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Prince Edward Island Magazine

Vol. II

AUGUST, 1900

No. 6

The Star Hill Survey.

BY KATHERINE HUGHES.

THIS all happened in the West in the stage-coach days, when people went to pay calls at a distance in sail-boats or prairie-schooners.

Edgar Collett himself gave a friend of mine some of the facts. She understood some more, guessed a little, and Rosalie the Saulteau girl told her the rest. When Edgar Collett was trying to tell my friend as much as he did, she knew that he wanted her to help him in some way, for ordinarily he did not care to talk about himself; which was probably one reason he was reckoned the most entertaining man in their small colony of Eastern folk.

He was not a permanent resident in the colony. His duties—he was a civil engineer and Government land surveyor—took him camping out on the prairies or bush-country very often, and he made more frequent trips “back home” than the other men did. People said his visits were not always connected with the Department or his work—but that is scarcely here or there, as people will talk when a subject like Edgar Collett does not disarm them by talking himself.

He is a chief engineer in some part of Australia now. And the colony has been assimilated; people in it talk of the East instead of back home.

At one time in those early days Collett was sent by his Chief