

Edmonton, Kootenay and Cariboo.

SOUTH-WESTERN CANADA.

Compiled by ISAAC COWIE, President of the Edmonton Board of Trade.

CHAPTER I.

Edmonton Market in the Kootenay and Cariboo Districts.

Away down south, in the southwestern corner of the vast Dominion of Canada, lie the gold fields of Kootenay and Cariboo on the west, and the grass and grain fields of Alberta on the east of the Rocky Mountains. British Columbia is the mineral treasure house of the Dominion, and Alberta is a pasture and a granary at its doors. The wondrous wealth of the Kootenay has within the last two years attracted world-wide attention; and the former fame of golden Cariboo is being rapidly revived owing to the introduction of improved mining methods. The mining developments, population and consequent demand for agricultural products, are increasing by leaps and bounds, affording for Alberta produce a home market in the mines within a short railway haul of farm and ranch.

REDUCED FREIGHT RATES.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Co., recognizing the mutual natural dependence on each other of the mining country for supplies and the farming country for a western market, have lately so reduced their freight rates (practically 50 per cent.) on produce from Alberta to British Columbia as to render the business of farming in Alberta more prosperous and profitable than in the past to those engaged therein. To enable production to keep pace with this demand, agriculturalists who contemplate emigration are invited to come to Alberta and participate in the new era of increased prosperity which has dawned on the district.

To describe the mixed farming district of Alberta is the purpose of this publication; but before proceeding to do so, a few facts regarding the Kootenay and Cariboo markets must be given. The

output of the Kootenay mines rose from \$2,240,781, in 1895, to \$4,157,162, in 1896; and during the first two months of 1897 it amounted to \$1,400,000. That of reviving Cariboo increased from \$282,400, in 1895, to \$384,500 in 1896. As these districts are only in the infancy of their development the output in a few years must become prodigious. Into the district of West Kootenay alone there were imported from the United States (in spite of heavy protective duties, but before the recent general reductions in Canadian Pacific Railway freight rates from Alberta) during the eleven months ending June 30, 1896, the following produce, all of which is producible in Alberta:—

	Quantity.	Value.
Bacon and hams, lbs.	395,866	\$35,586
Hay, tons	2,085	20,593
Oats, bushels	59,305	15,319
Horses	405	11,688
Potatoes, bushels	24,835	7,857
Flour, barrels	4,502	11,551
Butter, lbs.	40,353	7,564
Fresh vegetables	—	7,065
Eggs, dozens	156,988	19,907
Condensed milk, lbs.	176,718	16,639
Sheep	3,955	6,968
Fresh meats, lbs.	141,448	6,886
Live hogs, lbs.	203,789	5,925
Lard, lbs.	57,418	3,970
Poultry	—	3,703
Bran and mill feed	—	1,908
Salted meats, lbs.	26,590	1,840
Oatmeal, lbs.	67,777	1,643
Pickles, gallons	2,628	1,131
Fresh mutton, lambs, lbs.	15,533	1,056
Wheat, bushels	2,054	955
Horned cattle	38	668
Barley, bushels	613	688
Cheese, lbs.	4,453	569
Honey, lbs.	5,053	537
Hops, lbs.	1,838	134
Total value		\$826,234