

Unhealthy Feathers.

Feathers are very largely handled as an article of commerce, being frequently sold by the ton, and shipped thousands of miles from sources of supply to markets where they are in demand. In this country there are few houses in which feathers are not used to some extent, usually in the form of feather pillows, and also as feather mattresses, comforters, etc. A great many people buy the raw or uncleaned feathers and prepare them themselves, the cleaning process being more or less imperfect. Feathers contain a large quantity of animal matter, besides dirt and foreign substances which get mixed up with them. The animal matter is contained largely within the quills. Feathers require to be thoroughly cleansed from this animal matter before they are healthy and suitable for family use. This can only be done by quite an intricate process of banding, so that feathers, as they are generally prepared by private parties, are unfit for use.

The Dominion Feather Co has recently been established in Winnipeg, in connection with the tent, awning and mattress factory of D Hope & Co. This company has the cold and hot blast process in use, which it is claimed is the most perfect way of cleaning and handling feathers. It frees the feathers from all dust, animal matter, etc., and makes them thoroughly clean, odorless, and light. The feathers, which at first are matted, come out light, dry and nicely curled. The quills are also separated by this process, and the feathers are classified and separated according to quality, the highest grade being pure white down, and down to the coarsest grades. About a dozen different grades are thus made. The quills are put through another process which makes them valuable for commoner grades of pillows, etc.

The Dominion Feather Co. is said to be the only one in Canada using this process, and they are meeting with a demand for their goods from the east. The feathers are sold in bulk by the pound, ranging from 10 cents up to \$1.50 per pound as to quality. They are also used in various articles manufactured on the premises, such as pillows, comforters, cushions, etc. These are manufactured in various grades including silk and satens, which are very handsome, and also in commoner goods. The comforters are exceeding light, but are claimed to be warm or than most heavy coverings. The finest goods are filled with pure down, including pillowcases, chairrugs, &c.

To show that feathers are unhealthy,

as often used, it may be stated that the odor coming from them during the renovating process, is almost unbearable.

The company will shortly move to the building on Thistle street, formerly occupied by the Ames Holden Co., where they will have better conveniences than their present location affords.

Developing the West

A section of country which has come into prominence during the last year or two is that portion of Alberta served by the Calgary and Edmonton railway. The railway between Edmonton on the North Saskatchewan river and Calgary was completed late in the summer of 1891, so that it may be said that the past year is the first in which the country was open for settlement. Already, however, a large number of settlers have gone into the district. The excellent nature of this region has been known for years, and it only required railway development to bring it to the front. Towns have already grown up along the line, the principal points being Olds, Innisfail, Red Deer, Wetaskawin and Edmonton. At the latter place, which is on the North Saskatchewan river, a settlement has existed for years, settlers having gone in via the river route and formed quite a thriving community.

The southern extension of this railway from Calgary to Macleod, was completed during the past season. The principal points along the southern line are Sheep Creek, High River and Macleod. This portion of the road runs through the famous ranching country of southern Alberta. The northern section is better adapted to general farming. A new-process flour mill has been established at Edmonton. There are also saw mills at Edmonton and Red Deer. Coal exists at points along the road and is mined at Edmonton, whence it is shipped to points south as far as Calgary.

The railway has a land grant of 3,000,000 acres of land, which is being disposed of at reasonable prices and terms. Oiler, Hammond & Nanton, of Winnipeg, have charge of the company's land business. They are disposing of the land at \$3 per acre, except land which is in close proximity to railway stations. The terms are one-fifth cash, and nine years are allowed for the balance. That gives settlers a liberal chance to get ahead and own fine farms of their own. A considerable quantity of land has been sold the past season to settlers who came from the State of Nebraska. They are a good class of settlers, possessing some means, and also a

knowledge of west-ern farming modes. The company also owns a number of town sites along the road. In the town town of Wetaskawin, started last July, over 20 lots have already been sold. The company has erected large hotels at the two terminal points—Edmonton and Macleod.

The Leland House.

For nearly ten years this hotel has been a popular house, under the management of Capt. W. D. Douglas, the lessee, whose name is a guarantee for good treatment with the travelling commercial public over the northern portion of this continent. For a year a series of improvements upon and additions to this house have been going on, and now that they are almost completed, the house from the outside would be difficult to recognize by a person who had been two years absent from the city, and made no attempt at recognition need be attempted.

As stated, this house will be finished with all the work of additions, renovations and refurnishing soon, say about March 15th, and then a more minute description of the house will appear in THE COMMERCIAL. In the meantime a few facts and figures placed in a condensed form may be of interest to a large number of the readers of this journal.

The Leland has now six floors and a basement, and has about 120 dormitories with aggregate accommodation for about 200 guests. There are general bathrooms on every floor, numbering 20, while fifteen of the bed rooms have private bathrooms connected. On the street floor are the magnificent rotunda and offices with their tiled floor, the reading room, the ladies' entrance and reception room, the elevator, the lavatories, and the bar in the rear. On the second floor are the general and the ladies' parlors, besides a number of private parlors and suites of rooms.

A new feature of the reorganized Leland is the dining room on the fourth floor from the street and the kitchen arrangements on the same level. The dining room is one of the finest in Canada, 96 by 36 feet in floor area, brilliantly lighted and finished off with polished wood floor, wainscoting, pillars and ceiling. At this altitude the guests in their rooms and the parlors will not be annoyed with kitchen aroma, which is a positive nuisance in some really fine hotels.

In this article we can only give a condensed notice of this fine house built after March 15th, when the whole improvements are completed, a full sketch and probably with illustrations will appear in the regular issue of this journal.