

cut in 130 days, and yielded 4,314 pounds of straw and 43 bushels and 2 pounds of grain per acre. The mixed farming area is excellent, while the range cattle, horses, and sheep are all that can be desired. The treeless portion is underlain with coal.

Saskatchewan.

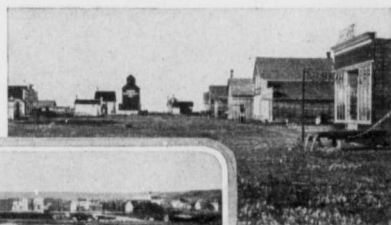
Saskatchewan, lying north of Assiniboia, is the largest of the four provisional Districts which were carved out of the Territories by the Dominion Parliament in 1882. Its area is 106,700 square miles. It is almost centrally divided by the main Saskatchewan River, which is altogether within the District, and by its principal branch, the North Saskatchewan, most of whose navigable length lies within its boundaries. It includes in the south a small proportion of the great plains, and in its general superficial features may be described as a mixed prairie and wooded region, abounding in water and natural hay, and well suited by climate and soil for the raising of wheat, cattle, and sheep. As a general thing the surface is gently undulating prairie with lakes and ponds, rolling prairie interspersed with bluffs of poplar, and high rolling country, portions of which are heavily timbered with spruce and pine.

FREE HOMESTEADS.

Settlement is at present chiefly in the Prince Albert, Rosthern, Duck Lake, Saskatoon, Hague, Osler, Shell River, Batoche, Stony Creek, Carlton, Carrot River, Birch Hills, The Forks, St. Laurent, St. Louis de Langevin, and the

Pacific Railway, which are being sold at reasonable prices, those granted to the Canadian Northern Railway, and especially selected for their adaptability to grain-raising, mixed farming, and ranching, are on the market, and finding ready purchasers. When it is known that in many instances farmers have paid for their holdings out of a single crop, it will be readily understood how liberal are the terms on which land may be had. Prices range, for unimproved land, from \$5 (£1) to \$12 (£2 8s.) per acre.

The same marked development is noticed west as well as east of the present line of railway, and when the Grand Trunk Pacific is built and extended from east to west, almost every portion of Saskatchewan will be fully served. West of the railway is to be found land of exceptional fertility. Very much of this is yet unsettled. Great interest is taken in the entire district lying along the north branch of the Saskatchewan. The Battleford district, the centre of a rich section of farming and



ranching land, will attract many settlers during the coming season. It is west of this that a large number of people from the British Isles have

Typical New Towns of Western Canada.

settled recently. (See page 62.) The Grand Trunk Pacific, the Canadian

Pacific, and the Canadian Northern are surveying lines through this territory.

CLIMATE.

The climate is not only healthful, but bracing. The summer temperature is remarkably equable, averaging about 60°. Spring opens about the beginning of April. Seeding is generally completed in May, and harvest usually begins about the third week in August. During winter settlers are generally employed in getting out fuel, rails for fencing, and logs for building purposes; in marketing their grain; and in caring for stock.

"At the time of writing, October 2, the trees are resplendent in yellows, reds, and browns, exhalant a delicious odor of poplar breath. The air is balmy, with no suggestion of frost, and although it is farther north than the northern boundary of Manitoba, no damage has yet been done by the cold. Residents go about without top coats, the days are bright with sunshine, and harvesting operations are only now being brought to a conclusion."—*Newspaper Correspondent.*

RIVERS.

The Saskatchewan is a magnificent stream, and with its immense network of tributaries it waters a territory that is a veritable empire in extent. It is formed by the confluence of



Battleford districts, in nearly all of which a great quantity of the best land is open for free homesteading. Some of these places, especially those along the line of railway, have grown marvelously within the past two years. In great measure that which may be said of one district applies equally to the others. The crops consist of wheat, oats, barley, and potatoes. Turnips and all kinds of vegetables are raised successfully. The normal yield of wheat (Red Fyfe) is about thirty bushels to the acre in favourable seasons; of oats, about sixty bushels. There has never been a failure of crops, and settlers enjoy a steady home market, from which they realize good prices for their products. The district is well supplied with good roads. Wild fruits of nearly every variety—strawberry, raspberry, gooseberry, blueberry, high-bush cranberry, and black currants—grow in profusion. Small game is plentiful.

LANDS FOR SALE AT LOW PRICES.

Large areas of land have been purchased by various land companies. In addition to the excellent lands of the Canadian

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