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SETTLEMENT IN THE NORTH-WEST

Our golden west is filling up in a gratifying way, and with a class of settlers which, while not all that can be desired, are yet for the most part valuable settlers. There are some whose national characteristics do not suit us, any more than their "manners and customs" please us; but we must trust to time and the modifying influences of surroundings to amalgamate these people. News comes from Alberta of remarkable activity in settlement, not only close to the United States line, but well northward. The stream of settlement from over the border flows steadily north. Settlers are pouring into Southern Alberta, we are told, along the MacLeod branch of railway. Where formerly the cattle king held undisputed sway there extends a long line of settlements. Every ten miles or so thriving villages are springing up, each a trading centre of its own district. Given a little time and a few good crops, and these will become prosperous communities. "It is but a short time ago," says a recent letter, "that one could travel from MacLeod to Calgary and see little else save the herds of cattle grazing, with the coyotes ever and anon venturing within the range of vision. Corrals and cattle platforms were almost the only buildings to meet the traveller's eye. Now a great and welcome change has come. The plow and harrow are called in, the prairie lands are being broken for grain. Extending away in a wide sweep south-east and north, far out along the sky line, buildings are everywhere ornamenting the landscape."

This is the kind of settlement that we have long been hoping for. The rancher is a picturesque and acceptable figure; the cow-puncher is a feature we would not do away with, but the whole of Alberta and Assiniboia is not to be given over to these two. The man who brings his plough and harrow is the welcome man at this stage. The chief need of this newly-settled district, we are assured, is good roads. Indeed, these ought to have been surveyed ahead of settlement. The longer the work is delayed the more trouble it will mean by and by. The average new

town or village of Manitoba or Assiniboia is so much more up-to-date than new Ontario villages used to be that one naturally expects the new farmer of the North-West to have up-to-date roads. Sure it is that good roads mean the saving of thousands of dollars to the farmer; for on every load of grain or any of his products bad roads will certainly take toll.

The growth of the district around Lethbridge has been phenomenal. It is but three years since the town of Raymond was founded, and now, besides this busy place, with roller mill and beet sugar factory, there are, in that south-east corner of Alberta, Stirling, Magrath, and Cardstone—all comfortably-built towns. These are commonly called "Mormon towns" from the fact that they are largely settled by Mormons. Now, Canadians, we must assume, do not relish the idea of the Mormon as a settler. His polygamous practices are opposed to our notions of morality and propriety. And the United States have found it necessary to segregate these people. But read the letter of our correspondent, written from Red Deer on 25th June, after he had sojourned for weeks in these towns and villages and among these very people. "These Mormons are a healthy-looking lot, courteous, usually well-informed, and all right to do business with. . . . Neither of the four towns owns a licensed hotel. They are a very orderly people. The North-West Mounted Police could go out of commission if the residents of our West were all Mormons."

It is more satisfactory, however, to learn that many immigrants who are not Mormons are coming into Alberta from Nebraska, Kansas, and other Western States. And these, we learn, are bringing in stock with them. As an instance of their enterprise we are told of a Nebraska man near Spring Coulee who is breaking six thousand acres of land, which it is his intention to plant with fall wheat this season. Assuredly the change from stock ranching to general farming, or rather the addition of farming to ranching, is bound to make an enormous difference in that Western country during the next few years. Looking to future development of the most satisfactory kind,