issue of debentures. The building when erected will be quite a handsome structure and will stand alone in a block purchased as a site by the board of trustees.

Brick-Making Industry.
A recent addition to the industry of Wainwright is a brick-making plant, which started operations in May. Clay of the best quality is secured from a clay bank just west of the town. The plant has a capacity of 8,000 bricks a day working with a crew of twelve men. This crew will shortly be increased to twenty-four and the output doubled. In the town



WAINWRIGHT VILLAGE AS IT APPEARED EIGHTEEN MONTHS AGO.

a town municipality, the limits of the town to contain by admeasurement, 1,120 acres. Before the year is out the village will no doubt pass to the full-fledged dignity of a town.

Wainwright is the fifth divisional point of the Grand Trunk Pacific and takes its name from William Wainwright, vice-president of the company.

A Red Letter Day.
July 21st, 1908, is a red-letter day in the chronology of Wainwright. On that day the steel-head entered the townsite. The company immediately commenced the erection of a twelve-stall round-house and a fine, twelve thousand dollar station and restaurant, the first buildings of the G.T.P. in Alberta. A stock yard was subsequently built and some fifteen miles of side-track laid down.

So quickly were the lots of the original townsite bought up upon the completion of the survey, that the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company found it necessary to survey three new subdivisions to meet the demand for real estate. These subdivisions, too, were soon sold and a

ent merchants who declare that branch lines are not to be desired from the viewpoint of the town's welfare, and regard it as a stroke of good fortune that none has been located as yet. This doctrine, however, is not the popular one.

Tribute to Wainwright District.
Wainwright is confident that the district in which it finds itself is one of the greatest promise and bases its confidence on facts. The land to the north, west and east is eminently suited for mixed farming. When the party of distinguished American agricultural editors was making its tour of the west last fall over the G.T.P., samples of grain grown in the Wainwright district were shown the members by the Board of Trade.

The statement was subsequently made by Professor Thomas Shaw, member of the faculty of the Minnesota Agricultural College and formerly of the Grand Trunk Pacific Development Company, that the sample of wheat shown him on his visit to Wainwright was the best he had ever seen in the whole Canadian west. The statement of Professor

marked from the Wainwright district last year, and the great amount of new breaking done will largely increase this amount in the present year. Adequate elevator accommodation has been provided by different companies.

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COUNCILLOR LOGAN, Who Succeeded J. H. Dawson as Chairman of the Council.

I think that any man with brains and muscle who will take up land in this country and work into stock, is bound to make a winner in the long or short run. I find the winters in Alberta a good deal milder than in Minnesota and so far have only found one real Minnesota winter when the cattle could not rustle ten months out of the year.

I can also say that the United States cattle and horses receive the same treatment as the Canadian.

World's Greatest Buffalo Herd.
It is the proudest boast of Wainwright that it is the home of the largest herd of buffalo in the world.



M. C. KING, Sec. Treas. Wainwright Board of Trade, Sec. Wainwright Fire Brigade.

of buffalo in the world. The business envelopes of the merchants of the town advertise the fact wherever they are carried though the mails. Travellers herald it abroad.

The great buffalo park, recently established by the Dominion government, 107,000 acres in area, and surrounded by 72 miles of high wire fence, lies immediately to the south of the town, the entrance being not more than a mile away. A little over a week ago the final shipment of bison from the plains of Montana was received at the park and the herd now numbers 800 head. Of these fully 100 are young calves.

5,000 Bison in Ten Years.
The animals are thriving in their new kingdom, and their numbers are increasing at so great a rate that it has been predicted by Edward Loughead, superintendent of Dominion parks that the herd will number 5,000 inside of ten years. The majority of the buffalo in the park are from the Montana stock, which was sold to the Dominion government by the Mexican Michael Pablo, and first placed in Elk Park, at Lamont, before being

A Group of Bison in the Million Dollar Buffalo Park at Wainwright, Alberta. The Area of the Park is 107,000 Acres. The Herd Numbers 750 Head.

Record of Visitors.
A little over a year ago the first shipment of buffalo was received at the park, 32 cars conveying 222 head from the Lamont enclosure. Since that time there has been an unrelenting stream of visitors to the shrine of the bison. Every day has brought a quota. No one is permitted to enter the park unless in a rig of some sort or mounted on horseback. It is not deemed safe to approach the buffalo on foot. Occasionally the animals give chase to their keepers and for a short distance outrun a horse.

A record of visitors is kept by the gatekeeper. It shows that over 2,000 persons have visited the park in the last year. The biggest day was Sunday, May 8th, of this year, when 52 people came to see the buffalo. There were 39 visitors on Sunday, March 26th, and in February even, there were 20 visitors on one day. The figures for the various months are as follows: 1899, July 26, August 155, September 163, October 225, November 105, December 37; 1910, January 116, February 35, March 175, April 248, May 222. The figures for the present month will probably pass the 400 mark.

A Herd of Moose.
Besides the buffalo, a number of other animals are enclosed in the park. It is the intention of the government to raise a herd of moose as well as a herd of bison. Five moose were recently brought to the park from Banff. There are also a score of deer within the park. As many as thirteen of these creatures have been seen in one day by the keeper. An elk, a splendid specimen of his kind, is kept within the inner enclosure. Superintendent Ed. Ellis, in whose hands rests the actual management of the park, knows the habits of the buffalo probably better than any other man living. Mr. Ellis was for eleven years in charge of the animal enclosure at Banff, before taking charge of the herd at Buffalo park.

Driveway From Wainwright.
Last fall a residence was erected for the superintendent on rising ground commanding a view of the park and the town. Forty acres of the G. T. P. townsite on a hill just west of the entrance to the reserve and midway between the town and the park were purchased as a site. The house is built in bungalow style and has a very handsome appearance. A road has been constructed from

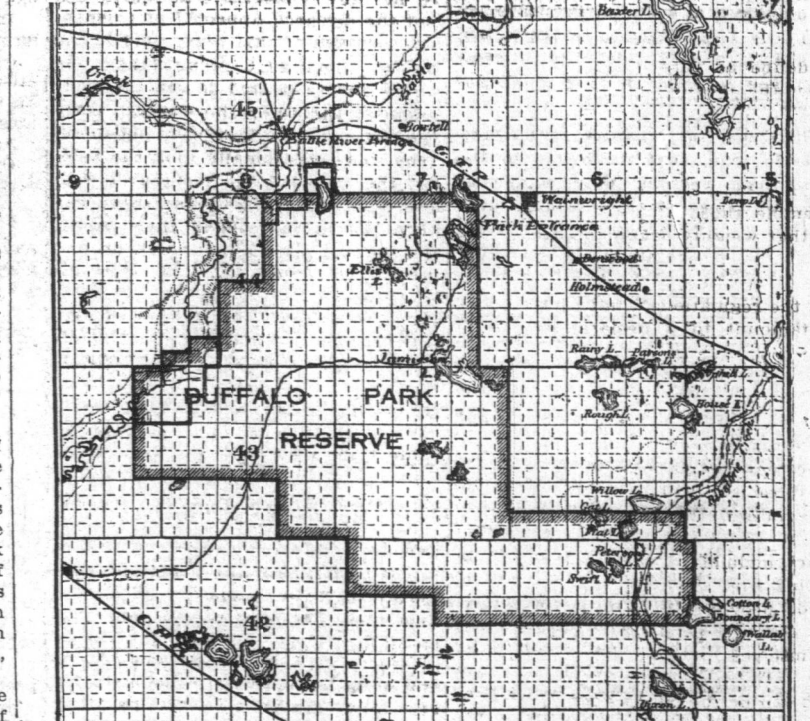
the trains from both east and west lie up in Wainwright overnight and the passengers seek accommodation at one or other of the two first-class hotels of the town. Often the majority of the rooms are reserved by telegram before the trains arrive in the town.

Many Lines of Business.
Almost every line of business is re-

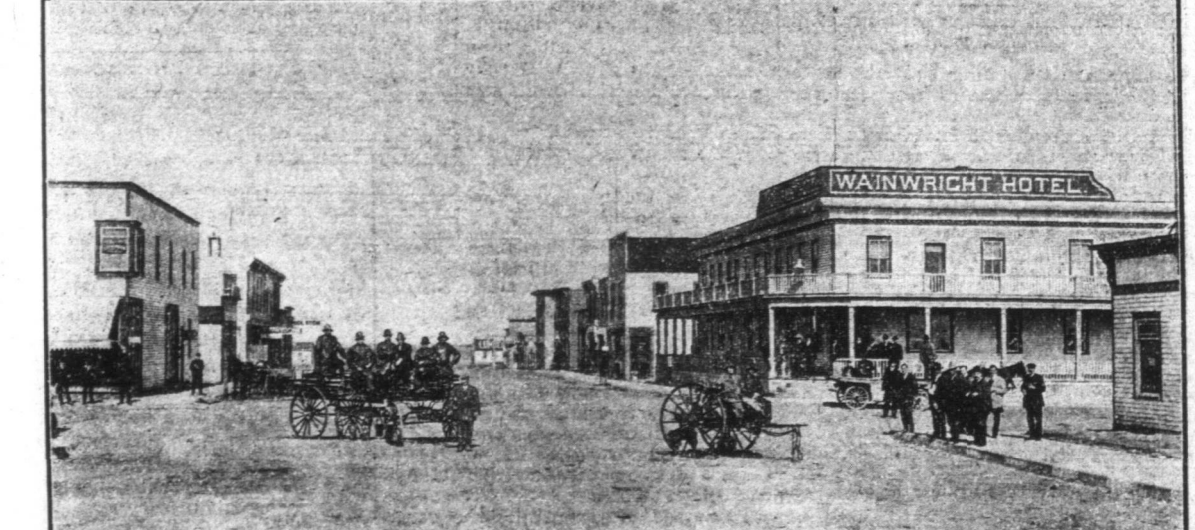
presented in Wainwright. There are two dairy companies, one harness-maker, one blacksmith, one weekly newspaper, two job printers, one drug store, one flour and feed store, three lumber yards, one livery stable, two pool rooms, two gentlemen's furnishing stores, two boot shops, two furniture stores, two dentists, two doctors, one lawyer, three real estate agents,

beds, coal and oil are provided the transient occupants as well as all information required by land-seekers. The records of the hall show that a considerable number of settlers, mostly from the United States, have settled in the Wainwright district during the

(Continued on Page Six.)



PLAN OF BUFFALO PARK. An Accurate Plan of Buffalo Park Reserve, Showing its Location Between the Grand Trunk Pacific and Canadian Pacific Railways. The Park is Enclosed by 72 Miles of Wire Fence and is Surrounded by a Double Fire-guard. It is a Full Marathon Distance from the Battle River Corner to the Ribstone Corner.



SECOND AVENUE, WAINWRIGHT, LOOKING WEST.

still further annex was added to the village by a Wainwright company.

All Are Optimists.
Unbounded optimism and the conviction that Wainwright is destined to remain the biggest town between Edmonton and Saskatoon characterizes the townspeople. And their faith is not an unreasoning one. They have set it forth in pamphlets and special editions of the local paper. Just a few weeks ago the council voted a thousand dollars to publicity purposes. In conjunction with the Grand Trunk Pacific they are getting out a handsome illustrated Wainwright folder. A large show-case is to be placed in the waiting-room of the station building to be stocked with concrete ex-

Shaw appeared in a recent number of the Canadian Bankers' Journal. The flax, which met with the high praise of the American agricultural expert, was grown on the farm of O. K. Hanson, two miles northwest of Wainwright. Not much flax has been grown as yet in the Wainwright district and the pronouncement of Professor Shaw was received with not a little surprise and no small degree of pleasure by the townspeople, as indicative of the possibilities of the soil of the town's immediate district.

Success in Grain Growing.
The Wainwright district will just get fairly started in grain shipping this year. Although the acreage sown has not been large, the land is

shipped during the season. Sheep raising has been extensively and successfully carried on in the Wainwright district. A mile south of the town the Limpert Brothers have a herd numbering fully half a thousand head.

Homesteads Still Available.
Desirable homesteads are still to be had from the government, not far distant from Wainwright. 630 sections may be purchased at the C.P.R. at prices from \$10 to \$20 per acre, according to location. Improved farms are to be had at prices from \$15 to \$20 an acre.

Garden produce finds a ready market in Wainwright, and the supply of eggs, poultry and butter is fre-



AMERICAN FARMERS AND SETTLERS AT WAINWRIGHT STATION, MAY 6th, 1910.



THE SHEEP ON LIMPERT'S RANCH TWO MILES SOUTH OF WAINWRIGHT NUMBER NEARLY 1,000.

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Famous Okanagan Valley home in the greatest valley-American continent. The even and beautiful climate. Specially adapted for fruits, berries, vegetables and all general raising and all general farming and city commercial value.

mer Bros.
GLENOCCE,
K. BRITISH COLUMBIA.

THE NEW FLAVOR
MAPLEINE
A flavor used the same as lemon or vanilla. By dissolving granulated sugar in water and adding Mapleine, a delicious syrup is made and a syrup better than maple. Mapleine is sold by grocers. (Not sold in 2 oz. bottle and 1/2 lb. box.)
Mfr. Co., Seattle, Wn.

AD OF SETTLERS
LONG LINE OF G.T.P.
June 22—A train-settlers from Chicago left here this afternoon for the G. T. P. and up land along the river west as Edmonton, the bulk of them will be the Tramping Lake. The party is almost sold out. The Luse company organized the

ASSAILS COMPANION.
With a Razor But He Recover.

June 23—Carman Do-Italian employed on the of the V. V. and E. rail-a murderous assault on Jim Volpe, at Prince-a drinking bout the as-to Thomas' store, bought suddenly slashed Volpe razor across his throat missing the jugular may recover. Dominick and between Princeton and

ing will be put to work on extension of the Kells way from Grand Forks on definite statement regarding on the Midway and Vested immediately.

SON BECOMES JUDGE.

lawyer Who Was on Water- in Edmonton Promoted- June 23.—Hugh A. Robens, Robson & Company, has today appointed to the court of the King's Bench. al judge for this court has led for by the Manitoba and the appointment is

on is well known in Ed- vinger appeared before the Commission as counsel & G. W. Railway at the ne. His sudden disap- per Mr. Minty, on the of the hearing, was the much criticism at the time.

OF MEETINGS OF
ALWAY COMMISSION.

June 23.—The Railway Commission arranged the itineraries western trip as follows: Victoria, September 1; V. V. & N. N., September 15; Lethbridge, September 15; Calgary, September 15; Edmonton, September 15; Winnipeg, September 22.