

SCENERY.

To give the reader anything like a proper description of the natural scenery that abounds in this district of country is beyond the power of the pen to describe. The traveller, after being carried over that monotonously level stretch of prairie that extends from east of Winnipeg to the western boundary of Assiniboia, finds himself suddenly ushered into a district where the scenery is of remarkable beauty. The eye is gladdened by hill and dale, by verdant slopes and grassy meadows, by tree and foliage, by the crystal waters of mountain rivers in their tortuous windings, and by the cloud-pierced, snow-capped Rocky Mountains as they girdle the western horizon. The mountain streams that traverse the whole Province of Alberta would, in the east, be considered rivers of prominence and importance. The rapidity and strength of their currents make them invaluable for affording power for the manufactures required for developing the varied and numerous resources with which the country abounds. Those rivers and their vicinities abound in fish and game. Throughout the Province there are dotted picturesque lakes, luxuriant foliage and well wooded forests. Skirting the western boundary of the Province tower the Rocky Mountains in bold and impressive majesty. Crag upon crag and peak upon peak they rise, many of them piercing the clouds and averaging fully 12,000 feet above the level of the sea. The peaks of many of them are covered with perpetual snow. As these castellated battlements and hoary fortresses of nature rise before the eye of the traveller he beholds a sight unequalled for rugged grandeur and sublimity. Throughout the different mountain ranges are lakes fringed with foliage and verdure, picturesque as in their quiet beauty they repose amid the mountains of rock that surround them. As a summer resort, where health, climate, scenery, sport and recreation are sought, the mountain region is unequalled in the Dominion. To the whole District of Alberta nature has been lavish in the creation of landscape and scenery. Throughout the whole Dominion no Province possesses in the works of nature the beauty, grandeur and sublimity that are apparent throughout the District of Alberta and its surroundings.

THE COUNTRY.

The District of Alberta contains 107,700 square miles. Out of this area there are about 24,000 square miles covered with mountains. The balance is composed of agricultural and grazing lands and rivers. It is estimated that there are at least 45,000,000 acres of good agricultural lands in the district. The most of the land south of High River is under lease and occupied by stock raisers. The land north of High River (extending from there to Edmonton 200 miles north of Calgary) is perhaps the best for agricultural purposes. The soil is generally a deep dark loam with clay bottom. There are sections where the subsoil is gravel. This land, though not so good for grain growing, makes excellent pasturage. The land is generally rolling, and free from stones; although these are found in some localities, and appear to mark the water line of dry inland seas or lakes. There is no alkali in the land or water in Alberta.

The climate of Alberta is undoubtedly better and more enjoyable than that of any district or province in Canada. This is due greatly to the proximity of the mountains. The summers are usually warm and dry, with cool evenings and heavy dews. These dews serve the same purpose that summer showers do in the east. The present summer, however, we have been visited with an unusual quantity of rain. We occasionally have heavy winds, but in