

The New North American Granary.

(Special Correspondence of the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.)
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EDMONTON, Alberta.—I am writing at Edmonton, 400 miles north of the United States boundary. I am on the frontier of the great wheat belt which the Canadians are opening up, and which promises to revolutionize the bread markets of this world. I have been traveling for three weeks through the grain lands, and am now, in a straight line, about as far northwest of Winnipeg as from New York to Chicago. Along that line there is wheat all the way. Lower Manitoba produced more than 40,000,000 bushels last year, and something like 100,000,000 bushels were harvested in Canada.

CANADA'S NEW BREAD BASKET.

The size of Canada's new bread basket is hard to define. The area I have described has been thoroughly prospect. Wheat is actually raised in all parts of it, and I hear stories of great wheat lands beyond. Three hundred miles due north of Edmonton, on the Peace river, they are raising big crops and flour mills are now grinding away at Fort Vermilion. They receive good prices on account of the high freight rates which prevail throughout the west of the northwest, and the farmers are getting a dollar and a half per bushel for their grain. Railroad engineers who have been surveying the extensions of the Canadian Northern and the Grand Trunk Pacific railroads, which are to be built from here across the Rockies, North Dakota and Montana, tell me that there is good wheat land all the way from Edmonton to the foot hills, a distance of several hundred miles; and that settlers have already begun to penetrate that region. According to the best Canadian authorities, the wheat belt so far defined comprises a strip extending from east to west across the boundary of western Minnesota, North Dakota and Montana, and extending northward a distance equal to that between Philadelphia and Newburg. The men who have lived here longest advance the most rosy estimates. They believe that the new crop has several hundred million acres, estimating it as equal to about eight

states as big as Ohio, or six or seven of the size of Pennsylvania or New York. This does not include the vast regions north of where I am writing.

ALONG THE NEW RAILROADS.

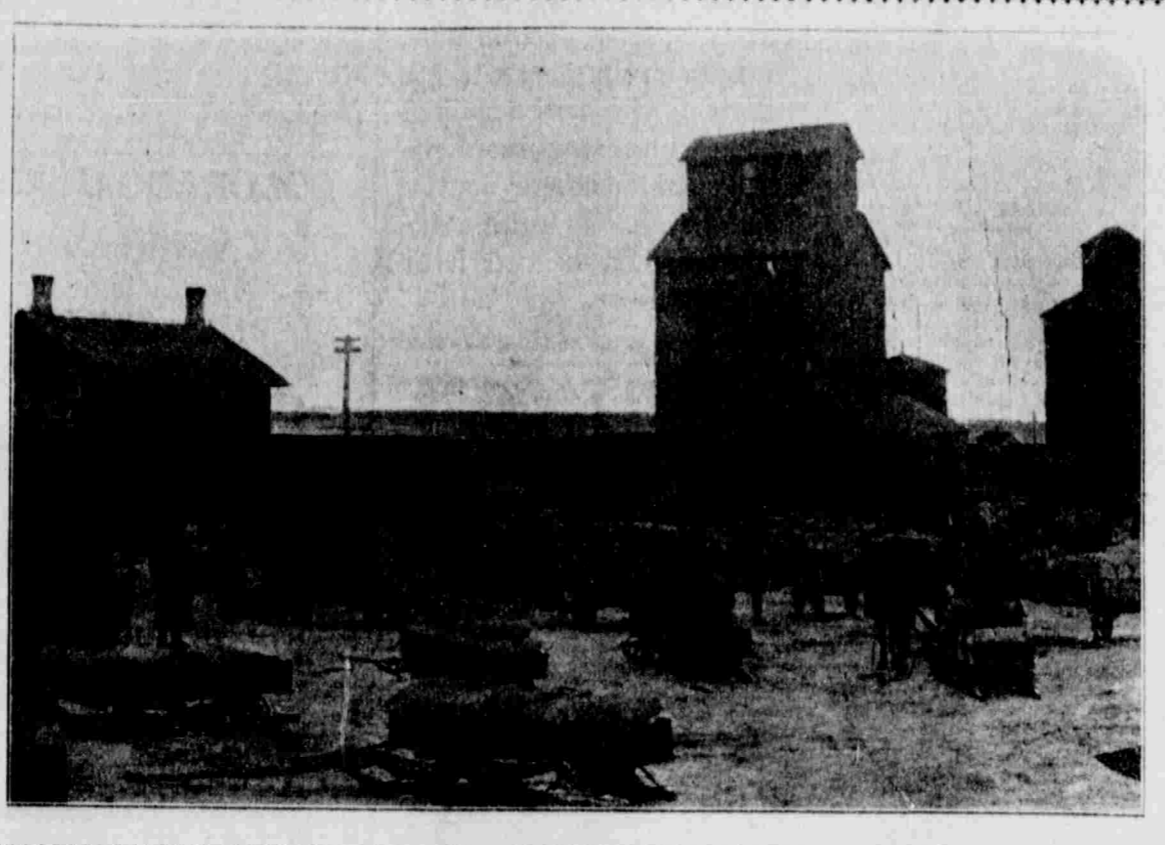
This mighty farm is being opened up by the railroads. Between two and three thousand miles of new tracks were constructed last year, and three great systems are now pushing their way through it. The old line of the Canadian Pacific goes across it not far above the international boundary, and that company is constructing new branches to the northwest. It will build one line almost direct from Winnipeg to Edmonton, and it has in addition a road reaching north to Prince Albert, which lies hundreds of miles east of here, on the Saskatchewan river. The Grand Trunk Pacific is building between Winnipeg and Edmonton, going through a rich wheat country some distance north of the two other lines, so that the whole land is humming with railroad possibilities.

HOW THE WHEAT BELT LOOKS.

My first trip across the wheat belt was on the Canadian Pacific. The country is all prairie and plain. In some places the lands are flat, in others rolling. Some of them are like Illinois and some like North Dakota. In Manitoba and the greater part of Saskatchewan you ride for miles through wheat fields with patches of prairie between. A little further westward, just before you reach the foothills of the Rockies, some big irrigation projects are under way, and winter wheat is being raised at points both north and south.

Leaving the United States boundary and traveling northward, the land grows better. This is especially so at the west, where there are trees and patches of thicket scattered over the plains. The spring wheat region begins with the Red river valley in Mani-

Travel Through the Wheat Belt of the British Northwest—Where It is, What It is, and How It Looks—Will Canada Feed the World?—The Peace River Country—Pioneer Settlements—Canada Versus the United States.



WHEAT COMING INTO ONE OF THE NEW SETTLEMENTS. Specially Photographed for the Deseret News by Frank G. Carpenter.

toha and runs northwesterly in a great tongue or triangle, spreading out as it goes. I find much difference in the quality of the land. Some pieces are excellent, others are of a medium grade, and a few are decidedly poor. The country is covered with a network of streams, the mighty Saskatchewan, which compares in size with the Mississippi, flows through the wheat belt from west to east, emptying into Lake Winnipeg, and from there going on through other streams into Hudson bay.

I am now writing on the banks of the Saskatchewan. It is navigable for small boats for about 1,000 miles, and during the summer it is used largely by settlers. They come here to Edmonton on the railroad and boat their effects down to the homesteads, which they have picked out upon the banks. They use flatboats and rafts just as the pioneers did along the Ohio in our early days. I have before me maps, which show what homesteads have been taken. The lands are pretty well absorbed on both sides of this river to a distance of 1,000 miles. Many little towns have sprung up. The same is true everywhere along the new railroads, there being something like 40 new towns on the Canadian Northern alone. Indeed, the whole wheat belt is peppered with far more than 100,000,000 bushels of wheat have been cultivated. This is more than two-thirds of all the wheat now raised by man. Our cargo of last year was only 484,000,000 bushels, and it was the second largest we have ever raised. I believe the average was something like 50,000,000. The average Canadian, however, will tell you that their possible wheat area is far more than 100,000,000 acres, and that Canada can let one-third of its wheat lands lie idle and still control the markets of the world.

EXPECT TO FEED THE WORLD.

These Canadians are enthusiasts. They look at things through eyes like those of Col. Sellers, and they are expecting to eventually supply not only Canada and Great Britain, but also the United States and other countries with wheat. They say that the United States is growing so that it will soon consume all the grain it can raise, and that our wheat area is already defined. They think also that our wheat crop will grow less from year to year, while theirs must be multiplied by 10 or 20 before it reaches its maximum. The world's wheat crop now averages something like 3,000,000,000 bushels. Indeed, it is often much less. Last year Canada raised 100,000,000 bushels on 4,000,000 or 5,000,000 acres. Among the lowest estimates of the wheat lands are those which put them at 100,000,000 acres. The land here produces almost one-third more than in the United States. It will average at least 20 bushels per acre and this would mean a crop of 2,000,000,000 bushels if the wheat belt should all be cultivated. This is more than two-thirds of all the wheat now raised by man. Our cargo of last year was only 484,000,000 bushels, and it was the second largest we have ever raised. I believe the average was something like 50,000,000. The average Canadian, however, will tell you that their possible wheat area is far more than 100,000,000 acres, and that Canada can let one-third of its wheat lands lie idle and still control the markets of the world.

IN THE WHEAT FIELDS.

But come with me and take a look at this mighty granary. We shall go on

the Canadian Northern, one of the new railroads. Our companions are young men, many of whom are land seekers and settlers. Some have money with them and others have their household effects on the way. There are colorful cars in front of the train, filled with emigrants from Europe, and there are tourist sleepers containing farmers from the United States. Our route is through a new region. The track was laid two years ago, but all along it there are now plowed fields interspersed with unbroken prairie. The time is the autumn. The wheat has been harvested and great straw stacks stand here and there over the plain. Much of the grain is still in the shock. It will be hauled direct to the threshing, the wheat going almost straight from the field to the market.

Everywhere men are plowing. Notice the soil. It shines like black velvet under the sun. What mighty plows! Each is drawn by six horses and long lines of them follow one another over the fields. Here and there, at long distances, steam plows may be seen. The threshing is still going on. We can see the smoke rising from the machines scattered over the landscape. The chaff flies out like smoke from the end of the stack. Every railroad station has long teams of wheat wagons. The beds of the wagons are filled to the top and the grain is unloaded at the station elevators. In some places the wagons drive up on platforms and unload direct into the cars.

PIONEER SETTLEMENTS.

The towns are new. And such towns! They look ragged and most of the buildings seem to be knocked up with hatches and axes. The average settlement consists of one street of irregular one and two-story buildings facing the railroad. A wheat elevator stands near the track, and often the station and railroad station are the only buildings. The sound of the hammer and saw is everywhere heard. Nothing is old. You can smell the paint on the houses and the drama of the board walks which ran along the street. Now we are again off in the country. Notice the straw stacks which run in long rows through that hundred-acre field. Each has about 10 furrows plowed around it within 100 feet of its edges and another ring of furrows outside, the strip between being burned over. That black circle is to ward off the fire god. There are frequent prairie fires which run through the stubble, and were it not for this fire-proof carpet the wheat stacks would burn. The stacks are yet unthreshed. Each of them is a little gold mine which has only to be passed through the threshing machine smelter to be turned into bullion. Each contains hundreds of bushels of wheat, and the smallest of them is worth \$200.

Speaking of fire, as nightfall approaches, the red flames are to be seen on each side of the road. They come from the stacks of newly threshed straw, which are burnt on almost all these Canadian farms. In New York or Chicago such straw would bring \$5 or more per ton, but here it would save it for stock feed or fertilizer. Here it goes to waste and the marks of its destruction are left in those great patches of black which we see everywhere as we ride through the country.

BIG WHEAT CROPS.

How rich the soil is! It is as fat as the valley of the Nile. In Manitoba, where the land has been used over and over for wheat, the crops are almost twice those of the United States. Our average falls lower and lower. It is now only about 12 bushels to the acre, while the average in Canada is 20 bushels or more. Much of this new land produces 30 and 40 bushels, and here at Edmonton the farmers discuss 60 bushels as a possible winter wheat yield. A good average on the new lands well farmed would probably be 25 bushels per acre, or almost twice what we are getting in the United States.

While at Winnipeg I had a chat with Mr. Charles N. Bell, who is considered one of the best authorities on wheat raising in the Canadian northwest. He is the secretary of the Winnipeg board of trade and has held this position for years. He came to Manitoba when it was a wilderness and has traveled all over this region again and again. Said he:

Cured Lumbago.

A. B. Canman, Chicago, writes March 4, 1906: "Having been troubled with Lumbago at different times and tried one physician after another, then different treatments and liniments, gave it up altogether. So I tried once more, and got a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment, which gave me almost instant relief. I can cheerfully recommend it, and will add my name to your list of former sufferers." See Box and H. Sold by Z. C. M. I. Drug Dept., 112-114 Main Street.

GRAND SOCIALIST CELEBRATION.

At Bingham, Monday, January 15th. Inaugural Banquet and Ball. Special train leaves Salt Lake City at 7:35 p. m. Returning leaves Bingham at 4:00 a. m. via the D. & R. G. \$1.00 for the round trip.

PATENTS.

We beg to announce for the benefit of our readers and inventors generally that we have established in connection with our paper a patent bureau and have associated with us at Washington, D. C., an attorney who has been in continuous practice for the past 20 years and we will guarantee that all patent matters placed in our hands will receive prompt and careful attention, and that the charges will be moderate in all matters relating to patents. Inventors are requested to send us a rough sketch and description of their inventions and we will have our attorney give a free opinion as to whether a patent can be secured. If an inventor desires a search of the patent records made and a report submitted giving opinion as to securing a patent and sending copies of all patents in the line to which his invention relates, he should send \$5.

"According to the threshers' returns our wheat crop of last year averaged about 24 bushels per acre, this average coming from more than 4,000,000 acres. Some of the crops were far more and some much less. We have all kinds of farmers, and many of our European immigrants do not get the best out of the soil."

"Is there much difference in the wheat land?" I asked.

"Yes, although they are generally good throughout. The settlers have taken up patches here and there over a large extent of territory and nearly every farm is yielding from 25 to 30 bushels of wheat per acre. The wheat territory has thus been pretty well prospected and we know that most of the country is good."

CANADA VS THE UNITED STATES.

"What is your possible wheat acreage, Mr. Bell?" I asked.

"It is greater than that of the United States. We have here something like 320,000 square miles of wheat lands in balance aside for bad land and other farming propositions, and there is left 150,000 square miles. In round numbers it is 300,000,000 acres, and the probability is that we can raise 25 bushels of wheat to the acre. This gives us a crop of 2,500,000,000 bushels, which is considerably more than three times as much as the United States has ever produced. I do not say that Canada will reach that crop soon, but her wheat yield will steadily increase, and it will not be long before it will equal that of the United States."

CANADA'S FIRST WHEAT.

"When was wheat first raised in the northwest, Mr. Bell?" I asked.

"We were producing grain near Winnipeg long before you began to grow it, had any existence" was the reply. "As far back as 1812 Lord Selkirk brought a colony to Manitoba, and that came in by Hudson bay, and worked their way down here. They were then so far from the markets that there was no demand outside their own wants and it was only when the United States had developed its west that we began to farm in earnest. Even then we had to wait for the railroads, which were first built along in the eighties. Today the lower part of Manitoba is one of the world's wheat granaries. It produced

4,000,000 bushels in 1856, 14,000,000 bushels 10 years later, and in 1901 the crop was 69,000,000. A large part of last year's product came from this same region, but much of it was from the new fields which are being opened up farther west."

THE PEACE RIVER COUNTRY.

"What do you know of the wheat lands north of where the settlements now are?" "They are undoubtedly extensive. Take the Peace river country, which lies northwest of Edmonton, extending to the Rocky mountains. That river is big enough for steamboats. My son traveled 11 days upon it last winter, and found wheat growing at the very headwaters. The crops there are raised by the Indian missionaries and by the Indians themselves. My boy saw one Indian farm which yielded 3,000 bushels last year. That northern wheat is better than any other wheat known. The farther north you go the better the quality of grain, vegetables or fruit. East of the Peace river is a region of which we know comparatively nothing. Thousands of miles of it have never been trodden by white men, and no one can tell what it will or will not produce. Indeed, Canada is as yet an unprospected agricultural region. We know that we have a large part of the earth and the fullness thereof, but just how much remains to be seen."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

Four Hundred Babies.

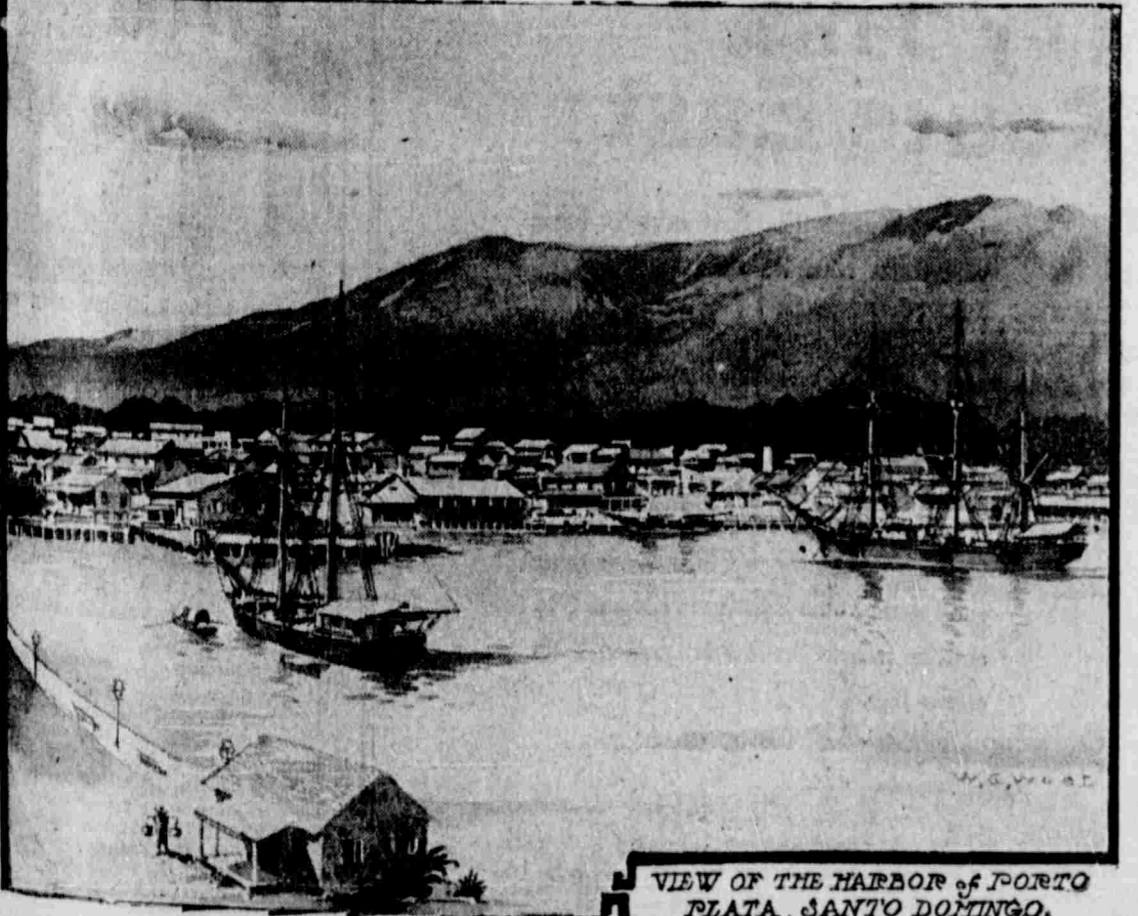
St. Vincent's Infant Asylum, Chicago, shelters hundreds of waiting adoption, and there are nearly 400 babies there. Sister Julia writes: "I cannot say too much in praise of Foley's Honey and Tar for coughs, colds, croup and whooping cough. It contains no opiates and is safe and sure. Ask for Foley's Honey and Tar and insist upon having it, as it is a safe remedy and certain in results. Refuse substitutes. For sale by F. J. Hill Drug Co."

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PRESIDENT MORALES WHOSE TROOPS ATTACKED PUERTO PLATA.

The troops of the fugitive President Morales, under the command of Gen. Demetrio Rodriguez, attacked Puerto Plata, on the northern coast of Santo Domingo, last Thursday morning. The fighting, which was severe, lasted until 6 o'clock in the evening, when the besieging force retired. A number of men were killed or wounded on both sides in the engagement, during which bayonets and swords were principally used. A portion of the population of Puerto Plata has declared in favor of Morales, and street fighting has occurred, the supporters of Morales shooting from the windows of their houses at the troops of Gen. Caceres, the temporary president of Santo Domingo. These troops were experiencing difficulty in defending themselves, as they were unable to locate the persons firing on them.



CITY WHERE THE REVOLUTIONARY TROOPS UNDER GENERAL RODRIGUEZ WERE ROUTED.

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