

ATTRACTIONS OF ALBERTA.

CANADIANS HAVE TRULY A GREAT HERITAGE.

READ WHAT REV. JAMES BUCHANAN, OF RED DEER, WRITES IN THE GLASGOW HERALD—HOW PEOPLE WILLING TO WORK CAN GET ALONG IN THE WORLD—THERE IS PLENTY OF ROOM—COAL AND WOOD IN ABUNDANCE—ALBERTA IS RICH IN MINERALS—A PLAIN STATEMENT OF FACTS.

(From the Glasgow Herald.)

To the Editor of the Herald:

Sir,—With your permission I shall lay before your thousands of readers in the west of Scotland, and especially the mining community and coal masters, the great mineral and farming resources of the North-western Canadian territory, Alberta. Letters and articles have appeared in your paper from time to time devoted more or less to Manitoba, but Alberta, "the banner province of the Dominion," has not yet got its full share of notice. The reason for this is that "westward the trend of empire makes its way," and, while the immigration has been filling up Manitoba, those who went further west were attracted to the Rocky Mountains and the beautiful slopes of the Pacific in British Columbia. Alberta of late times has begun to attract attention because of its most magnificent grasses, of its more equable climate than any other of the western territories, of its never-failing supply of pure water, and last, because of its abundance of mineral, especially hematite iron ore and its immense coal beds.

Alberta is the best portion of America for raising stock.

CATTLE THRIVE AND GROW FAT on its ranches; horses are raised of every grade, keeping fat, sleek and shiny on grass and water. The winter is very short, about six weeks to two months; while in eastern provinces five months is not an overstatement of winter. Of course a Canadian knows that all Canada is freer and bracing in its atmosphere, with a perpetual sun, invigorating and giving new life to the consumptive British toiler who seeks a home here. In Alberta the days are long, the nights short and refreshingly cool, while, with truth it may be said, the only enemy we have is frost. It would be wrong to say that Alberta is a grain-growing district; grain and other cereals have been raised, and will be grown still more; but while we have so many frosts all who come here must take frost risks. Interested parties write rose-colored pamphlets depicting in exaggerated language this country without a single drawback. Frost is its greatest; and yet plenty of grain is grown every year. Cattle, however, are not affected by frost, and are always a sure paying, if slow, crop. The hardships are, besides this, bad roads, few schools and churches, difficulty of access to markets, and personal laziness. Given a family willing to work early and late, willing to bear without grumbling jolting in a lumber wagon while the roads are being made, willing to live on bread, oatmeal, potatoes and meat, with milk and butter; with few houses or conveniences, only a log shanty, home-made chairs and stools, tables and beds, then in three years I

GUARANTEE COMPLETE SUCCESS.

It will be seen that a little capital is

needed to begin, and to maintain life till money can be turned. After these early trouble, life is easy, and stock make money without any attention from their owners other than provision of hay, which is not always needed, against severe weather in winter.

Then, again, nature has provided wood in abundance for fuel and building purposes, for fencing and other necessary improvements. A large expenditure of brawn and sinew, with sufficient outlay for tea, sugar, yeast, flour and other necessary articles, will bring in a large return, a greater interest than any other place I know. Pork, butter, milk, vegetables can be grown by one's self, and so also, after a year, abundance of meat, if the settler cares to kill his year-old steer. One hundred to two hundred pounds, savingly expended, will return without fail, after two, three or four years, not less than 50 per cent. Take an instance:

Isaac W. Haynes is a squatter in the Red Deer valley. After trying Kansas and Wyoming for 20 years, and finding success impossible there, he "hitched up" and travelled north to Alberta, a distance of 800 miles. The family consisted of himself and wife, sons 14 and 8 years, daughters 12, 10 and 6 years respectively. His outfit consisted of some bedding, a few household utensils and five horses. On the way he worked a few days here and there, thus earning a living "by the way." As he had always been a frontier man, he struck out about 25 miles from any neighbor. He pitched his outfit on a creek running into the Red Deer, and supplied by springs from the hills. After search he found a beautiful spring of fresh, clear water, beside which he started to build his house, and over the stream he has built his milk house, while the purring waters run clear and limpid through its centre, keeping the milk clean and cool. In his house everything is home-made—house itself, stools, chairs, press, bedsteads, windows, etc. He has been there two years; had no money when he came in; traded horses for first winter's provisions; with his son worked out, and got paid in cows for their labor; caught ducks and geese for kitchen, and now, after two years, has 22 head of cattle, five head of horses, with geese and hens in abundance. Hardship undoubtedly he has, and will have for some time to come; but then all he has is his own, the result of hard labor.

BUT ALBERTA IS RICH IN MINERAL.

On the Canadian Pacific railway the traveller will see at Langevin, Stair, Gleichen and other points huge jets of gas burning from an inch pipe. That gas denotes coal. At Lethbridge, in Southern Alberta, G. & F. J. Galt have raised a town of 2,500 inhabitants, with coal as the basis, the seam being about four feet. At the Rosebud, in Eastern Alberta, coal of a thickness of 4 feet crops out, and in Western Alberta anthracite coal up to ten feet is found in abundance.

On Monday, July 6, in company with Mr. Robert McLelland, J.P., an old-timer in the North-west, and his wife; Mr. William Withers, an Australian miner; Mr. William Jamieson, long a colliery foreman around Glasgow, with his wife; I started for the much-talked of North Alberta coal mines. My home is at the

Red Deer Crossing on the Calgary and Edmonton trail, distant 100 miles from Calgary, and four miles from the new town of Red Deer, only six weeks old, on the C. and E. railway, which has been constructed to a point in the Peace hills, about 20 miles south of Edmonton, but which will be completed and in full running order ere this is published in Glasgow. Taking a northerly course to the Blind Man, a river proposed town site, and terminus of the Buffalo Lake, Battleford and Hudson Bay railway, we turned our course eastward. Passing through a magnificent country of hill and dale, we followed the windings of the Blind Man to its mouth, where it falls into the Red Deer; then following the Red Deer we reached the coal seams after a 30-mile drive. Together with rests by the way 10 hours were consumed on the journey, although it can be done in less time. Pitching our tents, we prepared to squat for the night. Early in the morning we were off for the inspection at close range. With pick and spade and tape in hand, we travelled seven miles and saw such a sight as will never vanish from our memory.

THE RED DEER

is 300 feet wide, and at this season unfordable, hence we had to content ourselves with an inspection of the south side of the river from the north. Opinion was divided as to the depth of the seam of coal. Mr. Jamieson and myself agreed that it was from 25 to 35 feet from the top to the river's edge, with coal below the river's surface, and extending, so far as we could see, about half a mile. Following the river north-east we examined three seams, and with tape-line measured 25 feet, 30 feet and 34 feet, with coal below the river's surface. Every few yards huge pieces of coal crop out, and coal surfaces are walked over as we traverse the river bank. For seven miles along the river we travelled, and saw huge banks of coal from 400 to 1,000 yards in length, and probably 30 in number, varying in thickness of seam, visible to the eye, from 20 to 40 feet, with coal below the water's edge. Common report places some of the seams at 60 feet, and others as much as 75 feet in thickness, but these statements we cannot verify, nay rather feel inclined to disbelieve, because the greatness of this country, its undoubted wonderful resources, the immensity of the coal fields and the need of population and capital to work them, make the people inclined to exaggerate and tell "American fish stories." The immensity of the coal beds is beyond dispute, and in area no adequate conception can be had without direct inspection and practical test. As to quality the coal is like the best Wishaw, and superior, in my estimation, to any found about Airdrie. I believe it to be

A SUPERIOR HOUSE COAL,

with seams of the best gas coal, and interstices or seams of lignite, blue clay and other material.

I do not pretend to make a scientific statement regarding the character of the coal, but if burning is any test, it burns well, and leaves little if any ash, and that of a brown color, tinged very slightly with white. Besides, only the worst part of the coal has been tested, as facilities are not handy for getting coal that has not