

## The Patagonian Welsh.

The following translation of a letter written by one of the Welshmen who are now settled at Salto de Man, is of interest as showing how these people are taking hold of their new life in the Argentine.

"It is only a few of the army of Patagonians, that have settled in the townships reserved for them, not because those townships are not equal to others but because we want the most agreeable and nearest to the town of Salto de Man. It was anxious to be as near as possible to market. The distance varies from ten to twenty miles. The members of the contingent are not numerous in the kind of land upon which we settle. Some desire to secure clean land, dry and level. Others wish for land with timber and grass upon it. Accordingly, the conditions of weather. It is a certainty that is safer for crops than the high land. It is possible that some seasons are too dry to secure good crops on the high land, while other seasons are too wet to secure good crops on low lands and that low land is more liable to frost than the high land. But there has been no failure of crops for many years. Some dwell in the midst of the woods, while others are fully six miles away from a tree. It is the ambition of some to be where they can procure an abundance of fire wood and timber. One should consider it more important to secure a good home for his family, and to be saved from the labor of clearing. Others seek to avoid frost, while others wish to avoid drought. Still others select good and rich soil without considering any of the other conditions. And for the reason that we are so diversified in our opinions about the land, all

less in most cases, because nine out of every ten of the successful farmers here to-day came here without any capital. This is easily explained, for those who had money went away rather than face the hardships of pioneering. It is a fact that cannot be gainsaid that it is the poor people that settle every new country. Not many settlers who had money had gone through a new country, meeting a disasteful recent arrival. After settling him and finding that he did not love the place, the old settler endeavored to get his money. The answer was in the affirmative but that he did not have enough to take his family away from there. "Well," observed the old settler, "if you will take my advice, how in all you have left, and you will then be willing to remain and test the capabilities of the land before you go away further and fare worse." The wandering settler to-day testifies to the wisdom of the advice tendered him. He is now himself a prosperous farmer. "Comparing the feeling of this colony with that of other colonies in the west, I can say that we are upon the whole cheerful, although our resources are limited. Some Welshmen from other parts have already joined us, while others are corresponding with us on the subject. Several hundred homesteads are being reserved for Welsh settlers. There is room for additional Welshmen."

## Passing of the Window Blind.

The old fashioned title of one department of the lumber business was the ash, door and blind trade." But that is now a misnomer. There is practically no trade in blinds, many factory people have dropped the word

have a regard for comfort will put blinds on their houses as of old, only the blinds will be better made and more securely fastened than on the average they used to be. We shall again see concerns advertising themselves as manufacturers or dealers in ash, doors and BLINDS.—American Lumberman.

## Resources of Lake Winnipeg.

Mr. J. Wadge, the Brandon representative of the Crown-Prevention has returned from a month's tour through the Lake Winnipeg country. He states that the fishing season has been the most exceptional in the history of lake navigation for the past twenty years. Under ordinary conditions, Lake Winnipeg has the reputation of being one of the most stormy and treacherous bodies of water on the continent, and, with the present inadequate system of lighting, navigation is extremely difficult. Another feature that enhances the difficulty is the very imperfect charting of the lake, though this defect is being remedied. The Dominion government has been engaged for two years in the work, which is now complete up to the St. Andrew's channel and soundings and survey. Because of the incompleteness of the charts, the insurance companies refuse to take any marine risks on vessels or merchandises on the lake, but they will underwrite

points on the lake shore. There are fully three hundred men almost solely dependent on the fish industry in addition to others occasionally employed, and hundreds of Indians fishing under domestic license.

Mr. Wadge states that there will be great future development along the lake shore in the direction of quarrying for stone. Along the east shore, in the Laurentian formation, granite is abundant, while limestone of excellent quality is obtainable on the west side. In addition to this, the supply of building sand and corvord is practically inexhaustible. Tamarac is delivered at the quays on the lake by the Indians at 75 cents a cord, and poplar at 50 cents. The fuel question in Winnipeg has long since reached an acute stage, but with the completion of the St. Andrew's channel and locks, and the consequent possible direct shipment of wood to the wharves of Winnipeg, this long-standing grievance of the householders will be a thing of the past.

Great industrial possibilities are also opened up in the pulpwood industry, which, with the opening up of complete lake transportation, will, in course of time, assume gigantic proportions. The magnificent water-power of the St. Andrew's channel points will also be most certainly utilized for manufacturing purposes on the spot, and for the transmission of electric power to Winnipeg. Regarding the iron deposits to be found at the northeast portion of Black Is-

## ATHABASCA LANDING—NORTHERN ALBERTA.

from their conspicuous lines of advertising, and perhaps our readers have noticed that the American Lumberman heads its department which deals with such material, "Doors and Mill-work," though the word "ash" is not omitted because of any waning importance.

A wonderful change has taken place all over this country, and many years ago every country house had to have outside blinds and the majority of the houses in the country towns and villages were similarly provided. There is no city there can still be found in old residence localities an occasional house with these protections from sun and rain. Every city house of pretensions had inside blinds, though in the past the outside ones were omitted. Now both outside and inside blinds have practically disappeared, and in the "Realty of the Register" this week is told an amusing story of how a western retailer is getting rid of his stock of these goods.

This remarkable change does not seem to have any especial reason in it. Customers instead of being attracted by a fad. Nothing was more comfortable in our young days than to sit in an easy chair by an open window protected by blinds which would let the air through but exclude the sun and summer showers.

Perhaps the people are getting lazy and are disinclined to bother themselves with the management of outside blinds, and the danger of breakage, hinges and catches would get out of order and slats would be broken. It is a pity that they have disappeared. It is a good thing nevertheless, and it is a pity that they have disappeared.

We venture the prediction that the time will come again when people who

risks as soon as the charting is completed.

The weather on the lake this season has been most stormy and unfavorable. This has resulted in much loss to the fishermen, who have often been unable to raise their nets for days. In the shallower portions of the lake, fish left in the nets for forty-eight hours are unfit to ship to market.

During Mr. Wadge's trip he made careful enquiries among officials of the fish companies and sailors of the lake regarding the depletion of the fish supply. From all that he could gather the consensus of opinion is that there is no appreciable diminution in the supply, but that it is advisable to change the fishing grounds from time to time, to give the fish an opportunity to increase and return, for they forsake grounds persistently fished.

At the present time the two great fishing points are the mouth of the Red River and the St. Andrew's channel. The distance down the lake, and at Warren's Landing, on the Nelson, about two miles from the lake. At the former place the Northern Fish company and the McKenzie Fish company are operating, while at Warren's Landing the Dominion Fish company and the firm of Ewing & Fryer are the principal freezers. The latter firm is almost exclusively engaged in the catching of sturgeon and the manufacture of caviare. The sturgeon fishing season started in 1903 and has been a considerable difficulty and risk, but with most satisfactory financial results.

The importance of the lake fishing industry is shown by the fleet of large steamers engaged in fish transportation. Extensive packing and cold storage facilities are provided at various

land, Mr. Wadge stated that, while they were of admirable quality, the extent of the field at present discovered is small. Prospectors have been endeavoring to locate new ferriferous deposits. Gold quartz has been discovered in the Nelson river district, in the vicinity of Cross Lake, and analyses thereof have proved it to be of a high grade. Fine clay and ochre deposits are also to be found at the north end of the lake.

## Improvements in London.

The increased work of the immigration department of the Dominion government in London, Eng., has necessitated the leasing of much larger premises for the successful prosecution of its work. Commodious premises have been secured in Trafalgar Square, in the heart of the city. The extensive display of Canadian products of fish, forest and mine, will be kept on hand and will do much for the intending emigrants with the rich and varied resources of the Dominion. Commissioner Preston states recently that the interest of Britons in all pertaining to Canada had been wonderfully stimulated during the past three or four years. This was strikingly shown by the popularity of the Canadian coronation robe, which is the most notable feature of all the decorations. One firm in London has had of late a large number of coronation carriages passing beneath it. The picture is 24 by 18 inches, and a miniature of the coronation ceremony. Mr. Preston further stated that the decorations of the arch for the coronation was much finer than for the original postponed ceremony, nothing being visible but the ears of the grain with which it was covered.