



EDITORIAL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1899.

CANADIAN PRESS ASSOCIATION EXCURSION.

Trip through Ontario, Manitoba the Territories and British Columbia.

Our Superintendent, Mr Robt Mathison, who is an old and honorary member of the Canadian Press Association, participated in the Association's holiday trip to the Pacific Coast, and he has furnished us with the following information relative to the jaunt

The excursion party was composed of about one hundred active and honorary members of the Association and a more wide awake, intelligent, observant and jovial lot of men it would be impossible to find anywhere. Nor was there lacking the charm of female society, for several of the members were accompanied by their wives and daughters, whose presence, and that of several lady journalists, contributed not a little to the enjoyment of the trip. The start was made from Toronto on August 8th, at 1 p.m., per Grand Trunk Railway, to North Bay, where the Canadian Pacific Railway was taken. At Gravenhurst a delay of a few hours occurred, whence the party enjoyed a delightful sail on the Muskoka Lakes as the guests of Mr. A. P. Cockburn, Manager of the Muskoka Navigation Co. Port Arthur, the silver gateway of the west, was reached on the 10th, where the excursionists had their first delightful experience of the boundless, whole hearted hospitality of the west, which was so generously extended to them throughout the whole trip. Several hours were spent in viewing the splendid scenery in and around Port Arthur and Fort William, including the far famed Kakabeka Falls. In the evening a reception was tendered the excursionists by the residents of Port Arthur, all of whom, and especially Mayor Marks, and friend D. F. Burke, were assiduous in their attentions. At Rat Portage, which was reached on Friday morning, the visitors were taken in charge by Mayor McArthur and a local reception committee. The day was spent in sailing about the Lake of the Woods, per steamer Koonora, among the places of interest visited being the Sultana, the Mikado and other famous gold mines, where the processes of milling the ore and of gold extraction in all its stages were inspected. At Winnipeg elaborate preparations had been made for the reception of the party. Mayor Andrews and several other representatives of the city council and the local pressmen met the excursionists at Rat Portage and accompanied them to Winnipeg, where a busy and most enjoyable day was spent. A special train of electric cars, gaily decorated with flags, conveyed the party to the Government House, where they were received by His Honor Lieutenant Governor Patterson, who was assisted in the absence of Mrs. Patterson, by Mrs. Hugh John Macdonald. Afterwards some hours were spent in viewing the legislative buildings, the fort and barracks and other places of interest. In the evening the visitors were tendered a bouctuous and well appointed banquet by the city in Rivor Park, a beautiful pleasure ground some three miles from the city, and the hours till midnight were spent in warmly worded speeches of welcome and felicitous responses to appropriate toasts. On Monday morning the visitors bade good-bye to the prosperous and hospitable western capital, and the next stop was made at

Portage la Prairie, where four hours were allowed for a drive among the wheat fields, which are the pride and wealth of the Prairie Province, and which, with all their wealth of golden grain, "stretch in airy undulations far away" to the utmost limits of the encircling vastness. At Brandon a visit was paid to the Experimental Farm and the Indian Industrial School, and at Regina, the next stopping place, the visitors were hospitably entertained by Lieutenant-Governor Forget.

Calgary was reached on Wednesday and a few hours were spent in viewing this beautiful and progressive city which, standing as a sentinel at the gateway of the mountains, has before it a glorious future. It was circus day in town and the place was thronged with Indians from far and near, so the excursionists had an excellent opportunity of observing this feature of our citizenship. A day and two nights were spent at Banff, and this was devoted to viewing the magnificent scenery thereabouts. The adjacent mountains were scaled, the buffalo herd admired, the sulphur and hot springs sampled and bathed in and a delightful time spent in this prince of watering places. Brief stops were made at Laggan, Field, Glacier and other places, and every facility was afforded for viewing the matchless panorama of nature's sublimest efforts and of man's all conquering skill to be witnessed in a trip from Banff to the Pacific Coast. Vancouver was reached on Sunday afternoon. A couple of days were spent in enjoying the hospitality and viewing the many interesting sights in and around the Queen city of the west. On Monday afternoon a trip was taken to Victoria per Government steamer Quadra. On Wednesday the party returned to Vancouver, there they remained a day and then left on Thursday forenoon for Revelstoke, Arrowhead and Rossland, visiting various mines, more particularly the famous War Eagle mine where each of the excursionists was presented with specimens of the ores—in fact most members of the party brought back home with them quite a large assortment, of ores culled from various mines, and some of the ladies rose and small pieces of pure virgin gold. In Rossland various places of interest were visited, and on Saturday evening Nelson was reached where the visitors were tendered a magnificent banquet by the Board of Trade and City Council, presided over by Mayor Neelands. This was one of the pleasiest and most enjoyable functions of the trip. This whole district, with Rossland and Nelson as the centres, is now one hive of industry. The mountains are being tunneled in every direction and every day thousands of tons of rich ore are dumped into the smelters which have been erected at several mining centres. The work of development and exploitation, however, has only just begun. There is reason to believe that all Southern British Columbia is a veritable store house of nature's richest treasures, totalling untold millions in aggregate amount, and from thence will no doubt flow, for many decades yet to come, a steady and ever increasing stream of purest gold into the coffers of the world's exchanges. On Sunday evening the excursionists took the steamer to Kootenay Landing and thence the Crow's Nest Railway to the main line. At Fort William the party separated, some returning via the lakes and others by train. The whole journey was completed without an accident or an unpleasant incident, and this was the most enjoyable and instructive trip ever taken by the Association. To the Canadian Pacific Railway, which is beyond a doubt one of the best managed, as it is the greatest railway in the world, every credit must be given for the splendid service provided, and the thanks of the excursionists are especially due to Mr. A. E. LaLonde, the courteous representative of the Canadian Pacific Railway, who accompanied the party throughout the whole trip and was most assiduous in providing for the comfort and safety of his guests. He carried out all his instructions implicitly and speedily became a general favorite and was unanimously voted a right jolly good fellow. The Grand Trunk Railway Co. with its wonted courtesy and liberality also assisted by providing free transportation to North Bay. President W. S. Dingman and Secretary Cooper, also exerted themselves to the utmost to enhance

the comfort and pleasure of all on board, and succeeded.

The following telegram expressed the sentiments of every one of the party

W. S. DINGMAN, Assistant General Manager Canadian Pacific Railway

One of the members of the Canadian Press Association, who is deeply indebted to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company for the unerring and most hospitable which has made their trip one of the most interesting and pleasant of all their outings.

The ease and comfort with which the trip from coast to coast is attended in the cars and in the Canadian Pacific Railway hotels through every one of the provinces is a triumph for Canadian skill and enterprise, second only to the famous and conquering victories attained in the building of the greatest scale and developing line in America.

W. S. DINGMAN, President Canadian Press Association

Mountain Ride to Greenwood, British Columbia

OUR SUPERINTENDENT TAKES A STAGE TRIP

While on the Press Association excursion during vacation, Superintendent Mathison enjoyed, or rather endured an unique experience, and one that he hopes never to repeat. On the trip he left the excursionists at Revelstoke and branched off to Rossland, and then on to Bossburg in Washington State, where he took the stage for Greenwood, in Southern British Columbia. The distance is sixty five miles, making 130 miles for the round trip, and though Mr. Mathison has traveled extensively in many parts of the world and has endured many trying experiences, this stage coach ride of 130 awful, interminable miles crowned them all for wearisome discomfort. The stage was constructed with a view to durability rather than comfort and convenience, while the road was composed alternately of mud and dust and ruts and boulders of varying magnitude, but of unvarying hardness and solidity. Much of the journey was up and down steep mountains and along precipitous crags with towering rocks above and terrible abysses beneath, and where the swerving of the stage a few feet would have sent it and all it contained crashing into the valleys hundreds of feet below. The only redeeming feature of the drive was the sublimity and beauty of the scenery which in ever changing loveliness unfolded itself in magnificent panorama. At Greenwood Mr. Mathison spent a few pleasant days with his son, Dr. Robert Mathison, and his charming wife. Dr. Mathison has established a good practice in this progressive town, which is bound to become in the near future an important mining and industrial centre. It is situated about seven miles from the International boundary and is beautifully located in a valley at the base of several mountains, upon whose summits and slopes are the mining camps of the district. It is in the centre of what is known as the Boundary Creek Mining District, a tract of country some twenty miles square, consisting of a series of low rounded hills, seldom reaching an altitude of 5000 feet. These peaks are well timbered, and numerous small streams afford water for mining purposes. The whole district is rich in gold, silver and copper, and its possibilities are almost limitless and with the recent advent of the railway and smelter the attention of the whole mining world is directed that way. Railroad construction is now being pushed in every direction and each camp will soon be supplied with shipping facilities. Greenwood, the metropolis of this district was founded in 1891, and has now a population of 2500. At least that was the number of inhabitants a few weeks ago but it is difficult to tell how many there may now be, for the rapidity of its progress can be imagined from the fact that its population has doubled within the past six months. It has two newspapers, several good hotels, sawmills and brickyards, a large number of business firms, including several wholesale establishments and is adequately supplied with banks, insurance agencies, professional service and all the other necessities and conveniences of municipal life. The

next day Mr. Mathison goes to the wool it will be in a Pullman. Chief Engineer Tye says the Pacific Railway will be completed that place about the end of the

What the Country has Done for Him.

A YOUNG SCOTCHMAN

Superintendent Mathison's institution, was one of the Press Association party to visit the Experimental Farm near Brandon in August. Needless to say the farm was a revelation to all who had not been sure of going through the ground. It is a credit to the resident manager also to the Dominion Superintendent of Experimental Farms. But that is another story. Mr. Mathison was fortunate in getting a front seat in the conveyances during the trip. He was a respectable young Scotchman who had entered into conversation with me in regard to the country and matters generally concerning it. He speaks of Scotch and was asked a few questions which he answered as follows:—

Mr. M.—"Do you like this country?"

Young Scotchman—"I have no reason to like the country and be satisfied with my coming here."

Mr. M.—"Why do you say you have no reason to be satisfied with coming here?"

Y. S.—"Well, I am employed and have had continuous work since I came to Manitoba at \$25 a month on the board. The master I am with has a large livery and salestable in Brandon and he sends me out with some of the travellers into the adjoining towns and villages, and sometimes I am away a week or ten days on a trip. When we get back or during the journey they generally give me a little extra work, they have to pay for the conveyance and this, added to my wages, has saved, and a few years ago I purchased 320 acres of land twenty five miles south, on time, at \$10 an acre, which I am making payments for. I do not work the land myself as I am engaged here, but I arranged with another man to do so on shares mutually satisfactory to us both. Last year I put up a small comfortable house, granary and one or two other necessary buildings. I also bought a team of horses, some cattle, implements, etc., that were required, all of which are paid for. This year we have on the ground 180 acres of splendid wheat which we expect will turn out 80 to 40 bushels to the acre and bring the highest price. I was a balance on my farm of nearly half cost price, but with this year's crop I think I will nearly clear off the debt. I was a farm hand and herded sheep on my native hills, and I would have been a long time in the old country before I could own such a farm, and that is the reason I said I am well satisfied about my coming to this country."

Mr. M.—"Have you visited the old Country since you first came out?"

Y. S.—"Yes, I went home about two years ago to see my friends and enjoyed my visit very much, but hankered for the prairies of the west, and could not content myself to live there again."

Mr. M.—"Did you advise any of your old friends to come to this country?"

Y. S.—"Yes, I had many young men who were working on farms in Scotland and I asked them about this country and to some of them who were steady and industrious I gave encouraging accounts of the place and advised them to come out; to those that I know were lazy and shiftless and no-or-do well, I did not give the same encouragement, for they men have no business here. I had five young fellows took my advice, two of them are located within a short distance of Brandon and have no reason to regret their coming, the others have gone farther west and I hear from them to time from them that they are prospering and well pleased with the country."

Mr. M.—"Do you purpose visiting Scotland again in the near future?"

Y. S.—"Well, I love the home of my father's, but I am a good Canadian now. When my farm is free of debt I intend to go back, for there is a high Scotch law over there waiting for me, and we shall come out together some time."