

Western Assiniboia

This region, which is fully equal to the Bow and Belly River District in Alberta as a stock country, is now attracting the attention it deserves, as attested by the large number of settlers that have taken up land during the past season. It is everywhere thickly covered with a good growth of nutritious grasses,—the grass is usually the short, crisp variety, known as "Buffalo Grass," which becomes to all appearances dry about mid-summer, but is still green and growing at the roots and forms excellent pasture both in winter and summer. It is amazing the rapidity with which poor emaciated animals brought from the East get sleek and fat on the Buffalo grass of the plains. The supply of timber on the hills is considerable. There is also an abundance of fuel of a different kind in the coal seams that are exposed in many of the valleys. Settlers in this section of the Company's lands have thus at hand an abundant supply of timber suitable for house logs and fencing, and both coal and wood for fuel.

The Cypress Hills Country

These hills, which may be dimly seen in the south from the Railway, are especially adapted for stock raising, and as their elevation is sufficient to make general farming an uncertainty, the grass land that nature has so bountifully provided will not likely be disturbed by the plow, thus giving to the farmer on the plains adjoining never failing hay meadows and unlimited pasture ground for his stock. The snow fall is light, the climate is tempered by the Chinook winds, and water and shelter are everywhere abundant.

Great herds of range cattle roam at will all over these seemingly boundless pastures. The profits to the stockmen are large as can be readily imagined when it is shown that \$12 per head was paid for steers on these ranges, animals that cost their owners only the interest on the original investment incurred in stocking the ranche, and their share in the cost of the annual round ups. Yearlings are now being sent into this country all the way from Ontario to fatten on the nutritious grasses of these Western plains, and it is reckoned that after paying cost of calf and freight for 2,000 miles, the profit will be greater than if these cattle had been fattened by stall feeding in Ontario. Everything seems to point towards this being the future fattening ground for cattle intended for European markets.

Settlements

The principal settlements are in the district south of Maple Creek, Dunmore and Medicine Hat. Parties in search of land, either for mixed farming or stock-raising, are advised to examine the country south-west of Swift Current Station, along the Swift Current Creek, south and west of Gull Lake, south of Maple Creek, the Valley of Mackay Creek that flows north from the Hills and south of Irvine and Dunmore.

A Farm Scene in Assiniboia.