

through a country ready for the agriculturist; a rich black loam resting upon a clay bottom; abundance of the finest pasturage and the purest water. Once across the Red Deer River, and the traveller observes a change. Here the celebrated bunch grass begins, and the tough, level sod of the northern prairie disappears, and the soil is so loose that your horse sinks at every step, and wherever the Badger had thrown up the earth, we observed a mixture of limestone, gravel and clay. Springs and streams are abundant; and, although the climate has not been practically tested by the agriculturist, there is not a doubt but that, for stock raising purposes, it is one of the finest countries on the continent. In winter there is scarcely any snow; and in summer the horse-fly and the mosquito, so numerous in Manitoba and the Saskatchewan, are seldom seen south of the Red Deer.

Sabbath, the 4th, we spent at "Dog Pound Creek," where we enjoyed a magnificent view of the mountains. In the afternoon an old bull came down to the spring to drink, and not being disturbed, he fed beside our horses until the next morning.

Monday, the 5th, we travelled up the little Red Deer, a beautiful river, the banks of which are well covered with aspen and pine. In the afternoon we killed a bull and I caught a young calf, and we camped near to a large sulphur spring, where waggon loads of the mineral may be collected. It is also in this neighborhood where the natives find alun. I have seen them with specimens of it, weighing from six to ten pounds.

On the afternoon of the 6th, we struck the Stoney trail, and were a little discouraged to notice that they had passed some eight or ten days before our arrival. In the evening we camped on the bank of the Bow River, close in with the mountains. The prospect was one of the grandest I had ever witnessed, and Morleyville will yet become the favorite resort of the tourist.

Wearied with a hard day's ride, we selected a spot for our night encampment, where we could have a full view of the mountain sunset. Our camping equipage is very simple; we have no tent; a pair of blankets, a kettle and axe, a little flour, tea and sugar, and a piece of

oil cloth to protect us in time of storm, constitute our baggage. There being no game laws in force, and having studied the nature of wild animals as well as wild men, with the blessing of Providence we have no fear of starvation. Just as we had settled down for the night, a stranger made his appearance on one of the hills, and cautiously approached our camp. In this solitary, lawless land, a certain amount of suspicion marks the first meeting of all travellers; but here was one of our own good Stoneys; he had seen our camp smoke from afar, and made haste to inform us that his people had been waiting some nine days on the opposite side of the river, hoping the missionaries would pay them a visit. We at once packed up and moved to the camp, where we were received with a volley of fire-arms, and a hearty shake hands from young and old. Here we found 42 tents, 73 men, 82 women, 58 boys, 71 girls, 199 horses and 24 colts, and 169 dogs. A stranger might smile at us in placing the dogs on the catalogue, but the mountaineer knows how to make use of this kind of stock. The dog has to pack from 25 to 100 pounds. I saw some of them carrying an eight skin tent, that is, a tent made of eight moose or buffalo hides. We were at once conducted to the Bear's Paw's Tent, where we made a good supper on the flesh of a white swan; then we all united in singing a hymn in the Stoney language and in thanksgiving to our common Benefactor. But there was no sleep for the weary; the Stoneys were so overjoyed at our arrival, that prayer and praise were continued until morning.

On the morning of the 7th we moved out on to the plain and had a general meeting; after which, in company with the two principal Chiefs, we started on a prospecting tour. They had supplied us with a pair of first-class mountain ponies, and the object of our ride was to visit some fish lakes that lie in the bosom of these mountains; also, to inspect the timber and hay grounds, &c.

Our mountaineers led us off at a good canter up hill and along precipices, then descending into valleys where the descent was almost perpendicular. At first I felt a degree of hesitancy in following these reckless fellows; but seeing that their horses carried them