

## From Moosejaw to Calgary

## NOTES OF A TRIP BY A COMMERCIAL REPRESENTATIVE.

The country lying to the west of Moose Jaw—the point to which a previous letter carried the reader in an imaginary trip over the C. P. R. reviewing business conditions along the line—is of a different character to that which lies between that point and Winnipeg on the east. That is to say it has different adaptations although to a casual eye it is much the same in appearance. Here it is that the great wheat fields which heretofore to the main line for hundreds of miles come to an end, and the great sister industry of stock farming assumes the ascendancy. It is true that as yet much of this land is not devoted to any use, and some of it because of physical disadvantages never will be, but nevertheless there are thousands

investment took place last year.

Maple Creek is a well known cattle centre, in fact one of the best known in all the range country. A good class of ranchers are settled in this locality, and after a number of years of hard fighting for the success of their chosen industry, they are now beginning to reap a just reward. Upwards of \$250,000 worth of cattle were shipped from this point last year, which was far in excess of anything the district had ever done before. Besides cattle ranching this has become a sheep ranching district of some importance. There are about fifteen sheep ranches in the neighborhood now, and the success which has attended the efforts of the owners of these in the past is encouraging others to engage in the industry. There is abundance of good pasture for all kinds of stock, both north and south of the town, and hundreds of times as many cattle as are now

is ready for occupation. This store has been fitted with every convenience possible in a place like Maple Creek. Mr. Claustro proposes adding still further to it in the near future. T. Coon is also in the general store business at this point. He bought out the business of W. F. Lawrence in April last and has carried it on ever since with very satisfactory results. J. A. Palmer is the latest addition to the trading community. He keeps a general store, the stock and building of which he moved here from Walsh not long ago. Mr. Palmer is well pleased with his business venture. W. F. Lawrence carries on a furniture and lumber trade at this point. R. H. Lithgow embarked in the hotel business last year, and opened a new house called the Ontario. He has experienced a very satisfactory run of business since opening. John H. Fleming is also in the hotel business with the Commercial



SCENE AT HULL'S RANCH, SOUTH OF CALGARY

upon thousands of acres of good pasture land lying in the neighborhood of the railway between Moose Jaw and the western boundary of Assiniboia which will some day nourish immense numbers of cattle and fit them for the markets of the east and west, while in the neighboring territory of Alberta there is an almost unbroken area of the finest pasture land right through to the Rocky Mountains.

Swift Current is the first station of importance after leaving Moose Jaw west-bound. Here quite a little town has sprung up, and in the cattle season there is considerable shipping done. The railway crosses Swift Current river a branch of the South Saskatchewan at this point. The distance from Winnipeg is 510 miles. The business community consists of three general stores, some smaller trading places and a hotel. Some growth in population and real

raised, could be easily supported in the district. The business community here is an active and energetic one. Dixon Bros. are the oldest traders and their business investment is very large. They have a fine brick store building three storeys in height, and comparatively new. Their stock of general goods is one of the largest in the Northwest Territories and is always being replenished with the latest and best in the various lines. The ranching trade demands a much better class of goods than the farming trade, as a rule, especially in the line of wearing apparel, and this firm's investment in such goods is very heavy. In addition to their store business Dixon Bros. also engage extensively in ranching. Jean Claustro is another leading general merchant. He, too, carries a large stock of goods which will be considerably augmented when his fine new stone store

House. Other lines of trade are well represented.

Medicine Hat is the next important point west. It is a railway divisional point, besides having extensive machine shops for the repair of rolling stock. The population is estimated at 1,000. That Medicine Hat is growing is apparent to the most careless observer. During the past year it has had a handsome new hotel added to its list of buildings and many smaller buildings for business and residential purposes. The new hotel is of solid brick, three storeys high, with basement, and is fitted with all that is necessary in a first class house. H. H. Ross is the proprietor. The other hotels here are the Cosmopolitan and the American. It will give an idea of the size of the business community of this town to mention the fact that there are upwards of forty different concerns doing business. Of these