

in such numbers that the bridge had to be opened in order to let them through. Choice is permitted as to whether one believes the story or not. They, however, expect you to believe that at times the water rises owing to the enormous number of fish in the river. And a Presbyterian clergyman, whose veracity admits of no discount, assured me that he saw them so thick in one of the coast streams as to impede each others progress, and that he caught them easily with his hands. The wickedness of the mosquito in the Fraser Valley one is apt to remember. I was not surprised to read a few days ago that a settlement of some twenty families was literally driven out of Chilliwack by the vicious little creatures that swarmed in millions, and stung, till life there became intolerable.

The journey across British Columbia takes some 32 hours. To get a fair idea of the country and its varied scenery one should take the journey in stages. The splendid courage of those who designed and undertook the construction of the railroad can only be appreciated after one has seen the difficulties with which they had to contend. The work was well done, and the road is maintained in splendid condition. The train employees are picked men, their evident efficiency gives confidence to the timid traveller and their attention and courtesy should satisfy the most exacting. At such points along the road as Ashcroft, where one disembarks for the Cariboo country, Revelstoke and Golden, that are the gateways, to the Kootenay, Donald a divisional point and Kamloops the largest town in Central British Columbia, courts might be established, and although the population is of a floating character members of the Order would, while changing their habitations, retain their connection with the I. O. F. and in all probability be the means of introducing it in other places. The number heading for the gold regions was considerable and increasing. Every person you meet in British Columbia is ready to discuss mining, and I surprised some old acquaintances when I told them I did not invest in any mining stock. The desire to invest is assumed to be present with every visitor—the ability to do so is not to be taken for granted so readily, especially if one is on the home journey; I may say that I was eastward bound when the golden possibilities of the country were presented to me. British Columbia must indeed be rich if all the promises made by mining speculators are even partially fulfilled.

**BANFF.**—The Dominion National Park is gaining a deserved reputation for its famous hot sulphur springs of great curative qualities, magnificent climate, and grand scenery.

There are well made roads and many delightful drives; and the C. P. R. Hotel and Sanitarium afford excellent accommodation. Some day when the population of the Dominion and North-western States is many millions more than it is; when wealth is greater and more generally distributed, and travel less expensive, thousands will frequent this park with its snow-crowned

mountains, great rivers, mineral springs, pine forests, and fertile valleys. I spent the 30th July in Banff; saw all the members of the Court—the number is not large. They have a fine hall, with the name in good clear letters over the door. Dr. Brett, C.P., Bros. Woodworth, C.D., and Paris, F.S. are zealous officers, and with the growth of the place the court is sure to grow.

CANMORE is some miles east of Banff. It is a mining and lumbering town of considerable promise. The Court, I am told is doing well, and as my time was limited I kept on, reaching CALGARY, the chief town of Alberta early on the morning of the 31st July. The town is prettily situated on the Bow River. It is well built, many of the houses are of stone, easily procured from quarries in the neighborhood. Calgary is the centre of the ranching country, on every side are large herds of several thousand heads. Some of the ranchers are making wealth. Like every other business, it requires knowledge and care, and those who counted on success without either, learned them by a somewhat expensive experience, those unwilling to learn have gone out, or are going out of the business. Ranching on an extensive scale will not build up a country as it implies a sparse population.

The people of Calgary are interested in irrigation to compensate for rain and make agriculture a success. It is being tried on a small scale and with encouraging success. The court in Calgary is the strongest in the territories. The membership is upwards of 100 and includes many of the leading men of the place. Bro. Daughy, F.S. "took me round"—and it seemed to me that every other man was a brother Forester.

In the course of the day Bro. McGregor, of Molson's Bank and Bro. Myers, Q.C., F.H.C. R. drove me round, and I got a fair idea, not only of the town, but of the rich country surrounding it. In the evening we had a well attended meeting. At its close I gave the High Court degree to the members of the High Court present, among whom were Bros. Linton, H.T., Van-Wort, H.V.R., and Bro. Riddle.

The I.O.F. is to the front in Calgary. To the north lies Edmonton and Red Deer where we have courts. The long distance and the limited train service forbade a visit.

MACLEOD lies over 100 miles to the south of Calgary. I reached it by a branch line of the C.P.R. about noon, Aug. 1st. A deputation from the court and the Rev. Mr. Hamilton met me at the station some two miles from the town. In the manse I found Mrs. Hamilton, a former member of my congregation in Toronto, presiding with hospitable grace. In the evening there was a well attended meeting of the court. The business was carried on in an admirable manner. The officers appear to take pride and pleasure in their duties, and I do not know that I ever met a court better up in the work than Court Chinook. The Secretary Bro. Bryan keeps a letter book, the Treasurer, Mr. Gardner, duplicates of his deposit slips, the Chief Ranger Bro. Saunders, Inspector Mounted Police, knows his ritual better than