

Major Hamilton on Recent Trip West Meets Many Old Brantfordites—A Letter

Brantford Boys Getting Along Fine In the Canadian West—The Major Extends the Glad Hand—Real Estate Business and Other Conditions Are Discussed In An Interesting Way for Courier Readers.

Dear Sir:—Thinking it might interest your readers, I made a few notes of Brantford and Brant County people I met on my recent trip to the Pacific Coast.

Leaving Brantford at 6:45 p.m. on February fourteenth, the C. P. R. train left Toronto two hours later. We arrived at Sudbury the next morning—three hours behind time. There was good sleighing, the morning was bright, the temperature a little below zero, and the numerous new buildings showed that Sudbury has been making good progress. We had a train of ten coaches, but there was no one I knew on board. However, we had some very nice people amongst them an Englishman going out to look after the investments of a Belgian syndicate. During the day I could see little change in the towns and villages we passed. We awoke next morning at Lennox, and four hours later reached Kenora four hours late. We reached Winnipeg at five p.m. and one hour later our train left again for the coast. The next morning we reached Moosejaw, passing Swift Current and many smaller places. Medicine Hat is the town now being boomed. It is claimed that natural gas is cheaper and more plentiful here than any other place on the continent. The hotels were said to be crowded and the skating rink was being divided into bedrooms to accommodate the rush of land speculators. Calgary was passed in the night, and on awakening next morning we find ourselves at Laggan, amongst the Rockies. The snowfalls this winter have been very heavy and fears were expressed that we would meet with snow slides before we got through the mountains. However, nothing of the kind occurred, and night found us at Kamloops, and at five next morning we reached Vancouver nearly six hours late.

After breakfast I met Mr. J. T. Atkinson on Hastings St. He was formerly a student with Dr. E. Hart in Brantford. Later I was hailed by Mr. A. J. Duncan, a Norwich boy, who studied law in Wilson & Smyth's office in Brantford. He is practicing law, but has also been over an office building he had just completed at a cost of two hundred thousand dollars. It is known as the "Duncan Block." Afterwards I looked up Mr. David Grant. He has opened up a new real estate business on Pendleton street. His firm is Grant and Maskell. I then went to call on Capt. Wm. Grant, at 908 Broughton street, and spent a pleasant half hour with the Captain and Miss Grant. I was glad to see that the Captain had so far recovered that he could walk with the aid of a cane. Saying good-bye a few minutes walk brought me to Mr. David Simpson's house at 1743 Haro street. Mr. Simpson is something of an invalid, but was formerly in the British Bank at Brantford and is a son-in-law of the late Mr. D. Brooker. In Hastings street I met Percy Logan, formerly a clerk in Agnew's shoe store. Brantford and now in the shoe department of Spence and Co's departmental store. I left by steamer that night and at seven the next morning we were lying at the dock in Victoria. Calling at the Bank of British North America I found my old friend, Mr. David Doig, the manager, looking hale and hearty. He lived in Brantford over thirty years ago. The accountant, Mr. F. W. Clarke was also formerly stationed in Brantford. On inquiry, I found that Mr. A. J. C. Gallately, formerly manager of the Bank of Montreal, Brantford, had been retired on pension, and with his wife is on a trip around the world. I met Mr. Garvin H. Burns, in real estate here. He was in the British Bank in Brantford in 1874.

Calling at the Union Bank, I found Major A. E. Christie, the manager. He was arranging to move to Vancouver to take over the branch there. Later, I met Mr. James Frank, who made many enquiries about old Brantford friends. There are several other Brantford people here, but I did not have time to look them up. In the year I could see that Victoria had been making good progress. That night I went to my cabin on the steamer, and the next morning at seven reached Vancouver. After breakfast, I met Clarence Jarvis, an old Brantford boy, on Cordova St. He is in the grocery and brokerage line and doing a large business. He was good enough to offer to take me in his motor to the Heights, and some very fine residences, and nothing else can be built there. There are no streets in blocks, all are winding or circular. We went on to Point Grey, on what is called the "Marine Drive." It is a smooth roaded all the way. In the land we passed great stumps are being removed and put in immense piles for burning, and here and there are some very good houses. Mr. Jarvis showed me a two acre lot he bought two years ago for two

thousand dollars, and said he could get five thousand for it now. The run was made in an hour and twenty minutes, and the distance was about twenty-five miles. The beauty and extent of this part of Vancouver was a revelation to me. Saying good-bye to Mr. Jarvis and his son, I called at the Bank of Hamilton to see Mr. Ewing Buchanan, the manager. He is an old Brantford boy and was born at Brantford, near Paris. He looked very well and is optimistic about the future of Vancouver.

12:15 p.m. found me in the B. C. electric train bound for the Chilliwack Valley. It is four years since I travelled to New Westminster in daylight, and the changes in little stations and settlements were surprising. We change trains at New Westminster, which has improved very much, and after a four hours run through the valley reached the pretty town of Chilliwack.

Mr. N. S. Mackenzie, a son of Rev. Dr. Mackenzie of Brantford, and manager of the Merchants Bank here met me at the station and took me to his house. Afterwards we drove out a couple of miles to see a relative there. Even in a year I could see that marked improvement has been made in this section. I noticed numerous pits in the fields, and was told that they contained potatoes. Most of them had been raised by Chinese on rented land, and they were so plentiful that they could be bought for fifteen cents a bushel. This, it was said, would hardly pay the rent of the land.

On arriving at Mr. Tryon's place I could see he had been improving it, gress. Returning to Chilliwack, we passed through the village of Sardis where there is a large Indian school and extensive hop houses and fields. I called to see Mr. A. S. Watson, formerly a farmer in Brantford Township but now in the real estate business here. Next morning I said good-bye to Mr. and Mrs. Mackenzie and drove three miles by stage to the bank of the Chilliwack river. A small steamer took us over to Harrison's mills, four miles distant. Here there is a large saw mill and owned by a large company who have closed several of their mills. An hour later we take the east-bound train for Sicamous Junction and arrive shortly after ten. The next morning at 10 o'clock I left by train for Vernon, in the Okanagan Valley, where we arrived about noon. I was met at the station by Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Watts and remained with them three days. The only other Brantford people here are L. J. Ball, of Vernon News, and his wife. Vernon is a very pretty town, is beautifully situated and has many wealthy people residing in the town and surrounding country. The climate the year round is delightful. Leaving Vernon on February 26th, I met Capt. John Breddon at the Endersby station, looking well. Leaving Sicamous Junction at 10:30 p.m. I awoke in the morning at Field. The thermometer stood at zero, and the day was bright, and after a delightful run through the Rockies we reached Calgary at 3 p.m. Getting off the train I met the depot master, Mr. W. Vickery, some years ago employed at the G. T. R. station in Brantford, and at the ticket office wicket Mr. F. E. Eacrett, a son of License Inspector Eacrett of Brantford. Calling on Wm. Gibson, the assistant manager, E. W. Saunders, a clerk in the Brantford office in the late Mr. Robert's time. Later I called at Mr. Alex. Moffat's jewelry store. He has two Brantford boys, E. Mitchell and E. Sims in his employ.

I left Calgary for High River at 6 o'clock and arrived there two hours later. I spent the evening with Mr. Alex. Ballachee, an old Brantford boy, who has a lucrative law business here. In addition to this he owns considerable land. Last year he put six hundred acres in crop. A. G. Verchere, an old Brantford man here is the manager of the Bank of Commerce, formerly a clerk in the Brantford office. I was told that Mrs. M. R. Brown, formerly of Brantford Township, was here on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Hunt. Mr. Hunt is in the real estate business.

I left High River the next morning in company with Mr. George Lane, the principal stockholder in the Bar U Ranch, situated about 20 miles west of High River. This company have at present about 11,000 head of cattle and 1,300 head of Percheron horses. This ranch feeds about thirty tons of chopped barley and oats per day. Oats at High River are worth twenty-two cents per bushel.

We arrived at Calgary before noon and at 3 p.m. left for Edmonton, which was reached at 10:30 p.m. I met Mr. Rooker, who was formerly in the Montreal telegraph office at Brantford. The next day I met Mr. Herbert Fairchild, who had been

telegraphed for on account of his brother Courtland's serious illness. Later I called on Mr. L. G. McHaffie, manager of the Bank of British North America, and Mr. G. W. Swaisland, manager of the Merchants Bank, both old Brantford boys. Later in company with Mr. J. C. F. Bown, the City Solicitor of Edmonton, I called on Mr. Balmer Watt, now one of the editors of the Edmonton Journal. Dr. C. U. Holmes, formerly physician at the Indian Reserve, Mr. F. D. MacMahon, now in the brokerage business here, and Capt. Leslie D. Brown, now in the law business on his own account, met Mr. A. Colquhoun of the Indian Reserve, Mr. J. W. Wilson, a cousin of Jas. Harley of Brantford. He is in the brick business at Edmonton and Saskatchewan.

Saying good-bye to Mr. Brown, I left at 9 p.m. for Vermillion, where I spent the day with Mr. and Mrs. James Hagen and their two sons, who drove twenty miles to meet me. There is very little change in Vermillion, although a land syndicate is doing its best to boom it. Here I met Mr. A. Colquhoun of Neepawa, a cousin of Capt. Colquhoun of Brantford. The next night I left Vermillion and awoke at Delmas. This village is in the centre of an Indian reserve sold nearly five years ago. A Brantford syndicate have thirty-five hundred acres of this land. Later we reached North Battleford, which has now a population of 5,000 and is seeking incorporation as a city. We arrived at Saskatoon at 11:30 a.m. and after lunch I called on Mr. George Weir, manager of the British Bank. I found that he was leaving in a few days to open a branch for his bank at Regina. As I was leaving the bank I met David D. Campbell, formerly of Mount Pleasant, but now farming near Saskatoon. Close by is the Imperial Bank, and here I found another old Brantford boy, Mr. Gordon Duncan, the manager, calling later at the Cocksfoot Plow Co's. I found Mr. Fred Pickels and Mr. Adams both glad to meet an old Brantford friend, and on my way to the station I met F. B. McEwan, formerly in Balfour's hardware store, Brantford, and now in real estate in Saskatchewan.

At 8 p.m. we leave by the C.N.R. for Regina and arrive six hours later. The next morning, in company with Mr. Clayton Peterson, proprietor of the Hotel Clayton, and a son of County Attorney Peterson of Guelph, I went to the new passenger buildings. They are easily reached by the new car line and are well worthy of a visit. Later, on the corner of Hamilton street and Eleventh Avenue I saw a sign, "Fetch, Barber and Co., merchant tailors, residing in and found Mr. Fred Barber, formerly of Gallop and Barber, Brantford. Fred was glad to see me, and said they were doing well. I also called on Mr. J. Nicoll, the popular postmaster, formerly of T. B. agent at Brantford, and later on Mr. E. A. Jolly, who has just completed a fine drug store. Others I met here were G. B. Salmond, managing a book store; Sergt. David Thomas, old members of the Brantford police force, now members of the Regina force, and Fred Irwin of the fire department, formerly of the Brantford force. Later at the fine new building of the Cocksfoot Plow Co., built at a cost of \$120,000, I met the general manager, Samuel Harold, a son of Mr. Massey-Harris Co. who repaired their building, partly wrecked by the tornado. Mr. C. W. Westaway and Mr. Geo. Forsythe are in charge, and Mr. Jack Turnbull, another old Brantford boy was good enough to come and say good-bye to me at the 5:30 p.m. train for Winnipeg.

Winnipeg was reached at 6 a.m. After looking after business matters I looked up Major W. A. Wilkes at the Court House. Mr. Jack Wallace, Brown, wholesale grocer, and Mr. J. F. Wallace of this city, Mr. C. H. Whittaker, of the Massey-Harris Company, and Mr. E. A. Western, managing director of the Cocksfoot Plow Co., all looking well, and glad to meet an old townsman. On my way to the train I met Mr. Passmore, who has a government position at Winnipeg. My train left the C. P. R. station at 5 p.m. and I had barely time to say a hurried good-bye to Mr. Bruce Walker, Dominion Emigration Commissioner at his office near the station. Leaving by the south branch of the C. P. R., Minneapolis was reached at 7 a.m. the next day, and taking the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul line to Chicago and Grand Trunk from there, the run from Winnipeg to Brantford was made in 45 hours.

In this flying trip through the Canadian Northwest I could see that although the country as a whole had not prospered, that an end had come to wild cat booming and that

values in the future would be more on a real basis. Property in the business or residential parts of the larger cities will always command good prices, but I think that many people in Eastern Canada and elsewhere who have been buying lots in so-called city sub-divisions would do well to take a trip west and see their investments before making further payments.

J. S. HAMILTON.

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Industrial Commissioner Emerson Issues Statement re Local Situation.

Industrial Commissioner Emerson to-day issued the following statement re the local labor situation:

In both Canada and the United States the large iron and steel industries are dependent for carrying on their manufacturing operations upon foreign labor. The Palacks especially appear to be particularly adapted to this kind of work. They are a class of industrious, thrifty and home-loving people. They will not settle in any community where they cannot secure properties of their own. With the above additions that have been made to the Pratt & Leitchworth Company and the American Radiator Company large numbers of these people will be required in Brantford.

The vice-president of the American Radiator Company has stated that the future development of his industry in this city is dependent upon securing this class of labor, and if the proper conditions prevail the present plant will be ultimately enlarged.

"In most iron centres the policy of segregation has been adopted. The foreigners, as a rule, prefer having a community of their own. One of the cleanest and most up-to-date sections of Welland is composed entirely of Pollocks. The same conditions prevail in Cleveland, where the great portion of the South Side is owned by them. While many experts contend that are carried on more rapidly when the community idea is not adhered to, yet in these days we are compelled to defer to the instincts of the people themselves.

"Some prominent citizens have declared their willingness to build all the houses required, with a view to selling them on the easy payment plan. The problem now confronting us is what section of the city shall be secured for this purpose. An entire neighborhood must be provided.

"If those who have large areas of land will communicate with Mr. Emerson, it is probable that satisfactory negotiations may be entered upon with a view of solving this important problem."



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