

adapted for grazing. Concerning a very large district, Professor Macoun is reported as saying :—

“ The suitability of the Bow River country for stock-raising is attributable in a great measure, to the Chinook winds, which, coming from the south-west, from Arizona, Wyoming, etc., greatly tend to modify the climate, sometimes raising the temperature 60 degrees in two hours. The dry atmosphere is regarded as a cause of the low temperature not interfering with vegetation.”

These western plains could be stocked with young cattle from the Texas herds, and a cross could soon be obtained which would yield cattle better adapted for the British markets than any now raised in the American territories.

Under competent overseers, no better herdsmen could be found than the native Plain Indians. The buffalo is fast disappearing before their indiscriminate slaughter by the white man and the Indian. The only salvation for the Indian is to employ him as a herdsman of cattle, and thus ensure him maintenance. The Indian tribes on British territories have generally been peaceable and always loyal. If kindly treated and wisely employed they will remain faithful. The attempt to convert these nomads of the Plains into farmers is an unreasonable one. After a long period some, no doubt, may be induced to cultivate the soil ; but the true and profitable employment for the Prairie Indians is cattle raising. Concerning them the writer above quoted says :

“ The Blackfeet and the Sioux were the finest men, physically, in the North-West. The Sioux at Prince Albert ask for work that they may earn something to purchase food. When men talk about danger from Indians, they do it for place or for plunder ; for, wherever there is an Indian war or scare there is place, and, when supplies are scarce, there is plunder.”

Professor Macoun mentions instances of actual starvation having happened among the Indians by the failure of the buffalo, while the crops of settlers in the neighbourhood were left undisturbed. The Indians on both sides of the line respect Englishmen and Canadians both of whom in the west they call “ King George Man.” The British people owe it therefore to these faithful tribes, whose titles have