

Alberta.

The Railway to Macleod.

From the Macleod Gazette.

On Thursday last the final rail was laid on the railroad between Calgary and Macleod, and the connecting iron link of civilization had stretched out a small feeler and with the result that our hitherto old time town is now a part and parcel of that vast system which is such a feature of this American continent. Until now we in Macleod have lived to a great extent cut off from the outside world almost as completely as Napoleon on the island of St. Helena. We have had an existence peculiar and original to the district we live in; it had its drawbacks, perhaps, but it had its charms also. Nestled almost in the shadow of the majestic Rocky Mountains, to the northwest the Porcupine Hills, rising gently far away into the horizon, to where the summits are crowned with a bristling top-knot of Oregon pines, and by the way, this we believe is the most easterly point where this species of the fir grows, to the south the solid line of the Milk River ridge forming a natural barrier between us and Montana, and rolling prairie everywhere else, such a situation forms a grand ground to work out the everyday problems of life, and so situated is Macleod. The large-hearted, free-handed generosity of the west is proverbial, but it is not strange, and living as we do in the closest association with the grandest scenery on the American continent, with a climate that is almost perfect, it would rather be strange if our ideas did not naturally expand with our surroundings. The C. and P. road is the first step in the direction of unfolding to the world the natural beauties and resources of Southern Alberta, and nature has been most bounteous in her dealings with this section. Hitherto it has necessitated a long and arduous journey, to say nothing of the expense, to get to Macleod at all; things are now changed; a delightful ride over an almost perfect road through the heart of a splendid farming and ranching country, and Macleod is within reach without any further trouble. What a difference this is, anyone who has travelled over the old route will understand.

Mining Matters in Alberta.

The Macleod Gazette in an article descriptive of a new find of precious minerals in the mountain district of Alberta says:

"It has for many years been supposed that the eastern slopes of the Rockies, in Southern Alberta, were deficient in the possession of the precious metals in any paying quantities, if, indeed, they were present at all. Why this should be we have always been at a loss to understand. Montana, as everybody knows, is one of the foremost mining states in America, if it does not actually top the tree. The mountains in that state fairly teem with wealth, to a certain point north, and there they are crossed by an imaginary boundary line. This line, in some inscrutable manner, has, one must believe, up-rooted and defied nature in such a way that, no matter that the lay of the country is the same, that the strata of the mountains is similar, the mere fact of mankind having decided that there should be an international boundary line between the United States and Can-

ada, has absolutely divided the natural resources of what are, to all intents and purposes the same country, into two distinct portions and apparently the division is such that the country to the south gets all the mineral wealth, and we to the north get none. That, we say is, apparently, the super-natural power this boundary line of human invention possesses. The chief reason for this idea is, we believe, owing to Prof. Dawson, the Dominion Geologist, who, in his original survey of this country, pronounced it to be, on account of the formation of the rocks, absolutely devoid of the precious metals. Prof. Dawson is, undoubtedly, a very clever man, but even the cleverest of us are liable to err, and the Prof., when he made that statement, was undoubtedly laboring under a delusion. True; heretofore nothing of any consequence has been found, but then a systematic search has never been undertaken. We are now positively able to state that a find has been made, and a very valuable one, too," etc.

The Gazette then goes on to paint in vivid colors the future of Macleod as a result of the development of this mining industry, and goes so far as to intimate that ranching will be secondary to it. The usual gush about, prosperity beyond our wildest dreams, is, of course, indulged in; prosperity that should it ever be experienced will turn the rest of the Dominion green with envy.

Westerners are nothing if not enthusiastic. Every discovery that is likely to open up new industries is hailed with great shouts and is made a subject of long discourses about new eras.

THE COLONIST will be sincerely glad if the Gazette's prophecies in this case come true, but we are inclined to think that the staid pursuits of cattle raising and agriculture will prove in the end to be of far more value than mining with its wild speculation and chronic instability.

Notes.

Two carloads of cattle are to be shipped from Pincher Creek to the old country.

Fifty-seven miles an hour were made on a part of the new railroad between Calgary and Macleod by a train lately.

Frank Richards, a prominent journalist, of London, England, is travelling in Western Canada writing up the country.

The Dominion Government has instructed its land agent at Edmonton to make a collection of the grains, grasses and vegetables of that district.

The second Sunday School Convention of the Northwest Territories is to be held at Regina on Wednesday and Thursday, October 26th and 27th.

Our Edmonton exchange is noticing the existence of a patch of Canadian thistles in that town says: "This is an immigrant that is not wanted, even though it comes from Ontario."

Edmonton Bulletin: "Alex McLeod, who arrived from Glengarry, Ont., a couple of weeks ago, has purchased a farm at St. Albert from E. Brousseau for \$900. The farm was formerly occupied by E. Beaupre.

A proclamation of the Lieut.-Governor authorizes the South Edmonton public school district to borrow \$300 to be used for the purpose of purchasing a school site and erecting thereon a school building.

A gang of men under D. McArthur are engaged in erecting poles and stringing wires for a telegraph line from Calgary to the new McLeod townsite. The work is progressing at the rate of two to three miles per day.

The fall meeting of the Southern Alberta Turf Association will be held in Macleod on Thursday, October 11th. The races are all running events and include a $\frac{1}{2}$ mile dash, a cowboy race, $\frac{1}{2}$ mile dash, 1 mile dash and a steeplechase. The purses amount to \$500.

Edmonton Bulletin: D. E. Noyes left for White Mud lake, near the Jasper House, with a train of pack horses, on Wednesday. Mr. Noyes reports moose and bear very numerous near the Jasper House this season, the Indians having killed 50 moose near his trading post. Not many bears have been killed yet as their fur is not prime, but a good killing will be made in the fall. The moose have been scarce in that district for some time past, and it is thought that the large number recently killed is due to a migration from some other region. The season has been dry near the Jasper House, and unless rain has fallen since Mr. Noyes left there will be great danger of fires this fall.

After an extended trip through Western Canada, Jas. Masson, M. P., of Owen Sound, Ontario, gave to the Times of that place an account of his trip. Of the Edmonton district he said: "At Edmonton Mayor McCauley, formerly of this neighborhood, entertained our party on behalf of the corporation. We were serenaded by a band, driven to the various points of interest and escorted across the Saskatchewan river on a ferry to visit the coal mines. From the banks of the river we viewed the bar where people who have nothing else to do can make from \$1 to \$2.50 per day washing gold from the sand. We then drove out into the country to see the rich agricultural products of the land, and for vigorous vegetable growth, the neighborhood surpasses anything in the Northwest, or in the Dominion for that matter. Among other market gardens that of D. Ross was visited and it was admitted by all members of the party that the products of Mr. Ross' place were much superior to anything that could be found in the older provinces. The coal mines are of an interesting character, the product being obtained from the side of the cliff where it is visible in a drift 4 feet thick. The coal is of a fine quality and sells in town for \$2.50 a ton."

What An American Paper Says.

The following from a recent issue of the Brooklyn Eagle should encourage us to expect the rapid settlement of Western Canada: "Immigration and normal increase have led to the taking up of practically all the land this government had to give away. The railroads have made possible the thing that our fathers believed to be improbable before the twenty-first century. The taking of all the better lands on our side of the border has diverted immigration into British America and the vast plains—even wider than our own and just as rich—of Manitoba, Kootenai, Saskatchewan, Assiniboia and Alberta will in the immediate future be occupied and made productive."