

dispensation, and the ruins of the old stockade, as Mr. Wastie informs us in "Brandon Illustrated," are still to be seen at the junction of Souris and Assiniboine. "The traders' and buffalo hunters' trail from old Fort Garry to the Antlers, Moose Mountain and Milk River passed," the same author tells us, "through the site of Brandon, and the Canadian Pacific Railway bridge and the old ford of the Assiniboine are within a few yards of each other."

Mr. Wastie then describes the sale of the town site at auction on the 2nd and 3rd of June, 1881, when a large number of lots were sold at high prices. Among the purchasers and pioneers were William Adamson (the original squatter on the site), Mr. William Woodworth, Messrs. Charles Whitehead and Meyers (who brought the first cargo of lumber), and Messrs. Winter and Wastie (our authority), who erected and stocked the pioneer store, corner of Pacific avenue and Fourth street. The first hotel business was conducted in a tent on the site of the present Brandon House. The first physician and druggist was Dr. Fleming; the first lawyer was Mr. J. Mayne Daly, M.P. The pioneer mill (for flour and oatmeal) was started and is still managed by Messrs. Fraser and Fisher. The railway did not reach Brandon till September, 1881, and all materials and commodities had to be brought by boat, freight rates averaging a dollar per 100 lbs.

The district was but sparsely settled when the town was laid out. The first to take up land were the Elliots from Port Hope, Ont., who made their home on the Souris, twenty-five miles south-east of the future city. They came *via* Emerson, in 1879, and in the same year the Rev. Mr. Roddick brought a colony from Nova Scotia, which he located near the Brandon Hills. Mr. W. H. Sowden, of Millbrook, Ont., also brought a number of well-to-do farmers, whom he established on the Souris, near Plum Creek, where there is now a flourishing village. West of Brandon the country in 1881 was practically a wilderness, there being only one old settler on the north bank of the Assiniboine. But with the spring of 1882 the boom began and the district was virtually overrun with new-comers—speculators in great part. But as the line advanced westward, only the steadily industrious settlers remained to form a solid nucleus for the future city and district.

Among those who engaged extensively in farming were Messrs. McBurnie, who took 10,000 acres in proximity to the town and spent over \$100,000 in improvements; Mr. Whitehead, who put 500 acres in grain; the Hon. J. W. Sifton and others, who invested largely in farming and stock. The whole district is well adapted for mixed farming—cattle raising and dairying as well as the culture of cereals. Several stations east and west of the city are tributary to Brandon, drawing their chief supplies from its banks and stores. Of schools and churches there is no lack. Taxes are moderate. Roads are easily maintained, but railway accommodation to the south-west is eagerly awaited.

We have already referred to the policy of establishing experimental farms throughout the Dominion. Through the efforts of Mr. T. Mayne Daly, M.P., and first mayor of Brandon, the Federal Government has endowed the Brandon district with an excellent institution of the kind. It is admirably situated on the north slope of the Saskatchewan, the location having been selected by Prof. Saunders, of the Central Farm, near Ottawa, as possessing

every requisite advantage. It is favoured with a good supply of water, plenty of timber, a sufficient diversity of soil, and an excellent situation, as well for agriculture as for the fine prospect (including the city) which it affords. Such an institution is invaluable to the farmers, supplying every information based on experiments and tests, conducted with regard to the soil and climate of the district.

Brandon is well supplied with newspapers, there being two of the Conservative persuasion, the *Mail* and *Times*, and a third, the *Sun*, which professes the Liberal creed. Besides the member (Mr. Daly) whom it elects to the Dominion Parliament, the district sends three representatives to the Provincial Legislature, those on whom the popular choice last fell being the Hon. James A. Smart, Mr. Clifford Sifton and Mr. Graham. Brandon is at no loss for benevolent agencies and societies for good fellowship and mutual helpfulness. Its industrial, commercial, military and other interests are also well organized for co-operation. Other features in its varied life are treated in connection with the illustrations with which we present our readers in this issue. It is our intention, from time to time, to deal similarly with other portions of the Northwest, so that our readers may obtain, both pictorially and by letterpress, a correct impression of the progress that has been achieved in that part of the Dominion.

OUR OWN LAND.

In this number of the *DOMINION ILLUSTRATED* we begin to carry out a purpose which we have had in mind since the inception of our somewhat adventurous but, we trust, as far as the country is concerned, not unprofitable undertaking. The name which we deemed it well to select for this journal exactly indicates the end which it was its primary aim to fulfil. In carrying out that aim, we have received many expressions of sympathy from all parts of Canada and persons in Europe deeply interested in Canada, for which we cannot but be grateful. Only a short time since, on the termination of its first year of existence, we outlined the results that we had so far been able to achieve in the conduct of the paper. We also appealed for co-operation—in the form both of suggestion and actual help—in our endeavour to adhere to the main object in view—the illustration of our grand country. It seemed to us, moreover, that in discharging that task, special attention was due to that new Canada of the Northwest, the opening up of which has added so materially to our prestige in the old world, and is destined ultimately (notwithstanding real drawbacks and the evil forecasts of the discontented and disaffected) to make Canada a powerful and prosperous nation. We are sometimes inclined to sneer at the chauvenistic declamation which on this side of the Atlantic goes by the name of "spread-eagleism." Self-admiration is certainly not in good taste, and it is always possible for patriotism to degenerate into that exclusive laudation of one's own country, which is ridiculous where it is not offensive. But, on the whole, it will, we believe, be admitted that panegyric of this kind is not the besetting sin of Canadians. On the contrary, we are more prone to undervalue than to over-estimate what pertains to us, whether it be in the moral, intellectual or material sphere. Time after time, the excellence of our belongings—whether they consisted of some feature in our great and varied physical resources, or merits of another kind—has remained unrecognized until some chance stranger of our own kin, or more or less interested foreigner, revealed to us the

preciousness of our possession. When the late Secretary Seward uttered the words which we quote elsewhere touching our immense, rich heritage in the Northwest, that vast and fertile region was practically a *terra ignota* to nine-tenths of the people of Canada. But now we have come at last to realize the truth of his words. We could give repeated instances of like unconsciousness on our part to the boons with which Heaven had favoured us till their worth was revealed to us by alien lips.

We hope, therefore, that in making the high value of things Canadian a frequent theme, we are violating no canons of good taste, but rather are doing our simple duty as journalists having as our special mission the illustration—that is, the making known by pen and pencil the grandeur, the wealth, the many and manifold attractions—of the Dominion. We might do this very effectively—as far as the pen's share in it is concerned—by confining ourselves to a reproduction of what has been said about Canada by visitors from beyond the border and the ocean. Since the British Association held its meeting in Montreal, and especially since the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway has afforded the means of travelling with safety, comfort and even luxury from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the testimony in favour of Canada—its resources, its scenery, its development, the prosperity of its people, the freedom which they enjoy, and the educational and social advantages that are at their disposal, would form no inconsiderable library. We have had the gift for which the poet prayed with a fervour that smacks of malice bestowed upon us in really generous measure and without the evil consequences from which he shrank. This testimony has been a revelation to many of us. It has shown us how highly persons who have had experience of other lands and climates estimate the natural and other advantages of the Dominion.

In a recent number we mentioned one of the latest of these expressions of opinion, which is all the more valuable from having been written by one who had not merely passed through the country, but had lived in it long enough—seven years—to know thoroughly its character as a home. It is entitled "The Colonist at Home Again." The author came out here in 1880 in order to satisfy himself as to the suitability of Manitoba as a place to settle his sons in. He was a retired officer and had lived several years in India. The climate of Manitoba might, in his case, therefore, naturally be thought trying. Yet here is what he says after a visit to Bath, one of England's most ancient and notable health resorts: "As the place of my nativity, I derived much benefit myself—having been nearly consumed during three or four weeks of well-nigh tropical weather in London—from revisiting these old-time haunts, during a short sojourn with relatives in the suburbs; but confess, somewhat reluctantly, that neither their salubrious breezes nor the far-famed waters of its splendid baths, which I employed, are comparable for effectiveness with the vitalizing and re-invigorating air of Manitoba." As to the placing of his sons, the primary object of his visit, he writes: "I have never had a moment's cause to regret that I brought my sons out here. I could never have done anything for them at home like what they have done here. They had no special advantages to start on. . . They have had to work hard and for a long time against a strong ebb-tide, and they have not shirked it. Henceforth each year will bring diminished toil and increased fruits."

Another piece of testimony we find in the last