

Ducks of many kinds are seen about the frequent ponds, together with wild geese and cranes, and occasionally great white pelicans. The sportsmen have nearly all dropped off at the different stations. Those who remain are after larger game further west — antelope or caribou, or the bear, sheep, or goat of the mountains.

Three hundred miles from Winnipeg we pass through the famous Bell farm, embracing one hundred square miles of land. This is a veritable manufactory of wheat, where the work is done with an almost military organization, ploughing by brigades and reaping by divisions. Think of a farm where the furrows are ordinarily four miles long, and of a country where such a thing is possible! There are neat stone cottages and ample barns for miles around, and the collection of buildings about the headquarters near the railway station makes a respectable village, there being among them a church, a hotel, a flour-mill, and of course a grain elevator, for in this country these elevators appear wherever there is wheat to be handled or stored.

Soon we reach Regina, the capital of the Province of Assiniboia, situated in the centre of an apparently boundless but very fertile plain. The buildings here have more of a frontier look than those of the larger towns we have left behind; but it is a busy place, an important centre of trade, and one of the cities of the future. From here a railway branches off to the north, crossing the South Saskatchewan River at Saskatoon, and continuing on to Prince Albert on the North Saskatchewan. As we leave the station going westward, we see on our right the Governor's residence, and a little beyond, the headquarters of the Northwest Mounted Police, a body of men of whom Canada is justly proud. This organization is composed of young and picked men, thoroughly drilled, and governed by the strictest military discipline. Their firm and considerate rule won the respect and obedience of the Indians long before the advent of the railway, and its coming was attended by none of the lawlessness and violence which have darkly marked the opening of new districts elsewhere in America, so wholesome was the fame of these red-coated guardians of the prairies.

Leaving Regina we soon pass Moosejaw, four hundred miles from Winnipeg, and commence the ascent of another prairie *steppe*.

We have now nearly reached the end of the continuous settlement, and beyond to the mountains we shall only find the pioneer farmers in groups here and there, and, at intervals of two hours or so, the dozen establishments of an English company, where wheat-growing and cattle raising are carried on together in a large and systematic way — each establishment embracing twenty thousand or more acres. The country, while retaining the chief characteristics of the prairie, becomes more broken, and numerous lakes and ponds occur in the depressions. We shall see no trees now for a hundred miles, and without them the short buffalo-grass gives the country a desolate, barren look; but it is far from barren, as the occasional farms and station gardens testify, with their wonderful growth of cereals and vegetables. There is a flutter of excitement among the passengers, and a rush to the windows. Antelope! We shall see them often enough now. At Chaplin, we come to one of the Old Wives' lakes, which are extensive bodies of water having no outlet, and are consequently alkaline.