

and was filthy. The first course was bean soup, which was as far as I got, though I did make an attempt at some of the ham. The flies in the place were such an Egyptian plague that one had positively to keep his hand going before his spoon while one's soup was on the way to his mouth. I made my way outside as soon as possible and had recourse to my flask for the remainder of my meal.

At 1 o'clock we pushed on again; towards the latter part of the afternoon our horses were beginning to feel fagged, and needed much goading, mine especially, which was inferior to the others, which were owned by their riders. Every mile seemed longer than the last, and when at 9 p.m. we reached Moyie City, 20 miles from Cranbrook, it was with difficulty I could keep on my feet; my legs were raw in places and I felt as if I had been on the rack. However, we had done 50 miles, over some pretty bad road (the last 10 seemed like 50), and we had earned our night's rest. In the morning I was in no hurry to resume the journey, but looked around a little, while my companions went on.

Moyie City is a nice little settlement of perhaps 100 inhabitants, on Moyie Lake, a fine deep stretch of water ten miles long; the new railway running its full length.

Resuming my journey I shortly overtook John Chinaman, who had been following us the day before, and now appeared more friendly. He told me of his former adventures thereabout when he had gone through the district prospecting. The country was here very interesting; one kept the grade, winding along the shore of the lake to the head of it. There I left the grade, not seeing it again till I reached Cranbrook, where the road is completed as far as laying the rails. The landscape along here was pretty; there was fine timber and some good grazing land. Descending a hill and turning out of the forest I beheld Cranbrook a mile away, a cluster of newly built houses lying apparently in the centre of a prairie of 10 to 15 miles circumference, with foothills and then mountains in nearly every direction. I could see nothing anywhere that looked like a bank building, and had actually to ask where the bank was.

You may perhaps imagine how glad I was to get off my horse and shake hands with my fellow workers S— and F—. They had been busy enough on account of the coming of the "steel gang," who were laying the rails on the graded track. The bank is in a very poor building, as most of the buildings are which are put up in "a rush." But in the winter with plenty of heating we shall be fairly comfortable. We were pretty short of things in the way of furniture when I arrived, for the furnishings had not arrived from Winnipeg. For instance, there were but two camp bedsteads among three of us, and so one of us had to take turns sleeping on the floor of the bank.

Cranbrook promises well, I think. The C.P.R. can, and probably will, do a good deal for it. However, it seems a great pity that it is not situated on a lake or river. Our water supply consists of a small stream, half a mile away; the water is brought to town in a water-cart. The St. Mary's river is six miles away and the Kootenay river at Fort Steele is twelve.

Meals at the hotel were—well, I don't care to use strong language, but we were relieved when permission came from the head office to build an addition to our premises in the shape of dining-room and kitchen. One fine Sunday morning, before the roof was on the kitchen, we started cooking our own meals. Here was my opportunity, and I must have done pretty well as cook, for my reputation traveled and nearly every night we had some one in for dinner, glad to get an appetizing meal. One day I was presented with a haunch of cariboo, which I was dubious about managing, but it turned out well, and we had an excellent dinner for a party numbering nine. A few days later we got a Chinaman to do the cooking, and I was not sorry, for I was getting a little too much of a good thing.

A banking business was much handicapped when first we opened by the difficulty of handling money over the stage route from Golden, the charges, express or insurance being so high. Now we have a mail twice a week by C.P.R. As to the books you kindly offer, send them on by all means; they are doubly welcome out here. There is plenty of opportunity here for reading—and thinking; for after bank closes our hours are not taken up with a striking variety of occupations. As the place grows it may be different."

WITH THE DRY GOODS TRADE.

Colder weather and brighter trade is the report in all retail dry goods circles this week.

The textiles entered for exportation to Canada and Newfoundland at the Liverpool Custom House during the week ending the 18th October were as follows: 22,626 yards plain cottons, 210,160 dyed, colored and printed, 10,031 lbs. cotton yarn, 44,137 yards linens, £13,218 worth of woollens, worsteds, and blankets, £1,943 worth of silks.

In Yorkshire, says a gentleman who has lately returned to Canada, the market for woollen goods is generally firm. Indeed some of the Huddersfield manufacturers have withdrawn prices.

The silk market in Europe has been active and in some directions stocks are short. Peau de soie, for instance, and black surah are both scarce and high. There is good demand for velvet, which is much in demand for millinery.

The town of St. Stephen, New Brunswick, has voted a bonus of \$3,000 a year for ten years to a proposed factory, and exemption from taxation. But it has made conditions. For instance, the concern must employ 50 persons the first year it is established, 100 the second year, 150 the third year. And further—here is where the paternal legislation comes in—at least 75 per cent. of these employees must be residents of St. Stephen.

The prosecution of a merchant for advertising dress goods as "all-wool" when they were partly composed of cotton, which was taken up by the Bradford Chamber of Commerce, has again been before the Leeds stipendiary, but is not yet concluded. Without entering into the merits of the case, says The Drapers' Record, it is a matter of congratulation that Chambers of Commerce are taking an interest in the correctness or otherwise of trade descriptions.

There has been a good deal of correspondence in the Belfast papers regarding the alarming decline in the growth of flax in Ireland. Unless measures are taken immediately to prevent it, the culture of flax in that country will soon have disappeared. In 1868 the area under flax in Ireland was 240,000 acres; in 1888 it had fallen to 113,586 acres; in 1898 the area had dwindled to 34,489 acres, of which 34,215 acres are in Ulster. Last year the area was 45,537 acres, so that there is a decrease this year of nearly 25 per cent. upon the acreage of 1897.

FOR GROCERS AND PROVISION DEALERS.

Cable advices received from Amoy reported prices $\frac{1}{2}$ c. higher for Formosa tea.

A very fair demand exists in England and Germany for Canadian gallon apples, by last accounts.

Advices received from London report an advance of 1s. in the price of old crop Persian dates and state that the stock is closely cleaned up.

It is stated that the season will open with prices for Burmah rice one shilling higher than last year, despite the fact that the crop is a large one.

Mail advices received from the East say that the next sale of Padang will be a small one, and add that no offerings of importance need be expected before the June sale.

The Australian sugar production is now estimated at 202,000 tons, which means a surplus of 30,000 or 40,000 tons for export instead of as in previous years having to import from Mauritius.

According to a Winnipeg despatch of last week, 2,000 cattle left the stock yards of that city in one day, in six trains of twenty cars each. Of this number 840 were stockers for the St. Paul and Minneapolis, sent from Winnipeg, Wawanesa and Carberry. Two cars were beef cattle for Port Arthur, and about 1,200 were for export to the Old Country.

Our Montreal letter gives as under the cargo of the last Mediterranean direct fruit steamer, the "Bellona," which left Halifax harbor on Wednesday to arrive in Montreal tomorrow or Sunday: Currants, 1,100 half barrels, 575 quarter cases, 8,594 half cases, and 2,885 cases; Valencia raisins, 55,437 half boxes, 3,500 quarter boxes, 1,630 eighth boxes; besides a variety of nuts and Cadiz wines.