

Dear Sir,—

You have asked me for my opinion of the future of Lethbridge, and as one who is very optimistic about that future I have no hesitation in stating my belief that Lethbridge will be one of the half dozen big cities of Western Canada. Its growth has been rapid during the past few years and I am satisfied that its advancement will be even greater during the years to come.

It must be remembered that Lethbridge is unlike a good many prairie cities, owing to the fact that it is not only a rich agricultural district, but has within its limits and close at hand three large coal mines in active operation, and two others under development. When all these mines are in full swing there will be about 5,000 men employed, and well onto half a million dollars a month paid out in wages to these men.

Lethbridge, as will be seen, is destined to be the Pittsburg of Canada. Not only has it mines at its very doors, but within a radius of less than 100 miles there are at least 25 coal mines, and a great many of these are feeders to Lethbridge's wholesale warehouses and manufacturing industries.

This cheap fuel will eventually make Lethbridge a great industrial centre. No other place in the West has such tempting inducements to offer in this direction.

Just at present Lethbridge is served by practically one railway—the C. P. R.—which has a number of branches running out of the city. However the time is near at hand when we will have railroad competition. These new railways will open up new country and create new towns and villages, all of which will be tributary to this city. Following these developments will necessarily come new wholesale houses to serve the needs of the increasing population.

There are yet to be cultivated in this part of Alberta thousands upon thousands of acres of land, and the settlement of people upon these lands is bound to advance the growth of Lethbridge.

In closing I would say that my opinion is that a city which has grown from a population of 2,313, according to the Dominion census of 1906, to 12,000 in four years time is bound to be a city of 50,000 in a dozen years.

Yours truly,

W. A. BUCHANAN.

W.A.B.-M.

