

SASKATCHEWAN

BOTH by virtue of its physical advantages and its geographical situation, Saskatchewan is eminently adapted to mixed farming and stock-raising. This statement must surprise many who have hitherto considered the province fitted only for wheat-growing! The marvellous development of this much favoured portion of the great Dominion of Canada is difficult to comprehend.

It was not until after the Riel Rebellion in 1885 that the province commenced to attract the attention of settlers and any decided immigration set in. The influx of people from that date forward increased very rapidly. Up to that time the prairies were peopled by a few Indians, half-breeds and traders, with a very sparse sprinkling of settlers. Gradually, however, eastern Canadians, English, Scotch, Irish and French settlers were attracted by the wonderful productiveness of the soil and the promising future held in store for the people locating there.

The first resident Lieutenant-Governor for the North-West Territories, the Hon. David Laird, was named in 1875. With him was appointed a council of three members, which held its first meeting at Livingstone, on the Swan River, in 1877. Battleford was chosen as the seat of government, and the sessions of the Council were held there for six years. In 1883 Regina, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, then under process of construction, was selected as the capital. The duties of the early government seem to have been confined almost wholly to providing support to the Indians.

Considerable alarm was felt in the earlier days of the province that the large foreign population taking up residence would be a menace to the comfort and quiet of the Canadian residents. These fears, however, proved without foundation, and owing to the splendid public school system of the province, the various races are being harmonized into a splendid type of Canadian manhood.

In 1905 the North-West Territories were divided into provinces, the portion east of parallel 110° west longitude to the Manitoba boundary constituting the province of Saskatchewan. The settled portion of the province now comprises about four hundred square miles. That part of the province north of Prince Albert is not settled to any extent, although there may be found several important trading posts and much fertile land as well as forests of considerable size.

Saskatchewan's wonderful wheat-producing records have attracted public attention and are drawing each year many settlers within its borders. Such, indeed, are its potentialities in this respect that those most competent to judge predict that it will not be long before it will produce more wheat than any one of the United States, and, subsequently, more than all the United States combined. The land surface of the province contains no fewer than 155,092,480 acres. Its clear, dry, bracing atmosphere is undoubtedly due to the fact that it is from 1,500 to 3,000 feet above sea-level. There are times, it is true, during the summer season, when the temperature reaches 100 degrees; but the heat is modified by a refreshing breeze which renders the conditions at night pleasant even after the most torrid day. The winter cold is intense, according to the thermometer; but here, as elsewhere, the application of common sense in the matter of housing and clothing overcomes what some call "rigours of climate." The province may be said to consist of open prairie with alternating groves of poplar and willow and patches of delightful woodland. There are, however, in parts of the province ranges of low hills intersected by ravines, many of which are well-wooded and supply considerable quantities of fuel, while in the north vast and valuable forests cover hundreds of square miles. Perhaps the most suitable part for ranching is in the south-west.

In 1901 the population of Saskatchewan was 91,000; to-day it is over 575,000, and the immigration returns point to the probability of this number being considerably increased in the near future.

Regina, the capital of the province, is a handsome, up-to-date city, peculiarly favoured in point of railway facilities and growing in importance daily as a great distributing centre. No fewer than ten railway tracks converge upon it. Few people would have supposed that in the space of a quarter of a century the canvas shelters of its early days would be replaced by well-designed modern buildings, and that the prairie itself would be carrying substantial roadways. It was a happy inspiration that led the founders of the city to decide that the new legislative buildings—the finest of their kind in Canada—should be reared upon a plot on what was then the outskirts of the city. Such foresight is abundantly justified when the fact is borne in mind that within the space of