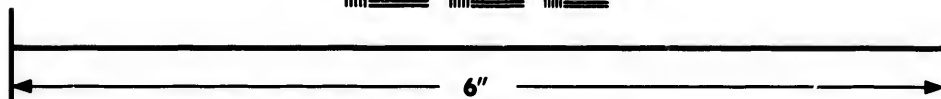
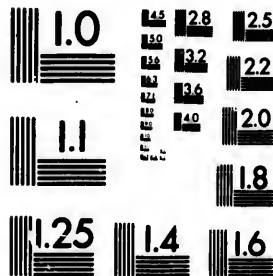
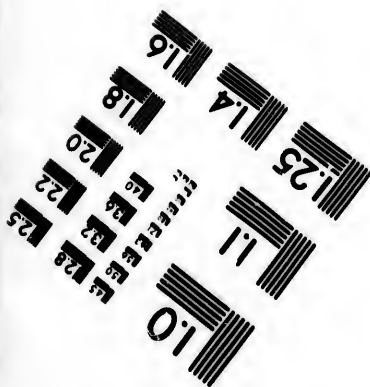


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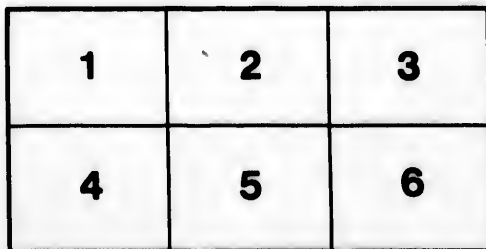
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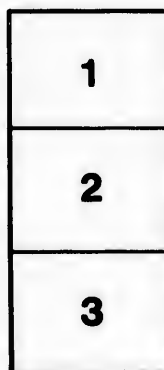
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Battleford Circular.

PUBLIC MEETING.

A Public meeting of the citizens of Battleford and the surrounding country was held in the School House on the 1st inst., for the purpose of taking into consideration the encouragement of immigration to the Battleford country. Notwithstanding the short notice, quite a number of farmers from a distance were on hand. Mr. John Carney was called to occupy the chair and to explain the object of the meeting, and Mr. F. Merigold acting secretary. After a brief explanation by the chairman of the object in view, several gentlemen addressed the audience upon the superior geographical and agricultural position and capabilities of this region. The following gentlemen were selected as a committee to draft a circular for the purposes intended: John Finlayson, William Lattimer, J. M. McFarlane, F. A. Smart, William Macdonnell, and John Carney. A meeting of the committee took place immediately after the close of public proceedings, and the work commenced in earnest.

CIRCULAR.

GEOGRAPHICAL AND AGRICULTURAL.

The position of Battleford. It is situated on the south side of the Battle River, about two miles from where it empties into the Great North Saskatchewan—while River is navigable for 1,500 m.—and 675 miles from Winnipeg, and 350 miles from the present western limit of the C. P. R. The N. W. M. Police barracks are on the opposite side of Battle River, in the centre of a beautifully elevated plain overlooking both Rivers which at this point is about two miles apart. Battleford is nearly as may be in the centre of the North-West Territories, and at the intersection of all the principal trails, and as a centre of trade between the West. On the south side are: Government House, Registrar's Office, a Dispensary, Hospital Office, Division Court Office, Telegraph Office, four excellently stocked general stores, and two boarding houses. Here are stored immense supplies for the Indians in the Northern Department. Here, large sums of money are disbursed by the Indian Department in annuities to Indians, and employees on Indian reserves and farms etc. The following are extracts from the special correspondents of the leading Journals of the day, which speak for themselves with respect to the Battle River country: TORONTO GLOBE.

"As I have already had a good deal to say about the capital of the North-West Territories it will not be necessary to add much here; its location is admirable both from an agricultural and a commercial point of view. Being at the junction of the Battle River with the North Saskatchewan, it has facilities north-west, south-west, and eastward, and besides there is a country lying to the south of it through which heavy freight wagons could be run with perfect safety all the way to Calgary and Macleod if necessary. In no part of the North-West did I see better growing crops when I was on my way westward, and in no part, either of the North-West or Manitoba, did I find the farmers better satisfied with the results of their season's work than I did here on my return. The soil is not so heavy as that of Edmonton or Prince Albert proper, but this rich sandy loam that is to be found everywhere about Battleford is, I am convinced, in the long run as profitable soil for the agriculturist, taking one year with another, as one can find any where on the continent. This autumn excellent harvests were taken off fields that had been cropped continuously without manuring for five years. Here I found no disposition on the part even of the most sanguine settlers to apologize for any short-comings owing to a backward summer and early frosts, though several of the settlers who had been lately about gathering their potatoes suffered from the early advent of winter weather. From all that I can learn, I think that, as a rule, the winters are less severe at Battleford than in any other of the

northern settlements in the Territories. From the least amount of snow, in the very nature of things, be subject to the casualties of blizzards or that intense degree of cold that characterizes more low-lying localities, and especially those in the neighbourhood of extensive muskegs or marshy flats. For political purposes a great deal of howling has been indulged in about Battleford and. Battleford has been pronounced the centre of nowhere, and in fact everything that political justice could suggest has been said against it, steeply because the late Government of the Dominion made some improvements here with the view that it was to be permanently the Capital of the North-West. All this nonsense that has been talked and written on the subject, while it has worked mischief both to Battleford and to many a settler who, in coming to the North-West, has gone farther and fared worse, will still be unavailing as a means of permanently checking this settlement's onward and upward progress. I have no hesitation whatever in saying that there is no settlement in the North-West equal to those of Battleford, and I have confidence enough in the shrewdness of the railway monopoly, which is just now so powerful in the territories, to be very sure that it will not imitate the example of the present Dominion Government, and shut its eyes to the importance of this locality. Whether the main line of the Canada Pacific Railway is destined ever to reach Battleford or not I am unable to say; but that Battleford will, in a comparatively short time, have railway communications with the outer world, I have not the slightest doubt.

THE GOVERNOR GENERAL'S OPINION.

"Southwestward from Battleford, overland which in tanny of the maps is variously marked as consisting of arid plains or as a continuation of the American desert. Recent maps, especially those containing the exploration of Professor Macoun, have corrected this wholly erroneous idea. For two days' march that is to say for about sixty or seventy miles, south of Battleford, we passed over land whose excellence could not be excelled for agricultural purposes (hence to the neighbourhood of the Red Deer Valley the soil is lighter, but still, in my opinion, in most places good for grain, and, in any case, most admirable for summer pasturage. It will certainly be good also for stock in winter as soon as it shall pay to have some hay stored in the valleys. The whole of it has been the favorite feeding-ground of the buffalo, and their tracks from watering-places (never too far apart from each other) were everywhere to be seen, while in very many tracks their dung lay so thickly that the appearance of the ground was only comparable to that of an English farmyard. Let us hope that the time will not be long before the disappearance of the buffalo from these scenes is followed by the appearance of domestic herds."

TORONTO MAIL.

"Battleford is prettily situated near the confluence of the Battle River with the North Saskatchewan. It is surrounded by a good country suitable for farming purposes. This year crops have been gathered earlier, and are reported as less damaged by frost than those settled east and west, namely Edmonton and Prince Albert. One of the settlers informed me that by the meteorological reports formerly kept at Battleford, it was shown that spring weather settlements) so that the grain crop is secured in good condition, and for yield and quality equals any part of the country. Land is settling up fast, considering the disadvantage of having no survey. A survey of the town is also badly needed, to enable the energetic business men of the place to pick up buildings worthy of the trade transacted. There are several well filled stores, both wholesale and retail, all in lower town; and judging from the large number of loaded Red River carts I saw arriving, there must be a large business carried on. As well as being the seat of Government for the North-west, Battleford is headquarters of a large Indian District. They have a good bridge across the Battle River, erected partly by private subscription and partly by Dominion funds, but before this section of country can progress so

rapidly as it should, more liberal appropriations will have to be made for the improvement of roads and to build bridges. The town is built on the south side of the river, and from the upper level, on which the Government building and offices are built, commanding a magnificent view of the country in every direction. The police barracks are built on a plateau on the north side of the river, about a mile from the bridge. They have a farm in connection with the barracks, on which this season a large crop of good oats has been raised. The finest garden vegetables grown in the Territories are claimed to be raised here. I saw several good samples—cabbage, turnips, beets, and onions, which were certainly very large, grown by Mr. Lattimer of the Illustrated and sat-weekly paper, neatly published and edited by him. There are over 25 farmers in the neighborhood, cultivating farms ranging from 50 to 150 acres. The most extensive are Finlayson Bros., McFarlane Bros., P. & J. Pamurene, G. Gopell, A. J. Prongun, Wyld & Bourke have a dairy of 75 cows. A. Loyie 25 cows within six miles of the town. Messrs. Forget, Richardson, Ballendine, McKay, Baker, and O'Neil, their manufacture butter, which is in great demand at 50 cents per lb. This is what the Saskatchewan HERALD says of the crops:—

"Our wheat has been pronounced by Chief Factor Clarke and Capt. Macdowell—two competent judges having no predilections in our favor—to be equal to any, and superior to most that they had seen in Prince Albert. In vegetables this district cannot easily be beaten. Here are some specimens to begin with:—Onions 13 inch in circumference, weighing a pound each, bushels of the crop measuring a foot in circumference, all grown from seed this spring; turnips, 8 inches, 12 inch, in circumference, and still growing; rhubarb, two feet long and 7 inch in circumference; cabbages by the hundred, grown without the aid of glass, 8 to 10 inch in diameter, solid and well headed, and other vegetables in proportion; and of Beauty of Hebron potatoes, a return of 50 lbs. for the one lb. of seed planted. We do not know whether these are the best in the Territories; but if anyone has better we should like to have the figures."

SASKATCHEWAN HERALD.

"The soil is productive and climate favorable to agricultural pursuits, while here we seek and obtain a good living during the winter on the prairies, and comfortable shelter amongst the bluffs. Thousands of recent settlers are at this hour browsing at large in this Territory, thus relieving their owners of that serious expense of wintering, which unavoidable attends stock raising in the old provinces. Those who are still in the dark with respect to this vast region, may rest assured that incoming settlers are not subject to those traditional difficulties such as beset pioneer life in the old provinces—such cannot possibly be for similar obstacles do not obtain in this territory, the country being of a totally different nature and character in nearly every respect. It does not require a life time to clear up a moderately sized farm. The ground is ready for the plough, and a cash market at hand for all kinds of produce, at prices now as follows: Oats, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel; Barley, \$1.50 per bushel; Potatoes, \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bushel; Wheat, \$1.50 to \$2.00 per bushel, and in demand. All other produce commands equally good prices excepting hay which is of spontaneous growth, consequently cheap at all times, or for the cutting of it."

LONDON TIMES—ENGLAND.

"Battleford is close to the junction of the Battle and North Saskatchewan, and has been given a bad name altogether undeserved. A bad name sticks, and 'Battleford Sand' has become proverbial, though really it is but a handful in proportion to the vastness well adjoining it. The country through which we have passed since leaving the bluffs is above suspicion, here at our camp ground the grass is thick and rich, and almost up to our knees."

SUGGESTIONS.

New settlers in this region can keep in many cows as it may suit their means to purchase and attend to from the first hour of their settlement, for pasture is already for them in abundance, and in most places especially in this section, cattle can and the

greater part of their winter's food for themselves and be in good condition in the spring. The produce of the dairy as well as beef command excellent prices, and will continue to do so for many years to come, particularly during the construction of the many railways in contemplation and under way at the present time. The Syndicate have announced that they will build 50 miles of prairie road in 1882, which will extend the track of C. P. R. far west of Battleford which circumstance will, when consummated, prove a great boon to this country. The C. P. R. track extends at the present time, some 300 miles westward from Winnipeg. The Prairie Producers' and North-western Railway Company will commence work this season, a branch of which will reach Battleford via the North Saskatchewan valley, there are also other lines in contemplation designed to tap the fertile valley of the Battle River.

The climate of this country is superior to Manitoba, which fact is observable while travelling from east to west during the winter months, both in respect to winds, intense frost and depth of snow, which respectively moderates—hence, it is more comfortable in the North-West for man and beast. This circumstance is accounted for by its inclination, which places this country in the influence of the west (chill) winds reaching from the Pacific, passing through the Rocky Mountain gorges moderating the cold air in its course until absorbed and chilled by the air in the more distant and cold east.

Settlers need not be under any apprehension of Indians, in this direction at least, as all the natives of the plains are settled down on reservations following agricultural pursuits for a living and are closely observed by officials in charge.

AN INTERVIEW.

The following interview between Mr. J. Finlayson of Battle River valley, a member of the committee, which is very comprehensive and is substantiated by the settlers enumerated in the extract from the Mail above. It contains more truthful information respecting this section of country than can be obtained through any other source, it being the outcome of successful, practical experience of some years:

- Q.—What do you think of the Battle River valley as an agricultural district?
- A.—I think it is second to none in the North-West for general agricultural purposes.
- Q.—Why do you think it is superior to other portions of the North-West?
- A.—Different reasons. First, there are less summer frosts, earlier springs and later falls without frost.
- Q.—What kind of soil is it generally?
- A.—It is generally a rich loamy soil with clay bottom. It is nearly as rich as the soil of Red River and Edmonton.
- Q.—Do you think it will raise as good crops as very heavy soil?
- A.—Yes, I think it will raise better crops one season with another.
- Q.—How do you account for this?
- A.—Because very heavy flat land during wet seasons the crops are very apt to be drowned out. In wet seasons if they are not injured by water, they are apt to rot, and do not ripen in time to escape the fall frosts, which are much earlier on heavy flat land.
- Q.—Was the grain ever caught by fall frosts in the Battle River valley during your experience there?
- A.—There has not been any grain caught by fall frosts that I know of as yet, except two small patches of oats sown on sand in June, after all other crops had quite a growth.
- Q.—Does wheat do well in the valley?
- A.—Wheat does well, and yields from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre.
- Q.—How long has wheat been raised in the Battle River valley?
- A.—It has been raised in the valley for the past four years.
- Q.—During that time has it been sipped by frosts?
- A.—It has not.
- Q.—Is wheat the only grain you grow?
- A.—No, we grow various varieties of grain, wheat, oats, peas and barley—all successfully.
- Q.—Does the grain raised in the valley stand weight?

A.—Yes, it goes over weight? I sold 500 bushels of oats this year, that weighed from 50 to 100 lbs. per seamless sack.

Q.—Did you raise any fax? A.—I raised a small patch of fax last year and it did not succeed. I think fax growing in this country will prove a great success.

Q.—Are roots and vegetables generally good? A.—I think vegetables succeed those raised in the eastern provinces in many respects. They are a great success.

Q.—Is there much land unoccupied in this section, and is there such good land not yet occupied? A.—There is any amount of good land in the Battle River valley, and across the North Saskatchewan River, opposite this place, there is any amount of unoccupied land, and will certainly become the greatest farming districts in the North-West, and yet unoccupied.

Q.—Why is it bound to become a great farming community? A.—Because of the great area of country without inferior land. There are 20 miles along the river, and ranging back 20 to 40 miles north from its banks.

Q.—Are there many settlers in the Battle River valley? A.—There are a few, but there have been a great many claims taken up this winter.

Q.—Is there any timber in the valley, and is the water good? A.—There is plenty of timber for all purposes, also abundance of good water.

Q.—Do live stock thrive in this section? A.—Horses, cattle, and hogs do well here. Sheep have not been introduced yet. Cattle and horses grow out during winter, and require very little feeding. Horses not required for work are allowed to run and they receive no care.

Q.—How do Canadian horses stand the climate? A.—They do as well here, in this country as in the eastern provinces, if they are as well fed and cared for. I would advise settlers coming to this country requiring more than one team to bring one team of horses, and the remainder cattle, for very considerable work can be done with oxen without grain, and horses cannot do without oats. If a man coming here to settle is a farmer, or a laborer, he can make capital more quickly than he can in the eastern provinces. But a man with a family and not much help, requires to have on hand about \$1,000.

Q.—What time of the year in your opinion, would be the most advantageous for an intending settler to leave Winnipeg for the North-West to commence farming? A.—As early as possible in the spring, because by breaking as much as possible a very fair crop can be raised on the fresh turned sod which helps to give a start the first year, besides the settler would have the summer before him to prepare for the winter. I had 20 acres of sod sown this last season with oats, which turned out 40 bushels to the acre. A team of horses can break and harrow 25 acres and do it well during the spring, time enough for early seeding. We commence ploughing generally, between the 10th and 15th of April. The snow ranges from 6 to 12 inch and the frost comes out of the ground early, owing to the favorable nature of the soil. Land is rolling, and as a consequence the ground is dry. There is plenty of game, besides fish in the lakes and rivers.

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The land regulations of the North-West Territories provide for homesteads and pre-emption on liberal terms. All claims established prior to the Act of 1879, will be acknowledged irrespective of position.

WHAT TO BRING AND HOW TO OCKEN TO SASKATCHEWAN. Intending settlers having horses, cattle and implements, by making arrangements with the railway authorities, who give immigrant special rates—will do right by bringing them along with them; but those not having live stock can purchase outfits at Winnipeg, or if not caring to incur themselves with farming implements, can purchase them at Battleford, there being Agencies established here. Parties having Canadian horses or the means of buying a team, would do well to bring them, for if not over loaded and properly cared for, will stand the trip from Brandon to Battleford successfully, besides, being on hand for future operations as team horses are scarce here in comparison with the demand. By a man of small means will benefit himself by securing oxen and carts. The general prices at Winnipeg are: Double waggon \$65 to \$75; Red River carts, \$10 to \$15; Iron bound carts, \$30 to \$35; Buckboards, \$50 to \$75; Waggon harness, \$30 to \$40; Cart do, \$5 to \$10; Stage do, \$5 to \$10; Canadian teams, 200 to \$400; Nativ. ponies, \$50 to \$80; Yoke of oxen, \$150 to \$175.

CAMPING OUTRIG. A good tent, tin stove, frying pan, tin cups, axes, spades, hammer, brace and bit, saw, auger, drawing knife, saw, nails, assortment of wagon bolts, logging chain, hobbles, and ropes for horses, a shot gun and powder and shot, as game is plentiful on the route.

PROVISIONS. Flour, bacon, beans, dried apples, sugar, tea, baking powder, etc.

ROUTE. Take train from Winnipeg to Brandon, or to the end of the C. P. R., where the prairie trip will begin. Wagons drawn by Canadian horses the load should not exceed 1500 lbs. Good oxen in carts, from 500 to 800 lbs. The best time to travel is in early spring, or fall—the spring being preferable, owing to the pasturage, besides, parties arriving here in time to put up buildings—to secure hay and prepare for winter, and next year's operations. It will be found a very great advantage in making an early start, which will enable parties to camp early, affording ample time to cut wood, get water etc. It is advantageous to take a "spell" of rest during the day say three times each day, which will give the cattle time to feed. A fair average rate of travel per day is for oxen, 15 miles and for horses 15 to 25 miles.

THE TRAIL. Travellers recommend the Southern Trail. On leaving end of the track follow the best on trail to Qu'Appelle, say 200 miles, is the best and shortest—pasturage, wood and good water being in abundance. From Qu'Appelle north to Touchwood Hills, say 50 miles. Intending settlers should supply themselves at Qu'Appelle, or Touchwood Hills with provisions sufficient to make the journey to Battleford. At Touchwood Hills follow best beaten trail to the edge of Salt Plains, 30 miles across—At this point take wood to use in crossing this plain, as there is no wood to be had. As the traveller approaches the woods on the west side he will observe a finger board upon which is painted "West Road to Battleford, by way of Clark's Crossing on the South Saskatchewan River." Much care must be taken at this point of the journey to avoid missing this new trail, which is 40 miles shorter than any other route to Battleford. Follow the trail to the left of the finger board, until the telegraph line is reached, by following which, travellers will be brought direct to Clark's Ferry and cross the South Saskatchewan River. Continue to follow this trail until another finger board is reached 30 miles from the South Saskatchewan River near the Elbow of the North Saskatchewan River, where the main trail will have been reached, follow it to Eagle Creek, some 10 miles distant, where there is another finger board marked "New Trail to Battleford." If not too heavily laden take the River Trail, which is only 20 miles to Battleford and about 25 miles shorter than the Hill Trail.

There are two places of worship and two schools in Battleford and a Postoffice.

PUBLIC MEETING.

The meeting on Friday the 10th, was for the purpose of discussing the merits of the circular, drawn up by the committee, who were selected at a former meeting, the particulars of which appear in the columns of the HAZARD elsewhere.

Mr. John Carney occupied the chair and Mr. F. Merigold acting as Secretary. Minutes of former meeting were read and approved, after which, the secretary read the report of the committee including the published circular. Several gentlemen addressed the meeting upon the efforts being made by the citizens of Battleford, and the work accomplished by the committee. Great hopes were expressed that the government would not fail to order the survey of the town site of Battleford and portions of the surrounding country, as very considerable interests now being taken in this section, by parties living outside, which is evinced by the large number of letters of enquiry which continue to arrive by every mail to people in this country.

It was moved by G. Gopall, that having heard the report and circular read, that they be adopted. Mr. T. T. Quinn seconded the motion.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. W. MacDonnell and seconded by J. D. Finlayson, that a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. John Carney, chairman, for his services and material contributed to the committee enabling them to publish the circular, also to Mr. P. G. I. Murie, Editor and proprietor of the Saskatchewan Herald—now en-route from Winnipeg—for his enterprise and perseverance in behalf of the North-West, and Battleford in particular.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. F. A. Smart, and seconded by Mr. W. Latimer, that the thanks of the citizens of Battleford be due Messrs. McFarlane and Finlayson, for their valuable assistance to the committee.—Carried.

Moved by Mr. G. Gopall, and seconded by Mr. F. Merigold, that a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. F. Merigold for his services.—Carried.

S. BALLENDINE, of Indian Farm No. 12, Battle River, called upon us on the 29th ult. and reported that the live stock on that reserve were doing well. He also stated that Chief Poundmaker was energetically urging the ideas pronounced in his New Year's speech to his band. Certainly Poundmaker deserves credit for his many efforts, and will no doubt be encouraged by the Agent.

FROM THE FINLAYSON BROS. We learn that their live stock are doing well, and as these pushing conditions take cattle in charge to winter they generally have a good number on hand. These young men are most extensive agriculturists in this section, and claim that this region is well adapted for mixed and dairy farming. The Finlaysons have had very considerable experience in this country, therefore their opinions on these subjects are worthy of respect. We notice that many of those who passed by here and are returning, would feel more at ease at the present time had they paid more respect to the information solicited from the farmers in this neighborhood while prospecting in this vicinity.

SINCE our last issue we took a short trip into the country, and while thus engaged we visited Messrs. McFarlane Bro.'s farm, and learned from these enterprising managers that their fine herd of horses wintering amongst the "mythical sand hills" of Battle River Valley, divided into two bands were in excellent condition, and health. They informed us that they only visit their horses occasionally to see whether any accidents have occurred, and that is the only trouble or concern they have about them during the winter. Their excellent herd of cows and young cattle are in fine condition as usual. These cattle leave the yard in the morning, go out on the prairie to graze during the day and return, or are driven home in the evening, going through the same routine as in summer time.

D. L. Clark of Indian Farm No. 12, claims that the Battle River and the Saskatchewan valleys are better adapted for cattle raising than Manitoba. Mr. Clark has had some experience in both sections of country therefore is posted on the subject.

THE CANADA PACIFIC RAILWAY.

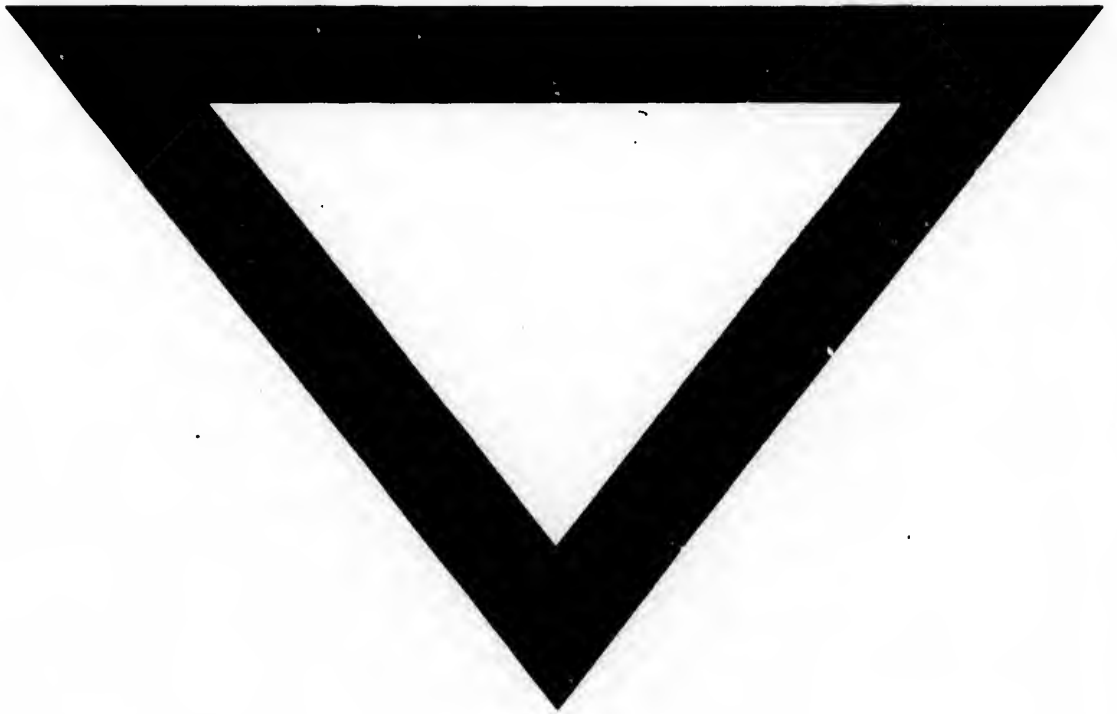
THE COMPLETION OF THE C. P. R. to the Saskatchewan next summer will take the road to the Rocky Mountains, facilitating the presentation of heavy work thereto during the winters of 1882-3. Work on the Pacific division of the road is in active progress from Fort Moody to Kamloops, at the occurrence of the north and south branches of the Thompson River. From Kamloops east the Syndicate will put the road under contract this winter—and this portion of the line will be known as the Rocky Mountain Division of the C. P. R. At the present rate of progress the road will be fully completed from Winnipeg to Kamloops in 1887, making a total of 1,800 miles from Winnipeg to Fort Moody. With a probability that the Canadian Government will complete its portion of the line, it is expected that trains will be running through to the Pacific coast in five years from this date.

THE EASTERN DIVISION of the Canadian Pacific will be completed from Winnipeg to Thunder Bay, a distance of 350 miles, by the middle of the coming summer. The company is now engaged in building a connection from Callender station, on the Canada Central Railway, to a point of junction with the C. P. R. on the English River, the completion of which insures the movement of through trains between the Atlantic and the Pacific oceans on the great northern line, and all under the management of the Canadian Pacific Company.

Gen. Rossier contributed the further information that the Province of Manitoba, and Winnipeg especially, is receiving valuable acquisitions to its population from the United States. Millions of money are being brought into the Province from England, and times are brighter than at any mining town ever visited by the General. Immigration has been so rapid that settlements are continually springing up far in advance of the railway construction, and the country cannot be opened and surveyed with sufficient rapidity to meet the requirements of the new settlers and colonies. The country from Winnipeg to Qu'Appelle—500 miles—is described as of rare fertility, and every acre as rich as the best land in the Red River valley. The soil is a black loam, with gently rolling surface, well watered and with timber enough for the use of settlers. At the time of departure from Manitoba the snow was about one and a half feet deep, but the trains had not been interrupted—the road being an embankment owing to the level character of the country traversed, and but few cuts are found on that portion of the line thus far completed.

A WISE PLAN. So far as Gen. Rossier is able to learn, large farms are not in demand among the people of Manitoba, nearly all settlers being content with 160 acres, or enough to insure them comfortable homes. As a consequence, the vast territory is being rapidly divided into quarter section farms, which will soon make Manitoba one of the wealthiest districts on the western continent. Under this system the new country is rapidly brought under cultivation, each settler agreeing to break a stipulated portion of land when he purchases from the syndicate, and no lands being sold to speculators. As an instance of the rapidity with which colonizers are moving westward and the demand for lots in promising towns on the C. P. R., Gen. Rossier states that \$100,000 worth of lots were sold at Brandon, 100 miles west of Winnipeg, some time before the railway company reached that point.

Capt. John Stewart, who recently returned to the city from the North-West, says that millions of dollars of foreign capital have been deposited in the bank at Winnipeg awaiting investment next spring. The captain himself has leased 100,000 acres of grazing lands in the Bow River district, which he has stocked with five thousand head of cattle and horses. He claims that the Canadian lands are infinitely superior to those of Dakota and Minnesota. Numerous applications have been made to the Department by Americans, offering to lease extensive tracts of grazing lands in the North-West.



Ord Circular.

ments in the Territories cannot, in the very nature of the case, be subject to the visitations of intense degrees of cold that are low-lying localities and in the neighborhood of extensive marshy flats. For a great deal of hawking has been done about Battleford and it is pronounced the centre in fact everything that could suggest has been said to be because the late Government made some improvement in the view that it was to be a Capital of the North-West, that has been talked and subject, while it has worked about Battleford and to many a coming to the North-West, and fared worse, will still be means of permanently checking the onward and upward progress of settlement in the North-West, all in all, of natural advantage of Battleford, and I have faith in the shrewdness of the policy, which is just now all the Territories, to be very sure imitate the example of the "Government, and what importance of this locality, in the line of the Canada Pacific, has destined ever to reach Battleford, and in a comparative short way communicative with it, I have not the slightest

GENERAL'S OPINION.
 Battleford is a very fine place, and the maps is variously showing of old plains or of the American desert. Recently those containing the Professor Macoun, have been very erroneous ideas. For two months to say about sixty or more of Battleford, we pass those excellence could not be of medicinal purposes; hence the food of the Red Deer Valley, but still, in my opinion, good for grain, and in any case suitable for summer pasturage. It is good also for stock in as it shall pay to have some of the valleys. The whole of it is a fine feeding-ground of the cattle, and from watering-places (never too far apart) were every where to be seen, many tracks their dung lay on the appearance of the ground assured to that of an English us hope that the time will see the disappearance of the scene is followed by the domestic heads."

EDMONTON MAIL.
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rapidly as it should, more liberal appropriations will have to be made for the improvement of roads and to build bridges. The town is built on the south side of the river, and from the upper level, on which the Government building and offices are built, commanding a magnificent view of the country in every direction. The police barracks are built on a plateau on the north side of the river, about a mile from the bridge. They have a fine view in connection with the barracks, on which this season a large crop of good oats has been raised. The finest garden vegetables grown in the Territories are claimed to be raised here. I saw several good samples—cabbage, turnips, beets, and onions, which were certainly very large, grown by Mr. Laurie of the HERALD, a semi-weekly paper, neatly published and edited by him. There are over 25 farmers in the neighborhood, cultivating farms ranging from 50 to 150 acres. The most extensive are Finlayson Bros., McFarlane Bros., P. & J. Pambrun, G. Gopill, A. J. Prongin, Wyld & Bourke have a dairy of 75 cows. A. Boyle 25 cows within six miles of the town, Messrs. Forget, Richardson, Ballendine, McKay, Baker, and O'Neill, they manufacture butter, which is in great demand at 50 cents per lb. This is what the Saskatchewan HERALD says of the crops:—"Our wheat has been pronounced by Chief Factor Clarke and Capt. Macleod—two competent judges having no predilections in our favor—to be equal to any, and superior to most that they had seen in Prince Albert. In vegetables this district cannot easily be beaten. Here are some specimens to begin with—Onions 13 inch in circumference, weighing a pound each, bushels of the crop measuring a foot in circumference, all grown from seed this spring; turnips, 8x6 inches, 36 inch, in circumference, and still growing; rutabarb, two feet long and 7 inch in circumference; cabbages by the hundred, grown without the aid of glass, 30 to 40 inch in diameter, solid and well headed, and other vegetables in proportion; and of Beauty of Hebron potatoes, a return of 50 lbs for the one lb. of seed planted. We do not know whether these are the best in the Territories; but if anyone has better we should like to have the figures."

SASKATCHEWAN HERALD.
 "The soil is productive and climate favorable to agricultural pursuits, while heads and obtain a good living during the winter on the prairie, and comfortable shelter amongst the bluffs—thousands of domestic animals are at this hour browsing at large in this Territory, thus relieving the owners of that serious expense of wintering, which unavoidable attends stock raising in the old provinces. Those who are still in the dark with respect to this vast region, may rest assured that incoming settlers are not subject to those traditional difficulties such as beset pioneer life in the old provinces—such cannot possibly be by smaller obstacles do not obtain in this territory, the country being of a totally different nature and character in nearly every respect. It does not require a life time to clear up a moderately sized farm. The ground is ready for the plough, and a cash market is had for all kinds of produce, at prices now as follows: Oats, \$1.25 to \$1.50 per bushel; Barley, \$1.50 per bushel; Potatoes, \$1.00 to \$1.50 per bushel; Wheat, \$1.50 to \$2.00 per bushel, and in demand. All other produce commands equally good prices accepting hay which is of spontaneous growth, consequently cheap at all times, or for the cutting of it."

LONDON TIMES-ENGLAND.
 "Battleford is close to the junction of the Battle and North Saskatchewan, and has been given a bad name altogether undeserved. A bad name sticks, and "Battleford Sand" has become proverbial, though really it is but a handful in proportion to the first-class soil adjoining it. The country through which we have passed since leaving the bluffs is above suspicion. Here at our camp ground the grass is thick and rich, and almost up to our knees."

greater part of their winter's food for themselves and be in good condition in the spring. The produce of the dairy as well as beef commands excellent prices, and will continue to do for many years to come, particularly during the construction of the many railways in contemplation and under way at the present time. The Syndicate have announced that they will build 500 miles of prairie road in 1882, which will extend the track of C. P. R. far west of Battleford which circumstance will, when consummated, prove a great boon to this country. The C. P. R. track extends at the present time, some 200 miles westward from Winnipeg. The Portage la Prairie, Westbourne & North-Western Railway Company will commence work this season, a branch of which will reach Battleford via the North Saskatchewan valley, there are also other lines in contemplation designed to tap the fertile valleys of the Battle River.

The climate of this country is superior to Manitoba, which fact is observable while travelling from east to west during the winter months, both in respect to winds, intense frost and depth of snow, which respectively moderate—hence, it is more comfortable in the North-West for man and beast. This circumstance is accounted for by its inclination, which places this country in the influence of the west (chinkook) winds reaching from the Pacific, passing through the Rocky Mountain ranges moderating the cold air in its course until absorbed and chilled by the air in the more distant and cold east.

Settlers need not be under any apprehension of Indians, in this direction at least, as all the natives of the plains are settled down on reservation following agricultural pursuits for a living and closely observed by officials in charge.

AN INTERVIEW.

The following interview between Mr. J. Finlayson of Battle River valley, a member of the committee, which is very comprehensive and is substantiated by the settlers enumerated in the extract from the Mail above. It contains more truthful information respecting this section of country than can be obtained through any other source, it being the outcome of successful, practical experience of some years:

- Q.—What do you think of the Battle River valley as an agricultural district?
- A.—I think it is second to none in the North-West for general agricultural purposes.
- Q.—Why do you think it is superior to other portions of the North-West?
- A.—Different reasons. First, there are less summer frosts, earlier springs and later falls without frost.
- Q.—What kind of soil is it generally?
- A.—It is generally a rich loamy soil with clay bottom. It is nearly as rich as the soil of Red River and Edmonton.
- Q.—Do you think it will raise as good crops as very heavy soil?
- A.—Yes, I think it will raise better crops one season with another.
- Q.—How do you account for this?
- A.—Because very heavy flat land during wet seasons the crops are very apt to be drowned out. In wet seasons if they are not injured by water, they are apt to rot, and do not ripen in time to escape the fall frosts, which are much earlier on heavy flat land.
- Q.—Was the grain ever caught by fall frosts in the Battle River valley during your experience therein?
- A.—There has not been any grain caught by fall frosts that I know of as yet, except two small patches of oats sown on sod in June, after all other crops had quite a growth.
- Q.—Does wheat do well in the valley?
- A.—Wheat does well, and yields from twenty-five to thirty bushels per acre.
- Q.—How long has wheat been raised in the Battle River valley?
- A.—It has been raised in the valley for the past four years.
- Q.—During that time has it been nipped by frosts?
- A.—It has not.
- Q.—Is wheat the only grain you grow?
- A.—No, we grow various varieties of grain, wheat, oats, peas and barley—all successfully.
- Q.—Does the grain raised in the valley stand weight?

OVER.