



THE CALGARY TOWN BAND.

their coming was a happy forecast of the future. Before ten years had gone the whole vast North-West had become part and parcel of the Dominion. The Geological Survey was commissioned to ascertain the physical features of the new world, for whose development our Federal Government had been made responsible. The land surveyor was entrusted with another and equally important task, and, though for some years Manitoba virtually monopolized attention, the gradual extension of railway communication to and across the mountains opened up for settlement the whole wide region from Lake Superior to the foot hills. In October, 1876, all the territory west of Manitoba was erected into a separate government, with the Hon. Mr. Laird as Lieutenant-Governor, and a council was organized to advise and assist His Honour in the administration of the country. In May, 1882, the Territories were divided into four districts—Assiniboia, Saskatchewan, Alberta and Athabasca. Ultimately (before very long, probably) the three former of these districts will be organized into provinces. The population of the Territories at the last census was 56,446 souls. In 1885 a special census was taken, which showed that Assiniboia had a population of 22,083; Saskatchewan, of 10,726, and Alberta, of 15,533. During the five intervening years a large increase has taken place, and several flourishing towns and villages have grown up both along the line of the Pacific and to the north and south of that route. The chief of these are Calgary, Edmonton and Fort McLeod. Calgary, which is situated at an altitude of 3,388 feet, and has a population of 2,500, is the most important, the handsomest and the most progressive town between Brandon and Vancouver. It is charmingly situated in a hill-girt plateau, overlooked by the white peaks of the Rockies, is the centre of trade to an extensive ranching country, is the chief source of supply for the surrounding mining districts and the seat of a thriving lumber industry. In 1884 it was created an electoral division. In 1886

Alberta, with Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, was given representation in the Parliament of Canada, and two years later the districts were granted a Legislative Assembly. The area of Alberta is about 100,000 square miles. The climate is exceptionally favourable, the soil remarkably fertile, the supply of coal is virtually exhaustless, and of the precious metals there is no lack. The pasture lands are the finest in Canada, while much of the district is suitable for mixed farming. The rivers abound in fish and there are forests of great value covering thousands of square miles. Elsewhere in this number will be found some details concerning these varied resources, with special reference to the district of which Calgary is the thriving centre.

COKING COAL IN ALBERTA.

The *MacLeod Gazette* says: It is pretty generally known that the whole of Southern Alberta is underlaid by one vast coal bed. The supply of the very best quality known of bituminous and anthracite coal is practically inexhaustible. Notwithstanding the existence of these vast deposits of coal, a quantity of coal which will coke has not to our knowledge been discovered in the North-West until quite recently. This discovery was made by Mr. John Nelson, a North Fork ranchman. The coal is located on the middle fork of Old Man's River, not very far distant from the falls. Good authorities pronounce it to be genuine coking coal. Mr. Nelson brought some to Macleod, and gave it to blacksmiths to test, and they pronounce the product of this coal to be coke, and it certainly answers the description of this valuable fuel. The *Gazette* interviewed Messrs. Foster and McCrae, who are using it in their forges, and they assured us it was the best coal for their purpose they had yet seen in this country; that it certainly coked, and that it compared, so far as they could see, most favourably with the Pittsburgh article. The mine is being worked at present by Mr. Nelson. It is probable a company will be formed, to be called the Alberta Coal Coke Co. At present the face of the seam being worked is eight feet thick, above water level. They sunk three feet below the water level, and have not yet struck the bottom of the seam. There seems every reason to believe that a valuable discovery has been made. The mine is located right on the track of a line through the Crow's Nest Pass, and thus will be easily available for export. With railway communication west and south, the demand for this coal will become immense, for it is just the kind required for the important smelting works in Montana, and the similar ones that will be erected in British Columbia. Some of the former have been obliged to shut down because they could not be supplied with the right kind of coal as rapidly as they required it.

DAIRY FARMING IN THE CALGARY DISTRICT.

Mr. James Ruby, of Calgary, writes on 17th November, 1888:

"The conditions being so favourable, you ask would I advise new settlers in Alberta to begin dairy farming at once? Most decidedly I do, as it is the surest road to success and wealth. No matter how small his beginning, let him get a few cows, as many as possible, as many as he can milk and properly care for. For instance, a settler arrives here having means to put up a small house on his 160-acre homestead, and has also means to get a span of horses, a plough and harrow, with enough seed to plant a few acres. Then, if he has a wife, and \$100 left, let him buy two cows; if more money still, more cows—say five cows the first year. From these he will be able to make five pounds of butter daily during five months, worth in our market 25 cents a pound. This will support himself and wife. The milk will also feed three calves and a couple of pigs. Now, it must be remembered that the care of these need not prevent him from cultivating a good garden and attending to a goodly number of acres of crops besides. And it must be also remembered, in connection with all this, that no matter how favourable the season may be, the garden and the cultivated acres may prove a failure, but nei her hail-storm nor frost affect the returns from properly attended milch cows.

"Of course, the above applies to individual beginnings of an industry that will unavoidably merge into co-operative dairy farming, when the creamery will be established in the centre of the township, where the individual or company will gather the cream from the surrounding farmers, and employ a practical and trained butter maker, who will produce from the uniform and unequalled cream of Alberta the gilt edged creamery butter of commerce, unsurpassed, if equalled, by any in the world.

"Now, I will get down to figures, and show the practical possibilities of a single township of Alberta land. A township is six miles square, and contains 36 sections of 640 acres each. Let us suppose this divided into 12 farms of 320 acres, each farm capable of sustaining, both summer and winter, 20 cows; this makes 1,440 cows in the township. It will be admitted that a fair average cow will yield sufficient milk and cream to make one pound of butter a day for five months in each year. Now, 1,140 lbs. of butter at, say, 20 cents per pound, will amount in a season to the handsome sum of \$43,200. Just think of this sum coming into a single township every season; and remembering all the while that after the farmer milks his cows in the morning he can then, until the milking of evening, attend to the demands and duties of his profitable mixed farming besides.

"But it may be asked, Where will you find a market for all this butter? Well, the question of a market need give little trouble. I feel certain that if there were a hundred creameries in Alberta, each making a greater output than the above, there would be twenty commission merchants in active competition to control the production. Butter being a prime necessity of civilization, must not only be of good quality, but must be produced in large quantities to make the handling and control of it profitable. It is the most concentrated form of agricultural production, shrinking less in value by transportation than any other when properly prepared for exports. And it is perfectly safe to predict that the time is coming when train-loads of Alberta butter will be shipped to both the eastern and western seaboard, finding a most ready market in Europe, when its excellence and reputation is once established.

REAL ESTATE.

The value of real estate in Calgary and its immediate vicinity during the last five years has advanced with rapid strides, such advancement being made on the genuine increased value of estate, and not forced by groundless booms. Handsome sums are being made daily as the result of judicious speculation, and there is no doubt that this town, with its brilliant prospects assured, will be the field on which many mighty fortunes will be built. As an example of the increase in value of estate since 1885, a lot was bought on Stephen avenue at that time for \$200, and the owner now refuses an offer of \$5,000. There are many such instances. The size of the lots are 25x140, and the prices on Stephen avenue range from \$100 to \$5,000. Lots round the town have in proportion kept pace with the business centre, and their value is from \$50, according to the proximity to the main street. A splendid opportunity for investment offers itself in building transactions; every train is bringing a number of fresh people, and the question occupying the minds of the townspeople is "Where are they to be put?" for at the present time almost every house is occupied and the hotels are full. The want will be all the more apparent when the construction of the Calgary & Edmonton Railway commences, when there is little doubt that the fresh arrivals will be counted by hundreds per week.

An astonishing fact presents itself in the difference of price between town property and farming lands within easy distance, and here again is afforded an opportunity for sound investment. The yearly result of farm produce in this district is sufficient to prove the unequalled quality of the soil, and that added to the short distance from and easy access to town will make that land invaluable. At present first-class farm land, within three hours drive from Calgary, can be had from \$2.50 to \$3.00 per acre, which price, no doubt, will be doubled within a year.