

with cattle, sheep and horses. Dr. Barnado sends out annually about 100 boys who after being kept on the farm for six or eight months, and initiated into the mysteries of agriculture, are provided by the manager, Mr. Struthers, with suitable situations. The creamery in connection with the Baanado Home is fast gaining a good reputation for the quality of butter it turns out, having captured a prize at the Provincial Exhibition held in Winnipeg. The county of Russell also captured first and second prizes for cheese at the same Exhibition. The harvest in the vicinity of Russell this season was most bountiful and the quality left nothing to be desired.

During the winter of 1881 and '82, Oak Lake, then known as Flat Creek, presented a lively and business-like appearance; the reason being that it was the western terminal point of the then being constructed Canadian Pacific railway, and all supplies for the rapid advancement of the work during the next summer was kept at Oak Lake. It could then boast of a station, a few tents and acres upon acres of railway supplies. The usual scenes incident to rapid railway construction and opening up of the country was witnessed with a vengeance in Oak Lake. The minister of the gospel heralding forth the glories of the Christian religion was often interrupted by the cursing and swearing of a drunken navvy, or by the call of a partner at poker, or by the participants in a game of euchre saying that "spades, clubs, hearts or diamonds," as the case might be, were trump, intermingled with, "That is my trick;" and by way of emphasizing this scientific jargon an oath of greater or lesser extent was introduced. But the "scene has changed." The railway was completed to points further west. Trains, instead of stopping at Oak Lake, dashed past with their loads of freight and supplies, and the reaction which follows abnormal business and growth was felt in Oak Lake, as in many other places in Manitoba. The struggle came. "The survival of the fittest" was the natural result and Oak Lake was one of the fittest and it had reason to be. For a few years the growth was slow. The land was not very well cropped or taken up. Some of the pioneer prophets and railway men stated that the wheat belt did not extend west of Brandon. This delayed the progress of some of our now fast rising towns and villages. But the idea was a mistaken one. The surrounding country of Oak Lake was found to be second to none for grain producing; and to-day we find the name of Oak Lake is known well and favorably throughout Manitoba as one of the finest parts of Manitoba.

Napinka is the name of a new town, situated on the Brandon Souris branch, 59 miles south-west of Brandon, and 20 miles north-west of Deloraine. It is steadily growing into place of importance, being in the centre of a fine farming country, well settled, and well supplied with wood and water. At present it is unconnected with the Deloraine branch railway, but the grading to connect the South-western line with the Souris branch at Napinka is about half completed, and when this is accomplished it will add considerably to the ease with

which travellers can reach Napinka, and afford a choice of routes. The site is high and dry, near the river Souris, and an abundance of good water is got at from 12 to 20 feet. Conservative estimates place the amount of grain to be marketed there at 250,000 bushels of good quality.

Encounter With the Sioux.

In the vicinity of Pilot Mound a few half-breeds are still living who, many years ago, witnessed one of the most terrific battles that ever took place with that most warlike of all the Indian tribes, the Sioux, or as the natives term them the "Shoos." A party of nearly seven hundred half-breeds were hunting buffalo, with much success, in the Souris country about a hundred miles west of this place, and knowing that they were on dangerous ground an exceedingly sharp lookout was kept. Mounted scouts were sent daily in all directions to seek for traces of the dreaded enemy, but no sign was discovered, nevertheless, the utmost vigilance was exercised. When not on the move, the carts were placed closely in a circle and the wheels firmly tied together. The shafts were raised in an upright position so that the bodies of the carts formed a very good barricade. Sentinels were placed on guard. The hunters slept on their buffalo robes without undressing, with powder and bullets on hand and their loaded guns beside them. It was necessary that the horses used for running the buffalo during the day should be permitted to feed on the prairie during the night, so as to be ready for use when required. Notwithstanding all watchfulness the hostile Indians became aware, from the number of buffalo heads scattered on the plain over a vast extent of country, that a large number of hunters were operating somewhere along the river and preparations were made for an attack. About a thousand armed Sioux assembled, concealing themselves during the day, and by advancing only in the darkness, they succeeded in approaching the camp of the buffalo hunters at night without exciting alarm or letting their advance be known. Just at break of day when everyone but those on guard were sound asleep, a rush was made accompanied by the dreadful war whoop of a thousand blood thirsty and frantic savages. The horses that were outside were stampeded at once; the sentinels were driven in or shot and scalped as they tried to escape. The camp of the hunters was immediately in an uproar, but the intense danger made every man cool. The half-breed hunters were on their feet in a moment with their loaded guns in their hands, and as the Sioux tried to break through the line of carts on every side they were shot by the score. As the wheels were tied together on the inside of the ring it was difficult for the Indians to reach the bindings, which were of green buffalo hide that had become hard as iron by the heat of the sun and would neither cut or untie, consequently all the efforts of the Sioux to make an opening in the barricade failed. Many of the hunters fell in the defense, and wounded horses, frantic with pain, leaped against the carts and in a manner aided the enemy by trying to break through. Again and again the Sioux charged

but were always repulsed with great loss, for while the hunters had shelter, of rather a temporary kind, the Indians were constantly exposed to the rapid and deadly fire of the buffalo hunters. The battle continued at intervals until about noon, when the Sioux withdrew, driving away all the fine hunting horses amounting to several hundred. Perhaps an effort would have been made to prevent this had not the supply of powder possessed by the hunters been exhausted, and if the conflict had continued for a short time longer the half-breeds would have been helpless. While the terrible battle was in progress, the large number engaged in the strife, the demoniac yells of the Indians, the flashing of the guns, the plunging of the wounded horses, the falling of the dead and dying, the fierce and unrelenting strife of an almost hand to hand fight with the nimble and cat-like Indians, made the engagement one of the most terrible of which there is any record.—*Exchange.*

A Great Country.

Mr. N. B. Gauvreau, who has been exploring hitherto unknown portions of British Columbia, during the summer in conjunction with the Messrs. Poudrier, is now in New Westminster, says an exchange from that province. His season's operations, while barren of startling adventures or thrilling incidents of any kind, have been eminently successful. During the year, 23,000 square miles of new territory have been explored, bounded on the north by the 54th parallel, on the east by the Fraser River, on the north and northeast by the Rocky mountains, and on the west by the watershed of the Skeena, and including the country watered by the Parsnip and the Findley Rivers, which unite to form the Peace, and the great Omineca mining district. In the latter many fine specimens of rich ore were secured, and many miners were met with who expressed themselves as well satisfied with the summer's carving on the New Creek. During Mr. Gauvreau's travels he passed through two especially fine valleys—the Watsonkwa and the Endako—which are easily reached, being on the old Western Union trail, and which are said to surpass in loveliness all other portions of British Columbia. The whole Omineca district is reported to be rich in mineral wealth, showing well for both gold and silver; and many fine specimens from both quartz and placer claims were brought down for assay.

Started on Fourteen Dollars.

The Brandon *Sun* says: "As an instance of what can be done by pluck and perseverance, together with careful management, the case of Mr. E. Cleveland, of Rounthwaite, is interesting. This year Mr. Cleveland has 4,500 bushels of the very highest grade of grain. The whole of this crop was sown and harvested by himself with the aid of three small horses. The only outlay for wages was about \$37.50 during harvest. He has sold 1,500 bushels and from this realized enough to pay all his debts, leaving him a snug balance to pay current expenses. The balance of the crop he is storing and will not sell until spring. On the whole this record is hard to beat. Mr. Cleveland started in 1881 with \$14."