

"H.B.C.," which one traveller, who came upon it for the first time in the wilderness, interpreted to stand for "Here before Christ."

As an illustration of what some of the outlying posts of the Company are like, a brief description may be given of the most northerly permanent dwellings of white men on the Atlantic side of the American continent. These are to be found at Fort Chimo and Fort George, on Ungava bay. Fort Chimo was established as a trading station by the Hudson's Bay Co. about 1828, and continued until 1841, when it was abandoned, and re-established in 1866. About a dozen log structures, covered with boards, in most instances whitewashed, are arranged upon no definite plan, while the population is exclusively that of the servants of the Company, several of whom have taken native Eskimo wives. The station is supported by the yield of furs from the district, by the capture of the white whale, of which some 200 are taken annually; by the dressed skins of the reindeer, of which over 2,000 are often killed in the course of a year, and by the large quantities of salmon taken for export, running from 25 to 50 tons annually, besides the export of about 120 barrels of porpoise and seal oil.

It is just 21 years since the Company moved its headquarters from old historic Fort Garry, now within the limits of the city of Winnipeg, to the corner of Main, York, and Fort streets. Here the Company erected a huge structure covering a whole block, which contains the general offices and the stores. There is no establishment on the American continent that carries a more complete or diversified line of merchandise than the Hudson's Bay Co.

The Governor of the Company is Lord Strathcona and Mount Royal, whose deep interest in the affairs of the great Company, as well

as in all that pertains to the best interests of Canada, is too well known to require to be more than mentioned.

The chief executive officer in Canada is the Commissioner, Mr. C. C. Chipman, whose headquarters are in Winnipeg, from which he controls the entire business of the Company in Canada. To stand at the head of such a time-honored, mammoth, and successful corporation, and guide its destinies with unerring judgment, is not only a high honor, but demands a rare amount of tact, judgment, business energy, acumen, and capacity. All these, combined with a high intelligence and sound reasoning powers, Mr. Chipman possesses to a high degree. He has, in addition, a marvellous mastery of details, and an intimate and far-reaching knowledge of the minutest workings of this great business. He is enterprising and progressive, and one of those with whom it is a pleasure to do business.

The C.P.R.'s Irrigation Project.

The proposed Bow river irrigation canal scheme, which is now being considered by the C.P.R. Co., is one of the largest irrigation projects on this continent. The proposed canal heads in the Bow river in the immediate vicinity of Calgary, and is designed to divert from the Bow river at that point some 2,000 cubic feet of water per second for the irrigation of the large area lying east of Calgary and adjacent to the main line, which, it is thought, if brought under irrigation will be rapidly settled and developed into one of the most prosperous districts in the west. Some 2,500,000 acres of land are embraced in the scheme, and the ultimate cost of the completion of the total scheme will be about \$4,500,000. It is not, however, proposed to expend all this sum at once, but to proceed with the

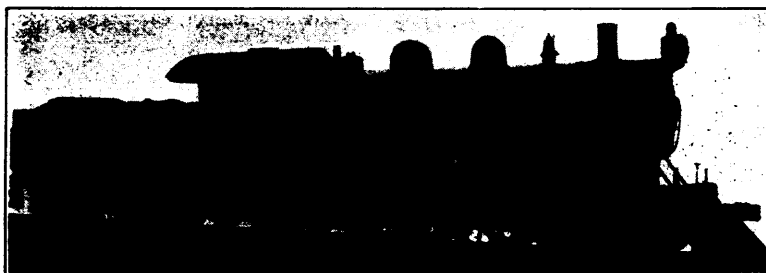
construction of the canal section by section, so that the possibility of colonizing and developing the land by the means of irrigation can be clearly demonstrated as the undertaking is extended.

Irrigation is largely a new work in Canada, because in the older Provinces and the larger part of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories there is sufficient rainfall to mature crops without the aid of the artificial application of water. In a large part of Southern Alberta and Western Assiniboia, however, the annual rainfall only amounts to about 11 ins., and while there are seasons such as those experienced during the last three years within which there has been sufficient rainfall to mature crops, experience has proved that in the large number of years crops can only be successfully raised when artificially watered, and with water diverted from streams through irrigating canals.

Over 500 miles of irrigation canals and ditches have been constructed in Southern Alberta and Western Assiniboia, and the results obtained from the application of water through these canals has conclusively proved that by irrigation all the fodder and coarse grain crops can be successfully produced. In fact, the transformation which has been worked in the Lethbridge district owing to the construction of the large irrigation system of the Canadian Northwest Irrigation Co. may be referred to as one of the most marvellous developments of the West, where rapid settlement and development are the rule rather than the exception, at least during the last three years, and it is thought that if anything like the same results can be obtained in the area which is proposed to be embraced in the Bow river canal scheme, that district, which is now practically unsettled, can be peopled with prosperous settlers and made revenue-producing from the traffic standpoint as far as railways are concerned. It

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