

Northwest are beginning to see the great value of this annual gathering and exhibit.

To the visitor from other lands we would say, that the best time in the year to visit the Northwest is about the time of the Exhibition being open, which is always at the end of July. At this gathering the visitor can see collected together the evidences of the great possibilities of the prairie land, and take from it a guidance to himself during his travels through the country.

In issuing the panoramic number as a souvenir of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition of 1894, it is only justice to say that the thanks of everyone interested in the Northwest is due to the Board of the Exhibition Association for the untiring and intelligent work done during the past few years, and to offer congratulations upon the success of the Exhibition in 1894.

IN THE MOUNTAINS.

ONCE clear from Calgary the traveller leaves the prairie land, and as he glides up the gradual ascent of the C. P. R. the white capped peaks of the Rockies draw nearer and nearer. The little town of Morley is reached and still the line of travel lies through green grassy hills. Herds of horses, cattle and sheep are to be seen on all sides, while the hills get more abrupt in their rising. An hour or so after leaving Morley the train rushes seemingly against a high and almost perpendicular wall of rock, then turns around gliding through a natural gateway with colossal rocky pillars on each side, between which the Bow river issues from the mountains. Up this valley for half an hour of travel and the prairie, the low hilly grazing lands and all signs of fertility are gone, the traveller is in the rugged mountain country, and he sees around only rocks and boulders, with a perspective on all sides of tall mountains with snowy peaks and snow streaked shoulders.

There is scenery enough of a rugged mountain character in what might be called the Canadian Rockies, meaning from the prairie edge on the east to the Frazer Valley on the west, to make a dozen Switzerlands, and through the different ranges, the Rockies, the Selkirks, the Gold range and the Cascades, the ever changing beauty of the rugged scenery leaves no time for wearying. This first mountain valley is as beautiful as any on the route, and as the Gap station is passed, and the view of the "Three Sisters" becomes more clearly outlined the scene is enchanting and the few miles onward to the mining town of Canmore brings the traveller to the point, where can be had the finest view of these triplet mountains, which can be seen among the illustrations in this issue. But we must forget scenery for a time, while we interest ourselves a little in the mines of Canmore and the adjacent town of Anthracite.

CANMORE.

This little town nestling in the valley and surrounded by high mountains on all sides is destined soon to become one of the most important mining points in Canada. Here a bituminous coal is being mined which has no superior, and perhaps no equal on the continent of North America. For a number of years attempts at mining and marketing this valuable coal were made,

mostly by unpractical parties, and results for a time were not satisfactory. About three years ago the mines here and at Anthracite some ten miles further west on the C. P. R. line came into the hands of a company under the management of Mr. H. W. McNeil a man of long mining experience, and possessed of enterprise and power of conception such as are bestowed upon few men. Under his management coal mining became a live and profitable industry in these places. A market was soon opened as far east as Winnipeg, and later on westward to the Pacific coast as far south as San Francisco, and still later through the state of Montana eastward into North Dakota. With these markets opened the capacity of output at both places had to be doubled nearly two years ago, and for the present season, this enlarged capacity had to be doubled again, until last season the output reached in the neighborhood of 60,000 tons, which will be greatly increased this year. Yet with all the increased capacity Mr. McNeill will not be in a position to invade any new markets this year, as his present fields will tax the capacity of both mines to their utmost.

It is a fact worthy of note, that the coal from Canmore is the only fuel mined on this continent, which has stood the necessary tests, and is used by the British war-ships on the Pacific coast. Mixed with the Anthracite coal from Anthracite it is the fuel now used on the C. P. R. through all its mountain division and away east on the prairie division, and it is only a question of time until the coal from these two points will crowd every ton of imported coal out of the whole prairie country as far east as the valley of the Red river.

The quality of coal mined at Canmore is a very high grade bituminous which burns almost smokeless. It possesses 87 per cent. of a basis of carbon, and contains less moisture than any coal of its class yet mined in Canada.

This town and Anthracite are inseparably connected in an industrial sense, although the class of coal mined at the two towns is entirely different. Anthracite coal is what it is named, and in quality equals the finest produced in Pennsylvania. It possesses 93 per cent. of a basis of carbon, and is almost entirely free from moisture, and almost as destitute of sulphur. Each season as the seam is penetrated deeper the coal improves in quality, and becomes harder and freer from dross and dust. Two years ago there was a heavy loss in crushing it to produce the different sizes of pea, nut, stove and egg coal, but this season it stands the crushing much better, and leaves a small residue of dust and dross.

The magnitude which the coal industry has assumed at these two points may be guessed at, when it is known, that over 500 miners are employed at the mines of both, and still the supply of coal available at both points has as yet scarcely been touched. Only a little nibbling, so to speak, on the edges of the great seams has as yet been done.

Before leaving Canmore it is necessary to refer to the group of pillar-like natural monuments close to the station, called by some the Hoodoos. At a distance these columns look like structures built by men, but a closer view shows that they are natural monuments, which have stood the beat of many a storm. Their appearance can be better comprehended by a look at the illustration in this number, than by anything that can be written about them. From Canmore to Anthracite the valley gradually narrows, and at the latter place, is only some three miles or so in width, and here the visitor