

The Gladstone District.

Gladstone is situated thirty-five miles north-west of Portage la Prairie, on the Manitoba North-Western branch, and ninety miles from Winnipeg. The town of Gladstone is situated on the banks of the White Mud River, and is surrounded by beautiful groves of maple, oak, ash, elm and poplar trees, the town site being beautifully treed, well meriting its reputation of one of the most beautiful of Western towns. Its sanitary conditions are ideal, the river affording excellent drainage, and it also has one of the best water supplies in the Province. Water of excellent quality may be found at twelve feet in any part of the district. The present population of Gladstone is over 1,000. The town site was laid out in 1882, and the railroad first entered in 1885.

From this it will be seen that the Gladstone district has enjoyed a phenomenal growth, and is one of the most advantageous points that should be investigated by any person who has an intention of making this great Western country his home. The district surrounding Gladstone offers inducements which are unexcelled in the West. The finest soil, the rich, black loam of the far-famed Portage Plains. The district is specially adapted for mixed farming. Pasture is abundant everywhere. The poplar and willow bluffs afford excellent shelter to the live stock. Hay is most plentiful, the soil producing a most luxuriant growth of all grasses. Gladstone possesses market advantages through its close proximity to Winnipeg, stock realizing the highest value and the demand is much in excess of the present supply. The town presents a most substantial appearance. Building operations may be seen on every side, not frame buildings, but blocks of solid brick, which are manufactured at home, and are obtained at most reasonable figures for building purposes. The business blocks compare most favorably with those of Winnipeg and the larger cities. The hotel accommodation is excellent. The Alhambra, a large, 35-room house of solid brick and lighted by gas, has just been completed under the management of Mr. T. L. Lloyd.

Gladstone is entered by both the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Canada Northern. It has a daily mail and passenger service from each of these railroads, and is one of the few favored districts to enjoy the advantage of railway competition.

To the town council, headed by Mayor D. Smith and Secretary-Treasurer S. Schooley, is largely due the progressiveness of the town.

The public school building is a handsome structure of solid brick, with 240 scholars in attendance and a staff composed of Principal Youhill and three lady teachers.

Gladstone contains four most substantial churches: Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist.

Another evidence of the progressiveness of the enterprising town is its active Board of Trade. J. W. Armstrong, M. D., is president. The vice-president is Mr. S. Schooley, and the secretary Mr. W. H. Wilson.

Paternal societies are well represented by the Oddfellows, Masons, Foresters, Woodmen of the World and Maccabees. The town also contains a complete local telephone service and is entered by two telephone lines, the C. P. R. and C. N. R., and soon will be connected by the long distance telephone with stations all over the Province.

There are in this favored section several herds of pure-bred cattle, and the district offers a great inducement for dairymen. A creamery has been established, and is a great advantage to the district.

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Fuel is abundant in this country, and it will be many years before the local supply of this necessary commodity becomes a scarcity. Game of every variety is abundant.

Mr. J. K. Hall, the local real estate agent, is one of the most experienced land men in the district. His knowledge of the surrounding country is perfect, and his advice may be absolutely relied on by any land seeker who may require the service of his many years' experience.

The mercantile stores of Gladstone are exhibited with the greatest pride by the local merchants. To enter the great departmental store of Galloway Bros. will be a surprise to those unacquainted with this district. This store has no superior in the West, outside of Winnipeg.

Williams Bros. own a large block, containing a large hardware store and a machinery building. Among the business portion are three hardware stores, two planing mills, two drug stores, jewelry store, two chartered banks, two furniture stores, two tailor shops, two bakeries, two hotels and numerous others. The professional men are represented by two doctors, veterinary surgeon and a lawyer.

The farmers are very fortunate in possessing an agricultural society, the Westbourne Agricultural Society. An exhibition is held annually at Gladstone, which awakens the keenest competition throughout the district, and a splendid prize list is offered. Grains of every description, dairy produce, cattle, horses, sheep, poultry and vegetables compose the main exhibits. The association are enclosing the fair grounds, and making a half-mile race track. From the above condensed description it may be seen this district offers advantages unexcelled in the West. Much more might be added, but intending home-seekers should make the town a visit. Its near proximity to Winnipeg entails only a three-hour journey.

Minnedosa.

(A contraction of the Indian Minnedosa—"running water.")

Minnedosa is one of the oldest towns in Manitoba, and can lay claim to be easily the most beautiful—nature has lent every assistance to this charming spot—prettily situated in the valley, surrounded on all sides by hills. The Little Saskatchewan River courses its winding way through the center of the town, its banks prettily wooded with elm, poplar and maple trees, and with numerous enchanting small rapids, it forms a scene picturesque in the extreme, easily meriting its claim as Manitoba's most beautiful town. The approach to Minnedosa by the railroad makes an impression upon any visitor which will not be forgotten. Its fertile farms extend as far as the eye can reach. The population is over 1,500. The buildings are of a most substantial nature, of brick and stone, which can readily be obtained for building purposes. It has two hotels, which are modern in every respect. There are two schools and four churches: English, Presbyterian, Methodist and Baptist. Minnedosa is enjoying the largest building operations at the present time in its history, the only hindrance being the lack of labor and materials. Among the buildings in course of erection may be mentioned McLellan & Rae's new \$16,000 hotel; Massey-Harris Co.'s large stone warehouse, and a number of business houses. There are two chartered banks, Hamilton and Union, and a private bank, V. H. Pickering & Co. The town has three elevators of large capacity, a flour mill, sash and door factory and a creamery. Minnedosa is a railway division point, with daily mails and trains east, west and south. The C. P. R. is enlarging its shops to a considerable size. The town is installing an electric light plant, which will be in operation next month. A company has also been formed to develop water power on the Little Saskatchewan, which, when utilized, will be a most important force, and will constitute a great inducement for the inaugurating of manufacturing businesses. The progress of the town is a most reliable index to the prosperity of the surrounding country. Here can be found as fertile and varied an agricultural district as any in the West. The surrounding country affords every advantage of sheltering bluff and an abundant supply of water. Success is almost the only result of settling on the fertile lands of this district. The district is gently rolling, black loam with clay subsoil, with small scrub in patches. Some good herds of stock are to be found here and the farm buildings are commodious and substantial. The Canadian Northern Railway runs to the north through the finest part of the country, and much available land yet remains. Wild and improved farms can always be had at moderate prices.

Among the leading business men of Minnedosa, the following may be mentioned: Mr. P. J. McDermott has the large departmental store. Mr. McDermott is one of the oldest residents of Minnedosa, and a man whose fair treatment and the knowledge of the reliability of his goods has gained for him the confidence of his many patrons. The stock carried is a large one and splendidly assorted. The goods are clean, fresh and demand the consideration of the most exacting customer. Mr. McDermott has a branch store at Franklin, and is establishing another at Clan William, to the north, to meet the many requirements of his trade.

Black Bros., the leading hardware merchants, carry a complete stock of hardware, paints, etc.; in fact, everything in their line. Black Bros.' success is due to the personal attention they give to the needs of their customers, and the fact that they are always busy is the best indication of their progressiveness.

Burgess & McQuarrie have a large furniture emporium, and carry a big stock of their line, containing as large an assortment as will be found in the West. The butcher shop conducted by this firm contains an excellent variety of meats of every description. A favorable feature noticed was the cleanliness of the store.



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S. Fairbairn is a man known far and wide. His reputation as the veteran trap-shot of Manitoba is still maintained whenever occasion demands. He is building a large new block, and expects to have his furniture store ready for fair week, and is also opening a new butcher shop, for which he has purchased every convenience, including a special refrigerator. Mr. Fairbairn also conducts an undertaking establishment.

Law is well represented by three firms: H. F. Maulson, who also represents some of the best-known loan companies and financial institutions in the country, as will be seen by the advertisement. He also has a large list of farms, and will be pleased to give any visitor what information he may require concerning the town and surrounding country.

Pearson & Noble, another law firm, have a large practice in the district. They also conduct a large real estate and money-lending business.

Hume B. Robinson is the third law firm in Minnedosa.

R. T. Butchart, the druggist, carries a complete stock of drugs of every description. He makes a specialty of his prescription trade, using only the purest of drugs, manufacturing the majority of preparations used himself.

D. G. Craig's boot and shoe store is prominently located on the main street, and presents a very neat appearance. Mr. Craig carries the largest stock of boots and shoes, and their quality can always be relied on. He also has a repairing shop in connection.

McQuarrie & McLean are the real estate dealers of Minnedosa. Both these gentlemen have had years of experience in this district, and are perfectly familiar with every acre of the land. Their advice can be absolutely relied upon, and they will be pleased to drive any intending purchaser over their property.