

Haying.

BY J. F. HERBES

From the soft dyke-road, crooked and wagon-worn,
Comes the great load of rustling, scented hay,
Slow drawn, with heavy swing and creaky sway.
Through the cool freshness of the windless morn.
The oven, yoked and harly, horn to horn,
Sharing the rest and toil of night and day,
Bend head and neck to the long, lully way,
By many a season's labor marked and torn.

On the broad sea of dyke the gathering heat
Waves upward from the grass, where road on road
Is swept before the trampling of the team
And while the oven rest beside the sweet
New hay, the loft receives the early load,
With hissing stir, among the dusty beams.

Wolfeville, N. S.

—Independent.

The Rich Nechaco Valley.

On the 20th of April last, Stanley Smith, a well known land prospector, left for the Nechaco Valley, a country lying north-west of the forks of the Quesnelle, and extending about 175 miles in length, with an average width of between 40 and 60 miles. He arrived at Stony Creek on the 15th of May. The usual way of going into that country is by way of Ashcroft, taking the Cariboo road to Quesnelle, then crossing over the Fraser, following the old telegraph trail, which runs through the Nechaco valley at Chinca Lake, as far as the forks of the Skeena. From Ashcroft the trip in occupies about fifteen days.

The valley of the Nechaco River from where it joins the Fraser for its full length, is one grand area of agricultural land, containing about 5,500,000 acres. About one-quarter of this may be referred to as broken country, but all of it suitable for pasturage. Mr. Smith speaks in the most hopeful terms of the future of this district as a field for settlement and supplies the lack of agricultural lands, about which so much has been written in the past. The Nechaco Valley may be described as a low, rolling country covered with a rich growth of grasses, vetches, pea vine and other vegetation. The prevailing tree growth is poplar, which is thinly distributed in clumps here and there, similar to what are known in the Northwest as poplar bluffs. On the uplands jack pine grows. The general elevation of the country is between 2,200 feet and 2,500 feet. The soil is a rich black loam with principally a clay sub soil.

Spring opens about the first of April and after Mr. Smith's arrival no frost occurred. The summers are warm with cool nights. During June and July of the present year, light showers occurred and no irrigation is required. Winters are cold, the temperature going as low as 20 below zero, but the snow fall is light, and the atmosphere cool and bracing. No high winds occur.

As there have been no settlers as yet, no fruit has been grown and therefore nothing is known of the capabilities of the country, but as indicative of its possibilities in this direction, it may be stated that abundance of wild fruit is found everywhere—red and black raspberries, strawberries, red and black cherries, and service berries. Wheat, oats and barley, potatoes and vegetables generally, have been cultivated successfully by Hudson's Bay officials at Fort Fraser.

South of the Nechaco there are any number of beautiful lakes, in which are abundance of

fish—salmon and speckled trout, graylings and suckers. Water fowl, such as geese, ducks, white swans, loons, pelicans, etc., are numerous. The small game on land, however, largely exceed them in numbers, and the fool hen, spruce and common partridge and prairie chicken abound. Rabbits also are plentiful, as well as coyotes, red and black tail deer, moose, beaver, bear, martens, minks, foxes, muskrats and otter. Neither elk nor cariboo were seen, but their horns are frequently found.

Mr. Smith regards this as the road into the Skeena country, through which any railway to Fort Simpson must pass. The rivers and lakes are nearly all navigable. The Fraser from Soda creek to its head waters is navigable, and the Nechaco river to Tromblay lake and Fraser lake on the west. From Ashcroft to Quesnelle is 210 miles. One or two settlers have already located, and Mr. Smith made locations for about fifty more, and expects to increase the number to one hundred before fall.

Pleased with the Country.

The following is the report of the Michigan delegates who have been prospecting in Manitoba and the Territories:—

"We, the undersigned farmers of the state of Michigan, having heard of the suitability of the Quill Lake and Touchwood districts for cattle-raising and mixed farming, decided to see that country and accordingly arrived in Winnipeg on the 26th day of July last. We went on the following day to the provincial fair and saw the exhibits of horses, cattle and grain, which were as good as can be produced in any country. We left next morning for Yorkton and have spent the last few days driving between that point and Fishing Lake, and we consider that we have seen as good a country for mixed farming as can be found on this continent. Cattle are in splendid condition and crops, where properly put in, look well. We have selected homesteads for ourselves and for others who are unable to leave Michigan at present, owing to harvest being on, and we are satisfied that this is as good a country for a poor man to start farming as there is in the world, as it contains wood, water, hay and first-class soil in abundance.

Signed on behalf of the delegation.

John McGilivray, Port Huron; Arthur Wyatt, Huron City; Wm. Freed, Verona Mills; Moore Wilson, Redmond; Irwin King, Bad Axe; Geo. Wilson, Kindle; W. J. Embury, Cheyboygan; H. B. Tuttle, Cheyboygan; Jas. Kirkpatrick, Redmond; Elijah Wyatt, Bad Axe; Geo. Kerr, Port Huron; John M. Brown, Brown City; H. McLellan, Brown City, and seven others.

The party of which the above delegates were a portion, numbered about forty all told. They came from the State of Michigan in the latter part of July under the guidance of Capt. Holmes. After their arrival at Winnipeg, the party was divided, twenty-two of them going with Capt. Holmes up the Manitoba & Northwestern Railway to Quill Lake region and the remainder to Edmonton, under the charge of Mr. Anderson. The above is the report of the Quill Lake party. Sixteen of these located claims for themselves and selected lands for forty others. Three of the party purchased improved farms in the neighborhood of Yorkton and intend purchasing more land from the railway company. These gentlemen are well-to-do and experienced stock-raisers. It is their intention to put some pure-bred Durham, Leicester, and Galloway cattle on

their property and go extensively into stock-raising and mixed farming.

Four others of the party, with a view of taking in the entire country, are now on their way westward, with the intention of going as far as Edmonton, taking in the experimental farms on their way.

There is no doubt that the visit of this Michigan delegation will result in great good to Western Canada as their report will be given wide circulation among the people of their state, and will probably be the means of starting scores of good settlers to fertile Western Canada.

The National Conservatory of Music of America.

The annual entrance examination of the National Conservatory of Music Nos. 126 and 128 East 17th Street, New York, will be held as follows: Piano and organ, September 12th and 13th, 9 a.m. to 12 a.m., and 2 to 5 p.m.; harp, 'cello, and all other orchestral instruments, September 15th, from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m.; violin, September 15th, from 2 to 5 p.m.; voice, September 19th, 20th and 21st, from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m., 2 to 5 p.m. and September 21st from 8 to 10 p.m.; composition, October, 3rd and 4th, from 9 a.m. to 12 a.m., and 2 to 5 p.m.; Chorus, November 2nd, from 8 to 10 p.m.; Orchestra, November 7th, from 4 to 6 p.m.

The object of the National Conservatory of Music being the advancement of music in the United States through the development of American talent, application for admission into the classes of the Conservatory are hereby invited. It is expected that positive aptitude shall be shown by the candidates for admission, without regard to the applicant's stage of progress, and that his or her desire to receive instruction imparted in the conservatory shall be the outcome of a serious and well defined purpose. The successful candidates will enjoy the tuition of the best teachers that can be engaged, and, after graduation, will be afforded opportunities of making known their accomplishments, thus securing engagements. The conditions of admission as to fees, etc., (varying according to the classification of the pupil), are determined by the board of directors. Instruction in all branches will be given free to students whose talent and circumstances warrant it. The course embraces tuition in singing, operatic and miscellaneous, solfeggio and theory of music, stage department, elocution, fencing and Italian, piano, organ, harp, violin, viola, 'cello, flute, oboe, clarinet, bassoon, French horn, cornet, trombone, harmony, counterpoint and composition, history of music, chamber music, orchestra and chorus. For further particulars, address, Edmund C. Stanton, Secretary.

The Hudson's Bay Company have had prepared plans for the erection of a frame store with stone foundation at Keewatin. The cost will be between \$3,000 and \$4,000.

The fourteen Michigan delegates who have been travelling in the Northwest looking for locations for themselves and a number of farmers whom they represent, with one exception, have all located on the Calgary and Edmonton Railway.