

SKETCH OF CARDSTON.

Following the old Macleod trail northward for about seventeen miles after crossing the international boundary line a small tributary of the St. Mary's river is crossed. Up this stream (Lee's creek) some two and a half miles, the traveler sees the pleasant houses of the Cardston people. The northern limit of the town is marked by the southern boundary of the Blood reserve, its eastern extension by the above named creek, while west and south is an area which is fast being dotted with the homes of settlers. Some twenty odd miles to the west the scarred crests of the Rockies tower in majestic splendor, while southward above the foothills rises the dark-browed front of the Milk River ridge. Just where the foothills merge into the level or undulating prairie lands, whose grassy billows seem to find no shore line on the north and east, is located the busy village of Cardston.

Thus its position is admirable both for farming and stock raising—ranges unequalled to the west and south, level or rolling field lands to the east and north. And are these advantages unappreciated? you ask. Not so. Ride to the top of some prominent point and you will see the ranches nestling among the hills, the fields of grain of the husbandman nodding in the gentle breeze, their promises of abundant harvests. Still vast is the area yet awaiting the lowing herds, or the magic touch of the skilled agriculturist's hand to give forth those earthly bounties that the ever-struggling man so longs to possess.

But probably more definite information concerning our resources would be desirable. The soil, a dark, rich loam of gooily depth, formed by nature's great fertilizer, decaying vegetation, seems softly to say "I am here waiting your pleasure. Only turn me over and I will reward you." And when one sees what a depth of subsoil we have—clay oftentimes thirty feet in thickness—there is no room left to doubt the statement that the soil has great treasures in store for us. A gravelly subsoil is something rarely ever met with in this portion of Alberta.

Coming from an arid country, most settlers here are interested in irrigation, still it has been proven conclusively that by following proper methods in farming, cereals can be successfully and profitably raised in this neighborhood without other moisture than that deposited by the clouds. For making meadow lands, tree culture, etc., irrigation would indeed be a boon. Going east and north toward Lethbridge, however, the soil does not improve, though the country is better adapted for irrigation than in the vicinity of Cardston, and when the day comes that the area between the Milk River Ridge on the south and the St. Mary's on the north is under a well regulated irrigation system, then the agricultural fame of the Lethbridge district will be heralded far and wide. For stock raising, no matter what line, sheep, cattle or horses, this region needs no encumbrances.

The number of cattle owned here is approximately five thousand, this es-

timate not including the cattle owned by the large outfits like the Cochrane and the Brown Ranching company's near by. Horses probably exceed 1000 in number; sheep 4000 to 5000. The country, south of the St. Mary's and Belly rivers having recently been thrown open for sheep, this last figure will be many times multiplied in the near future.

Of our mineral resources little can at present be said. Coal croppings are numerous and several claims have been worked enough to supply local demands, but when our home consumption will warrant it, a shaft sunk anywhere in the level country near our town will undoubtedly reveal within 300 feet, coal of good quality and inexhaustible quantity. The mountains and hills to our west will certainly disclose their metallic treasures to the bards prospector who will begin the search, nothing in that line having yet been done.

Agriculture, the basic industry, engages the labors of nine-tenths of our population, yet we have others which we are proud to mention. In the mercantile line we have a well stocked store fully abreast of the times, considering our state of growth, which in all new settlements of permanent solidity is slowest at the beginning. This is the property of the Cardston Co. (Ltd.) The building itself is a highly creditable structure. The same company owns a first-class cheese plant with a daily capacity of one thousand pounds. For two years it has been successfully operated in connection with the aforesaid merchant doing business. A ready market has been found in the west for our surplus productions in this line of dairying, due probably to their uniformity and excellent quality. By most competent judges our cheese has been pronounced a first-class article in every respect.

Being a farming community, a grist mill is, of course, an indispensable adjunct. This we have, and although the use of steam power has not made it a brilliant financial success thus far, still the nearly completed mill race, and thus an assurance of cheap power for the future makes the point of finance no longer a question of doubt. For the capital invested the mill is a very complete affair and a very wholesome, nutritious grade of flour is made, although it cannot, nor should it be expected to compare with the product of the east in a point of fineness.

Next in importance among our manufacturing industries is the saw mill, located about twenty-one miles southwest of our settlement, very near the base of those giant monuments of our Creator's handiwork—the Rocky Mountains. Here upon a small fork of Lee's creek is the Mountain mill. Rough and surfaced lumber, flooring, shingles and all kinds of dimension timber are made from the tall and tapering pines, and sold at very moderate prices. This is a private enterprise of great importance to a new community. In connection with the mill a threshing machine is owned, both run by the same engine. Minor industries or trades, as carpentering, blacksmithing, shoemaking, butchering, etc., are all well represented. This summer a substantial bridge is to be built across the St. Mary's, just below the mouth of Lee's creek. It is to have two spans

of 150 feet each and to cost completed some \$11,000.

Probably a paragraph or two concerning our history would show what changes a few years have brought upon this portion of the prairie. In the spring of 1887, under the direction of Mr. Chas. O. Card, who had previously made a tour of inspection through British Columbia and Southern Alberta, the so-called Mormons to the extent of eight or nine miles rolled their prairie schooners up to the Lee's creek bottom lands. Here a townsite was selected and roughly laid out. By autumn a few more families were added, and from this small beginning our settlement has extended until all the lots covering a half section of land are now taken and but few are unoccupied. These lots are seventeen rods square with streets all running at right angles. Aside from the ranchers surrounding us, our population is fully 500, and is being increased almost daily by additions from the states and territories to the south of us.

We have just finished an addition to our first school house, a frame building 26x40 feet, which serves us for all public purposes at present. A school has been fairly equipped and is running order for the past thirty weeks, the average attendance being fifty pupils. Another source of pride to our community is a brass band of twelve instruments under the leadership of Mr. Andrew Archibald. Considering the length of time it has been organized it will compare favorably with anything of the kind in Alberta. At least such is the judgment expressed by those in a position to know.

In order to provide suitable amusement and in order to gratify our longings for literary discussion and social recreation, a literary and dramatic society has been organized with ten members, Mrs. Zina Y. Card being its president. Its work thus far has met with pronounced success.

Not including the above are our church organizations of Ladies' Relief society, Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement association, Young Men's Mutual Improvement association and Primary association. Indeed we have a peaceful, law-abiding, thrifty community, and considering that a very few came here with aught else than a few head of cattle, a four-horse or a single team, we can fearlessly ask, "Show us a parallel case of settlement in the northwest." The secret of our success is "unity of action" and we still have room to improve upon this God-given principle.

Horace Greeley's advice is slightly amended in this day. "Go to the northwest young man" for there you will find all the resources necessary for the founding of a great inland empire. Development is all that is required.—*Sterling Williams, in the Manitoba Free Press.*

IN THE EARLY DAYS.

PLEASANT VALLEY, Juno County, July 28, 1893.—This valley was discovered in 1859 by Howard Egan, Al. Huntington and myself, while exploring the country for a mail route to California. We had been out in a storm for about a week in February—cold, snowing and unpleasant. When we got on the divide of the mountain