

viz.—Wheat, oats, barley and potatoes; a large garden of all kinds of vegetables, doing well, 9 cows, a few steers and young heifers. He says he could cut 100 tons of hay on his homestead. The Creek runs through his farm. He came from Minnesota, and is well pleased with the country.

Next morning we started after an early breakfast, making south west for Mr. Macintosh's, where we saw as nice a location for a homestead as you will see in any part of the country. On arriving we found all hands at work. They came to this part of the country, sec. 14, range 3, township 49, from Nebraska last summer. They have made wonderful improvements, built a two storey frame building, 28x22; ten acres under crop—wheat, oats, barley and potatoes; large garden, all kinds of vegetables, good water, plenty of hay and timber. After looking around we started for Snake Plains, where we were hospitably received by the Indian agent, Mr. Keith. The country all round here is very fine. After dinner we started for Carlton, and being late we camped on the south side of the Saskatchewan. We made an early start next morning for our old friend, Capt. Craig's, to have breakfast, but unfortunately we had not the pleasure of seeing him. If we failed in seeing the captain his good lady made up for our disappointment in preparing for us a substantial breakfast. After a few hours rest and looking over Capt. Craig's farm—finely situated a few miles from the river, with a commodious house, stables and granaries and between one and two hundred acres under crop this year, we made for Prince Albert. On our way we were delighted to see so many nice farms, ranging from 60 to 150 acres under crop.

In conclusion, we can highly recommend the Shell River country to intending settlers and their families to locate amongst us, where they will find large tracts of land suitable for mixed farming, with good water, oceans of hay, good building timber, and creeks and springs with the great Saskatchewan only a few miles off and near fine fishing lakes.

The committee will be glad to give any information to settlers. Address, Secretary, Immigration Committee, Prince Albert, Sask."

The following description of the same district is by D. S. Weggoner in an earlier issue of the *Times*: "In order to give the New England people of Vermont and Hampshire a correct description of the Shell River country, I spent several days looking it over, and after carefully examining this place, I am pleased to say that I can find it entirely exceeding my experience, as it possesses so many advantages over other places that have come under my notice.

In the first place the soil is of rich, excellent quality, being a rich black loam varying from one to three feet in depth, resting on a clay loam sub-soil, which will assist in holding the moisture, during the season of vegetation. The soil on the surface, though very rich, is not perhaps as heavy as I have seen in other places, which no doubt is a decided advantage in the maturing of the grain that may be sown here. The grain I saw was very fine; wheat, oats, peas and barley, and I am told by reliable persons who have known the district for some time that as a rule crops sown in the proper season have been successful.

I was also informed that vegetables—potatoes, turnips, beets, carrots, onions, cabbage and cauliflower—are grown with the least possible attention, some of a fine quality; in fact, it cannot be otherwise, as the soil possesses the very ingredients that make up in assisting the production of this kind.

I was also informed that fruit—gooseberries, white and black currants, strawberries and raspberries, yield abundantly with very little cultivation.

In the second place, this district is highly favored, having plenty of water of an excellent quality, sweet spring water so much admired by the New England people, entirely free from alkali or any other deleterious ingredient. The small lakes, which are quite numerous, being also free from alkali, make it the more desirable for raising either horses, cattle or sheep, which I noticed are good. The sheep owned by Mr. Thomas Powers were as fine as could be seen in the older Provinces.

By crossing the ferry at Prince Albert and driving directly west a distance of twenty miles you come to the place known as the Shell River district. You have the Saskatchewan on the left, a large navigable river of 1,500 miles, its source being in the Rocky Mountains and receiving as it flows along, five miles an hour, thousands of tributaries making it one of the finest in the Dominion. On the right the Shell river, with its beautiful banks of rich prairie grass, intermingled with wild flowers of various hues, shelving to the river's edge, which was in the past and at the present is well stocked with the funny tribe. This game is very plentiful along with the geese, duck, prairie chicken and partridge, and large animals, such as moose and red deer, make it without a doubt the sportsman's paradise.

In the third place this country is well timbered, having an abundant supply of building material—spruce, pine, tamarac and poplar, the most of the section having sufficient poplar for fencing and fuel, while the spruce and tamarac are quite convenient, and can easily be obtained by those desirous of making comfortable homes for themselves and families.

In this beautiful country, with so many advantages, free farms of 160 acres are given by the Dominion Government, ready for the plough without removing any obstruction whatever. How different from the New England states and eastern provinces of the Dominion of Canada, where the old pioneers of a century ago had to encounter so many difficulties by removing the heavy forests before they could receive any return whatever for their labor.

The Canadian Pacific, which now runs into the beautiful town of Prince Albert, the very gateway of the country which I endeavored to give a truthful description of, is doing all in its power to place within the reach of every man—by giving exceptional low rates to those wishing to go and see for themselves the greatest agricultural and stock raising country on the continent of America.

Notes on Northern Alberta.

"The changes that have taken place along the line between Calgary and Edmonton during the past year," says the *Calgary Herald*,

"are very considerable. Of all the villages along the railway, Innisfail has, perhaps, made the greatest strides, though Red Deer has grown considerably as well. The N.W.M. Police detachment have been ordered at last to remove from the old crossing of the Red Deer to the new town, where a good building has been erected for their accommodation. The old stockade of the post at the crossing was burned for firewood last winter, and a memorial of the rebellion of 1885 disappeared in the capacious box stoves affected by the M. P. The rising places this year are Olds, 13 miles south of Innisfail, and Wetaskiwin, 40 miles south of Edmonton. At both these points good buildings are going up, and the trade in lumber is brisk. Lacombe, too, is getting a share of attention from intending settlers, but not, apparently to such an extent, although the Buffalo Lake country, for which it is the station, has attracted a good many. South Edmonton is getting into shape, and lots are rising in value. The old town of Edmonton on the north bank of the river, has wonderfully improved during the last year. The old streets have been pulled into shape and graded and sidewalked, and are lined with numerous handsome buildings, among which the Imperial Bank building, W. H. Robertson's block, J. Cameron's new store and the two enlarged hotels, the Alberta and Queen's are prominent. The Hudson's Bay Co.'s new store and J. McDougall's store are also fine buildings, though a little out of the present business part of the town, though, of course, there are magnificent possibilities in the future. All through the woods, north and south of the main street, Jasper Ave., new streets have been cut out and handsome villas are rising on every side along them. The new Government building is also outside the business portion of the town. It is built of brick and is of the skating rink order of architecture. It is a modest building for the \$10,000, which was allowed for it. Perhaps, like the Calgary court house, it is intended to be "very comfortable inside." Business is quiet just at present, but was very good all winter and real estate was up till the last six weeks very brisk. No doubt when the farmers get through their spring operations trade will revive considerably.

"Fort Saskatchewan has gone ahead with the rest of the country. The old buildings belonging to P. Heimick, on the north side of river, is being thoroughly overhauled and a hotel will be started in it shortly. The manager of the Lang townsite on the south side reports a large number of sales of lots and the merchants say that business has been brisk all winter and keeps good still. At the police post a new guard room and stables are urgently needed, the old buildings being utterly inadequate for the requirements of a post which is becoming of more importance every year. There are detachments from this post from Innisfail to the Athabasca and the Lesser Slave Lake. There is a little gold mining going on along the river, but the water is unusually high for the time of year and not much has been done so far. Crops all over are looking splendid and an unusually good harvest is confidently anticipated."