

### Fort Macleod.

The following notes in reference to Fort Macleod will be interesting to our readers: Fort Macleod has a population of about 500 people. It is miserably situated on an island, and the people are not making many improvements, wishing first to have the town site laid out. There is but one hotel in the place, and the business there is conducted in the original west-ern style.

The principal business in that part of Canada is cattle raising. At present, at Fort Macleod, the headquarters of the Cochrane Rancho Company, the Winder Rancho Company, the Stewart Rancho Company, and the Halifax Rancho Company are located. These are the principal rancho companies and are all now doing business. There are other rancho companies already formed and preparing to do business in that locality, but those named are the only ones in active operation at the present time. Of the large cattle owners there Mr. McFarland has 400 to 500 head, and is the largest individual cattle owner thereabouts.

The Indians at Fort Macleod are said to be among the best of that race in the world. In the neighborhood of the fort are found 8,500 Indians, divided into tribes, 4,000 being called Bloods, 1,500 Peigans, and 300 Blackfeet. They have felt the advance of civilization and show no resistance at its advance; they have settled down to work under good instructors on farms. The past season the Bloods especially have cultivated the soil and have brought their products to the fort for sale. The past year the Dominion Government has paid out \$45,000 to the Indians, and with the use of this money they make Fort Macleod a lively business centre. The four stores in the town are full of intending customers from morning till night, and the clerks are so busy that it is no uncommon thing to be compelled to wait for half an hour before one's turn comes. All the supplies for the stores are procured from St. Louis and other points on the Missouri River. Everything goes by rail to Benton, Montana, and from thence to Fort Macleod by team. By the time the duty is collected upon crossing into Canada and the fort is reached, the price of the provisions has become considerably enhanced. Sugar sells for 40 cents a pound, flour, from the mills at Moorehead, Minnesota, \$16 a bag, tea from \$1 to \$2 a pound, coffee 50 cents a pound. Of the Canadian products at the fort grain was bought at wholesale of the farmers at five cents, and retailed at seven cents a pound, and potatoes sold at four cents a pound.

The demand for laborers, such as herders and farm hands, is very great, and cannot be supplied. There is no fear of scarcity of work, but the great difficulty, and one which deters many from going to the place, is the cost of getting into the new country. The wages of herders and farm hands average from \$40 to \$50 per month with board. Nearly all of these classes of men are from Texas and Montana. These "cow boys" are kept strictly in order by the Mounted Police, and do not commit the excesses with which the same fraternity are charged in the Western States. Many of the herders have cattle of their own. The annual "rounding up" and branding of cattle takes place in the spring and fall, by which means the owners are enabled to keep track of their herds.

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