

NATURAL GAS AT MEDICINE HAT: "THE TOWN THAT WAS BORN LUCKY."

Medicine Hat is situated in the great wheat-growing Province of Alberta, and is rapidly rising into importance as a central station in connection with the farming industry. But it is not in that relation that the town has acquired the fame of having been born lucky. It has a well of natural gas in its midst which supplies power, light, and heat at a price unattained anywhere else. The gas issues from a borehole $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, under a pressure of 556 lbs. to the square inch, with a capacity of $1\frac{1}{2}$ million cubic feet per 24 hours, and although it has been giving off all that the town has required for years, there is no diminution in the pressure or decrease in the flow. The enormous pressure of its issue is reduced for practical working purposes to 5 lbs. per square inch, for steam raising, and general heating purposes, to 8 ozs. for lighting, and to 1 or 5 ozs. for gas engines. It is sold to manufacturers at 5 cents and for domestic purposes at $13\frac{1}{2}$ cents per 1000 cubic feet. It is said that the saving to the town in the use of this natural gas as compared with coal is at present £12,000 per annum.

This state of matters seems to point to Medicine Hat as offering a particularly favourable sphere for manufacturing industries, especially those associated with farming.

What the limit of the supply of gas may be it is impossible at present to tell. The Canadian Pacific Railway Co. have recently put down a bore at Dunmore, about four miles from Medicine Hat, and have tapped the gas under similar conditions to that at Medicine Hat. The bore hole, 10 inches in diameter and 1060 feet deep, emits the gas at a pressure of 560 lbs. to the square inch. When in full flow from a 4-inch pipe at the surface, the gas escapes with a scream so terrific that the cars have to be stuffed to save them from damage. Near the town of Calgary, in the same Province, a bore hole is being put down to a depth of 2500 feet, and already at 800 feet deep has tapped some gas.

It may be that oil will yet be discovered in the same region, but this is in the future. Meanwhile, the inhabitants of Medicine Hat are basking in the sunshine of their good fortune, and regarding themselves with some complacency, because Kipling, taking up a remark by one of the oldest settlers in the place, has told the world that Medicine Hat is "the town that was born lucky."

IRON MANUFACTURE.

Considering the great extent and growing needs of the Dominion, the mining of iron ore and manufacture of iron in Canada do not seem to be keeping pace with the progress of the country. Reference has already been made to the iron works of the Dominion Iron and Steel Coy.,