

A LETTER FROM CANADA.

Southern Alberta is essentially a ranching and dairying country. There are high, open plains broken by the valleys of numerous large streams which head in the Rocky Mountains and flows to the east. Grass grows in abundance, bunch grass, which is far famed as a winter grass for stock, being the principal kind.

SOIL AND PRODUCTS.

The soil of Alberta in the southern part consists of a whole of a good, rich alluvial loam, very deep on foot hills and in the valleys, where it has been washed and deposited for ages. In places it is gravelly and some sand ridges are met with.

The experience of the settlers here has demonstrated the fact that grains of all kinds can be raised with profit, except corn, which does not always ripen. Last year's crop of wheat averaged 30 bushels to the acre, raised without irrigation. Vegetables of all kinds are of the finest. Tomatoes have not been attempted except in some very favorable localities.

Fruit has not been attempted but by a few. Native fruits are abundant. Cherries, service berries, gooseberries and strawberries being the principal products wild. Where irrigation has been secured, English currants, gooseberries, strawberries and raspberries have been raised. The soil is hard to break as it is of grass fibers, but will pay for all trouble in the abundant harvests reaped.

CLIMATE.

Its climate is one of its most attractive features, the winters being mild with very little snow. Our summers are delightful, cool nights and frequent showers during June, with occasional showers in July and August. The Chinook winds are not agreeable, but are the most welcome visitor to man and beast in the winter imaginable, coming from the west warm and fierce. The snow disappears like magic, and stock can get an abundance of good grass and come out fat in the spring. The thermometer will rise to the warmth of spring in a few hours when our glorious Chinooka "set in." Yes, the wind blows, thank heaven, and once in a while a blizzard. Frost comes in September, the latest in October. In the spring, the latest since we have been here, which is nearly eleven years, was in the early part of June. The settlers have always raised their bread and plenty of vegetables.

WATER.

Irrigation has not been developed generally. A few canals only have been made and some seasons it would only be an injury to apply water to the grain.

Wells supply families with water, except where located near Lees Creek on the St. Mary's river, or a natural spring has been on locations made. As a rule the wells are good. Irrigation is not a necessity for stock raising or mixed farming, but for gardens is desirable. The mighty rivers rushing down these plains will soon be utilized for the watering of thousands of acres of as good land as ever was tilled in a temperate climate.

TIMBER AND COAL.

As all our settlements are near the foot of the Rockies, timber is obtainable from the mountains at a distance of some twenty miles, pine being most abundant. A sawmill is situated about twenty-three miles from here, which turns out good rough lumber; finishing timber is obtained from Macleod a settlement forty-five miles from Cardston. Prices ranging, for rough lumber, \$14 per thousand ft.; dressed lumber, \$16; rustic, \$20.

Our houses are built of logs. We will build of brick as soon as some one will bring a brick machine here and get to work.

Coal is found in abundance near our settlements, but these coal seams are undeveloped; a mine some fifteen miles from Cardston is doing a good business on a small scale. Two dollars per ton is the charge. In Lethbridge coal fields of gigantic proportions are worked on a large scale, with modern appliances and shipped to Montana in immense quantities. Lethbridge is fifty miles from Cardston.

Nature seems to give to all the earth some gifts here; in southern Alberta it is grass and coal, and a climate where stock can winter out.

Actual settlers can come into the country with all their earthly possessions; Machinery that has been in their possession a few months, tools, household furniture of all kinds. An inventory of all effects is taken by the customs officer, but no duty is charged. Stock can be entered on the following terms: One animal for every 10 acres either purchased or settled on. A homestead entry includes 160 acres, and any man over 18 can make entry, or a widow woman. A sum of ten dollars is charged when filing on a quarter section. A residence of six months in each year for three years with a reasonable amount of cultivation and improvements insures the title.

Land obtained by purchase can be bought from railroad companies or government, on an average of three dollars per acre. All the lands near Cardston have been taken up, but there are thousands of acres just as good lying around other settlements and about six miles away.

Many have asked if money can be earned here. A railroad being built some 60 miles north will afford labor for the next two years. A good market for all products can be found in the adjoining settlements and on the railroad. Those who stay at home and farm have done better than those who have gone on the railroad. A good price can always be had for grain and good price now, both saddle and draft horses being in demand.

Taxes have never been levied as yet. A school tax this year will be the first. Good public schools in three of the settlements this year have been a great advantage to the people.

There are four settlements of the Latter-day Saints. In Cardston there are two good stores, where everything necessary can be obtained at moderate prices. Cotton goods are a little higher than in the United States, but woollen goods are a little cheaper; furniture and hardware are some higher because of the distance to be freighted; fancy articles are very cheap; farming implements are reasonable.

A cheese factory, flour mill, tin shop, blacksmith shop, carpenter shop, hotel, livery stable, and bank are among the industries and improvements here.

All societies and organizations found among the Saints are flourishing here. Young men who have no profession, and men who have families of boys growing up with but little means, will do well here. The elements of wealth are here in abundance. All it needs is a will, and labor directed by the Spirit of God, and good judgment to create a commonwealth for thousands of people.

To those who are thinking of coming here a word or suggestion. It requires a great deal of labor to start in a new country, and for men advanced in years it comes pretty hard. If possible let the head of the family come and see for himself. When coming with teams start about the middle of April, as the distance is about eight hundred miles from Salt Lake. It brings the settler here in time for a

garden, and stock gets acclimated and fat before winter. The spring gives settlers the opportunity of a good selection for location, and they avoid the high waters by coming early. By team, come by way of Idaho Falls, Dillon, Boulder, Helena, Mont. By rail, full fare costs \$36 one way. But a party of twenty people can secure nearly half fare rates by applying to Mr. William Spence at the President's Office. Be sure and give sufficient time to him before you wish to start.

Don't expect too much, but be sure of one thing, the government will do you justice and is very liberal to home seekers, and the Saints will extend a hearty welcome to all who come to build up this part of the country.

Respectfully,

A PIONEER.

P. S.—Lawyers, surveyors, doctors, druggists and school teachers must qualify under Canadian laws before they can practice. Examination can be passed in the territories. Several good teachers are needed, and the examinations can be passed from December to March (at Regina), or in the summer normal school.

WHY MISS WILLARD GAVE UP HER WORK AS AN EDUCATOR

In 1871 Miss Willard was made dean of the Woman's college of Northwestern University and professor of esthetics in the university. In the Woman's college she developed her system of self government, which has been adopted by other educators. It was while at the head of this institution that an incident occurred which gave her to the world as the great leader of the temperance reform movement. Had it not been for her disagreement with Rev. C. H. Fowler—now bishop—who succeeded Dr. Haven as president of Northwestern University, over the question of discipline, Miss Willard might have remained at the head of the Woman's college until the day of her death. Dr. Fowler declared that the faculty of the university proper would be the final court in all matters pertaining to the conduct of the young ladies, rather than the faculty of the Woman's College. This meant the abolishment of Miss Willard's plan of self-government, and to this proposition she could not assent, and hence resigned her position. To Bishop Fowler, therefore, belongs the credit of giving to the world the eminent leader that afterwards developed the greatest organization of women ever known to the annals of advanced nineteenth century womanhood.

It was after this disagreement that Miss Willard left her chosen profession of teaching to identify herself with the growing Woman's Christian Temperance Union. She was elected corresponding secretary of the national organization, and developed such zeal and aptitude for the work that, in 1879, she was honored by being elected national president.—From "Frances E. Willard: The Best-known Woman of the Century," in Demorest's Family Magazine for May.

Word has been brought to Basin City, Wyo., from the Otto Franc ranch that Mrs. Alice Mitchell, wife of James B. Mitchell, while laboring under an attack of temporary insanity, gave her six-months old child a dose of strychnine and then committed suicide by taking some of the same poison. Mrs. Mitchell had been addicted for several years to the morphine habit and while temporarily deprived of a supply of the drug became insane. The child died almost immediately after the poison was given it and the mother lived several hours.