

unnumbered snow-clad peaks of the mountains shoot up into the clear air ten or twelve thousand feet above us, forming a spectacle, grand, sublime, magnificent, and well repaying a thousand miles' journey over the prairies! The splendid pine trees with which the mountains are adorned creep up the peaks until they are stopped by the glaciers and the eternal snow, and there is abundant interest for the lovers of botany and geology. One magnificent day spent among the crags and ravines of British Columbia, brought us to the beginning of the return journey, many of us carrying away specimens of rocks, ferns and other flora, including even the wild gooseberry, which we found flourishing not far below the snow level.

The eastern slopes and foothills of the Rockies and the adjacent prairies are destined soon to resound, as indeed they already do in part, to the lowings of herds and the bleatings of flocks, and they will become one of the most important cattle-raising districts on the American continent. But ranching has various disadvantages in its present condition, and cannot well prosper save under the personal supervision of an owner or owners. Hired men are apt to render only such an amount of work and care as they deem themselves amply paid for, and absentee ownership is not calculated, as things are, to meet with much success. A fruitful source of loss occurs in calves when branding time comes round, many of them passing then into the ownership which happens to be most vigilant; for, until they are branded, who can say to whom they belong, where cattle roam in common over millions of acres? Cattle that are out of condition when winter comes on are apt to perish in the cold, unless they are carefully fed and sheltered, and the Cochrane Ranching Company suffered severely one winter in this manner, with cattle that were out of condition after being driven northward from Montana, too late in the autumn. I am assured, however, that cattle in good condition to start with will stand the winter bravely, keeping on their flesh till long after Christmas. Grass, water, forage for hard winters, and shelter both natural and artificial, are indispensable to the continued success of a ranche. The winters vary in severity, so that the amount of provision to be made for stock, in the way of food and shelter, is always problematical; but the safe thing is to provide enough for any probable or possible contingency of weather, for an early winter and a late spring. It will thus be seen how necessary it is that an owner should be in residence at a ranche.

I am assured on good authority that fine crops of roots and oats can be grown with very crude cultivation, and that, even where the land in its natural state appears barren, maize and cereals prosper amazingly. The ranchers depend a great deal on the hay, which is self-curing, that is, on grass curing as it stands, to be consumed *IN SITU*; and it is a peculiarity of the native grass that it should cure in this way, providing frosts do not cut it down before it has had time to do so. Generally speaking, the cattle subsist very well through the winter on this self-cured hay, for the winds as a rule blow it bare of the dry snow; but when it happens to be deeply buried in snow, and remains so until the snow is frozen so as to resist the wind, then the cattle are in danger of perishing for want of food; and here it is that a supply of forage is so necessary and beneficent. Dairy farming, in connection more or less direct with ranching, will probably open out in Alberta, where, it is asserted, and, I think, not unfairly so, that the country possesses all the natural conditions essential to that business.

My impression is that the North-West of Canada presents an opening for pushing young men of good conduct, healthy, sober, thrifty and industrious. An extensive knowledge of British agricultural practices is not necessary to a farmer in the North-West, where farming is of the simplest imaginable character where ploughs are used at all. Capital is most useful in Canadian agriculture, and finds a better reward than in England, when it is in the hands of men who know how to use it. But even men of capital, and of experience in British farming, will be well advised not to embark at once in farming on their own account, but rather to hire themselves out to farmers already established, and thus to pick up tuition and cash at the same time. There is an old adage to the effect that "a man must pay for his learning." This, however, is not true in Canada, if men will hire themselves out as I have advised, for there A MAN IS PAID FOR HIS LEARNING, and does not pay for it himself. He should also look around the country north and south, and east and west, before he finally decides where to locate himself. Where land is so splendidly abundant, it is hardly worth his while to take hold of the first block he comes across. A new beginner in the North-West must make up his mind to "rough it" for a time, until he can get his domestic surroundings fixed up properly, to which end the energies of a wife would be well directed. He must also be prepared to work hard,