DESERET EVENING NEWS.

Friday, November 2, 1894.

CANADIAN MISSION.

Visit of a Correspondent of the "News" to Settlements of the Saints.

THE PRODUCTS OF THE SOIL.

Climatic Conditions—Farming and Stock Raising—Statistics and Future Prospects.

CARDSTON, Alberta, Canada Oct. 20, 1894.

Editor Deseret News:

The Canadian mission embraces all the Saints residing in the northwestern territories of the dominion of Canada. Nearly all of them belong to the provincial district of Alberta, or in Cardston and vicinity. Elder Charles O. Card, formerly president of the Cache Stake of Zion, presides over the mission; he acts without counselors. The numerical strength of the mission, according to the last statistical report, is 121 families, or 674 souls, namely 13 Seventies, 26 High Priests, 56 Elders, 9 Priests, 18 Teachers, 41 Deacons, 282 lay members and 235 children under eight years of age. The mission comprises three organized Bishop's wards, namely Cardston with 463 souls, or 86 families, Etna with 119 souls, or 23 families, and Mountain View numbering 72 souls, or 12 families. Besides these there are several other families of Saints, who on account of having brought no recommends from their former places of residence, are not counted in the above statistics. There is a mission presidency of Relief Societies, Sunday schools and Young Men's and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement associations. The High Priests, Seventies and Elders are organized into a mass quorum, presided over by Elder Truman Leonard. It is expected that the Saints in Alberta will soon be fully organized into a Stake of Zion.

Cardston, the Chief settlement of the Saints in Canada and the headquarters of the mission, is situated on Lee's Creek, about two and a half miles above the junction of that stream with the St. Mary's river. Part of the town is built on the creek bottom and part of it on the rising prairie land extending from the creek westward. The survey embraces a mile square regularly laid out in blocks thirty-four rods square, with streets six rods wide, crossing each other at right angles. The original survey embraced the north half of a section of land, while the other half was platted the present season. Most of the lots of the old survey are occupied and improved while the new survey has as yet not been improved very much. Nearly all the private dwellings of Cardston are log and lumber houses. Stables and barns built of the same materials are plentiful. The meeting house, a lumber structure, 28x40 feet, with an adjoining log building, 21x40 feet, used for school purposes, are the only public edifices in the settlement. An elevated knoll overlooking Gee's creek and north of the townsite has been selected for a tabernacle site, and some foundation rock has already been hauled on the ground. There is also a tithing barn, 112x24 feet, built in 1893.

The Cardston ward embraces all the Saints residing in the town of Cardston, and also about twelve families living in a scattered condition east, west and north adjacent to the town. The ward has an excellent Sunday school, a Relief Society, a Y. M. M. I. A., a Y. L. M. I. A., and a Primary association. The Sabbath meetings are generally well attended as well as other public gatherings. The people are honest, thrifty, God-fearing and happy. They are not rich but as a rule comfortably housed, clothed and fed. If they are as kind to others as they were to me I would call them full-hearted and hospitable. And that good Christian spirit of brotherly love and good will toward all men seems to predominate in their homes; while their family devotions and their mode of public worship indicate beyond a doubt that they are a devout, religious people, whose first care is the salvation of their souls and their future exaltation in the kingdom of God. Nor is this to be wondered at when it is remembered that the founders of Cardston were religious exiles driven away by their countrymen, in the midst of a religious crusade, to wander in a strange land, and then seek protection and liberty under a form of government which generally is supposed to be less liberal in its provisions than that under which our glorious nation—the United States of America—have flourished for so many years.

Cardston was first settled by the Saints in the spring of 1887, by Charles O. Card, George L. Farrell, John A. Woolf, Edwin R. Miles, Josiah A. Hammer, Sameo Watkin, Thomas R. Leavitt, Johannes Andersen, Mark Preece, John Merrill, Robert Daines, Andrew L. Allen, Warner H. Allen and Jonathan E. Layne. Most of these had families with them on their first arrival, others brought them in afterwards. The experience of these early settlers in Alberta will, when written, form a very interesting chapter of history.

Oats, wheat, potatoes and garden vegetables are the chief products of Cardston and vicinity. Roots especially grow very prolific here, and that, too, without irrigation. Turnips weighing from 18 to 20 pounds apiece, potatoes ranging from 3 to 4 pounds each, carrots measuring 18 inches in length, onions of one year's growth weighing a pound, cabbage tipping the scales at 20 pounds, etc., etc., are only samples of what the country can produce. The altitude of Cardston is about 3,500 feet; its location is 14 miles due north from the international boundary line.

The climate of Alberta has features peculiarly its own. It is in the winter liable to remarkable changes. When the winds blow from the Pacific ocean—and this is the prevailing wind—the weather becomes mild and the snow rapidly disappears. When, however, it blows from the north over the plains the weather becomes very cold, the thermometer sometimes going down to 30 degrees below zero. In the summer there is hardly ever frost, but they are generally local, and do not discourage the settlers. The windier parts of the season are spring and fall. Occasionally, even in winter, warm winds called "chinooks" sweep over the country from the southwest and cause sudden changes in the atmosphere. I was informed that on a certain occasion in the dead of winter one of these warm winds struck the country when there was about eighteen inches of snow on the ground. Before night not only the snow had all disappeared but the frost had left the ground so that plowing could commence. Snow seldom remains on the level more than a few days; the longest period during which perpetual snow covered the ground, as remembered by the settlers of Cardston, is six weeks. The frequent rains in spring and early summer are always ample to germinate the seeds put in the ground, and the crop as a rule also matures nicely without irrigation, except in extraordinarily dry seasons, when the need of a good irrigation system is felt very much. Consequently, steps are now being taken by a few of the enterprising citizens of Cardston to take out Lee's creek onto the lands lying on the south side of that stream. A ditch three miles long was surveyed in June last; the work of moving the dirt was commenced under the direction of Elder Josiah A. Hammer on the 12th inst., and is now being vigorously pushed ahead. This ditch, if completed next spring as calculated, will be the first attempt ever made in southern Alberta to irrigate farms, though a few city lots in the lower part of Cardston were irrigated from the mill ditch the present season with very satisfactory results. Non-Mormons throughout Alberta have already become deeply interested in this experimental irrigation, and President Card is often consulted by them and asked to give his opinion concerning an enterprise which is new to them but old to him, as he has had a very long experience in Utah in connection with irrigation matters. A short time ago he received a communication from Calgary, in which he was asked to send up a man who could teach certain people in that locality how to irrigate their gardens. The result was that a very competent and experienced teacher was sent up as an "irrigation missionary," who, according to last accounts, was doing a good work, giving entire satisfaction to his employers, who pay him $2.50 per day and bear all his expenses. President Card says that if the people of Calgary will not receive spiritual salvation at the hands of the Elders, they seem very willing to receive anything from the Mormons in the shape of temporal salvation. In this connection it may also be stated that the principal part of the grain raised so far in southern Alberta is produced in Cardston and vicinity by the Mormons; most of their gentile neighbors are stockmen and coal miners. The Saints divide their attention between stock raising and farming as their two chief industries.

Immediately north of the Cardston townsite is the Blood Indian reserve, which embraces a tract of land extending in a northeasterly direction about fifty miles and has an average width of nearly fifteen miles. It embraces a scope of country lying between Belly river on the northwest and the St. Mary's river on the southeast. The main Indian village on the reservation is situated on the Belly river, about eighteen miles north of Cardston. The Blood Indians (about 2,200 in number) occupying this reserve are rather superior to many other tribes. Most of them are of massive build and look healthy and strong. A number of them are being hired at present by the brethren to gather potatoes and vegetables. They are paid at the rate of from 25 to 50 cents per day. Most of them buy their natural and a large proportion of their cash annuity which they receive from the government they spend in the Cardston stores for such articles of food and clothing as they need. They have learned to look upon the "Mormons" as their friends, and have all confidence in the brethren, who from the beginning have treated them honorably and uprightly. While some of the non-Mormons, traders in Lethbridge, Macleod and other places, have been in the habit of charging an Indian higher prices for goods than their white customers—taking advantage of the red man's ignorance—our Mormon merchants have taken special pains to show them that they have but one price for all, and that an Indian gets as much for a dollar as does a white neighbor. While many Indians in the United States will pilfer and steal whenever they have an opportunity, these Blood Indians seem to be scrupulously honest. They go in and out of the stores examining and handling such goods as are within reach, without carrying off anything. In this they present quite a contrast to the Navajo and other Indians in a more southern clime, who have to be watched very closely. I remember, while visiting Bluff City, Montezuma and other settlements in southeastern Utah about a year ago that our storekeepers there had placed iron railings on their counters to prevent the natives from reaching over and helping themselves to the goods. Such precaution seems to be unnecessary in Cardston. On one occasion, however, an Indian, seeing a large pane of glass broken in the door of the Co-op store, crawled through and carried off some goods; but he was found out, arrested, tried, convicted and imprisoned for one year. It is said he never stole afterwards, and his experience has served as an effectual warning to others of his tribe.

The Etna ward embraces the Saints scattered over an extensive area of country lying southeast, south and southwest of Cardston. Most of them live on or adjacent to the St. Mary's river, Snake creek and Boundary creek; the settlement extends east and west about seventeen miles and south and north nearly fourteen miles. The bulk of the people, however reside near the junction of St. Mary's river and Snake creek within a radius of four miles of a townsite which has recently been surveyed, and on which the Saints have erected a fine log meeting house 23x42 feet. This townsite occupies a beautiful tract of flat upland lying between the St. Mary's river and Snake creek, and is eight miles southeast of Cardston, nine miles north of the international boundary line, fifty miles southwest of Lethbridge, sixty miles northwest of Coutts, on the Alberta railway, and forty-five miles southwest of Blackfoot station, on the Great Northern railway. The townsite is regularly laid out into blocks forty rods square and with streets six rods wide. The first house on the townsite, besides the meeting house, has just been completed.

The Etna ward is an outgrowth of Cardston, as the first Latter-day Saint settlers commenced to make homes in that section of country now included in the ward in 1889, about two years after the founding of Cardston. On the 17th of December, 1893, at a special conference held in Cardston, the Etna ward was organized with Richard Pilling, late of Kaysville, Utah, as bishop, and Niels Hansen as his first and John Pilling as second counselor. A Sunday school superintendency was also selected and the usual ward associations organized soon afterwards, and for a small, new ward, everything is prosperous, and the people hopeful for the future.

The first irrigation ever attempted by any of the Saints in Alberta was tried successfully, though on a very small scale, by Elder Richard Pilling, who, in 1890, constructed a short ditch through which he conveyed an irrigating stream from the St. Mary's river onto a garden patch in front of his house. By this means he raised a fine crop of vegetables. The intention now is to tap the river named, and convey some of its water into the new townsite.

The St. Mary's river rises in a lake situated in Teton county, Montana, and runs in a northwesterly direction into Alberta. When at a point near Lethbridge, it unites its waters with that of the Belly river, which again is a tributary of the south branch of the Saskatchewan, which near the town of prince Albert, in the provincial district of Saskatchewan, empties into the main river of that name. This great river then continues its course eastward to lake Winnipeg, from which the famous Nelson river sends the immense volume of water drained from the south portion of the great country known as the Northwestern Territories into Hudson's Bay. Looking a southwesterly direction from Cardston the so-called Milk river ridge is in plain sight. This is a large tract of table-land which divides the waters falling into Hudson's Bay from those which empty into the Gulf of Mexico through the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. On the south side of this ridge is Milk river, a tributary of the Missouri; on the north side the St. Mary's, already mentioned.

The Mountain View ward embraces the Saints residing on Fish creek and on the Belly river, west and southwest of Cardston. The recently surveyed townsite is on Fish creek, almost fifteen miles southwest of Cardston, nine miles north of the international boundary line, and sixty-four miles by the road southwest of Lethbridge. It is also five miles south of the north line of the Blood Indian reserve and about seven miles northeast of the base of the Rocky Mountains. Eight families, out of the twelve which constitute the numerical strength of the ward, reside on the townsite, the remainder in the adjacent country, some of them on Belly river, distant about four miles from the townsite. There are also seven non-Mormon families residing in the neighborhood and three families of Saints who have not as yet identified themselves with the ward. A respectable log meeting house, a building 24x20 feet, occupies a prominent position in the townsite, from which a most beautiful view is had of the mountains on the south and west. A grand old mountain distinguished from its neighboring peaks by the suggestive name of the "Old Chief," stands a little west of south from the mountain view townsite across the international line in Montana. The country around Fish Creek abounds with small lakes; the land is rolling and covered with beautiful grass. Fish Creek and the other streams in that part of the country, abound in fish of different kinds. Fire wood is obtained in the mountains and on the foothills within a few miles of the settlement, and hay can be cut on the prairie and hill sides almost anywhere. The altitude here is perhaps 500 feet higher than Cardston, making it nearly 4,000 feet above the level of the sea. Mountain View, formerly called Fish Creek, was first settled by Saints in 1890, a ward organization was effected Dec. 24, 1893, with Vincent L. Stewart as bishop. On Jan. 21, 1894, Joseph H. Gold and Samuel J. Layton were ordained and set apart as counselors to Bishop Stewart. The future prospects for the Saints of the Mountain View ward are quite promising; here, as well as in the Cardston and Etna wards, there are room and facilities for thousands of families, in addition to those already there.

ANDREW JENSON.

School Board Matters.

The school board met last evening for the first time in its new quarters in the joint city and county building, all members being present except Toronto and Beatie. Routine business only was transacted, and after appropriations amounting to $17,385.00 had been made an adjournment was taken until next Thursday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Honorably Released.

[Millennial Star, Oct. 22.]

Elder John V. Bluth has been honorably released from his labors in this office. Brother Bluth arrived in England July 24, 1893, and was appointed to the editorial department of the Star. His health has not been good, yet he has performed his labors faithfully and efficiently. Owing to the effect of the damp climate on his system it was not deemed wise for him to remain during another winter. Our best wishes go with him for his safe return to Zion, and a speedy recovery after arriving there.

LITERARY NOTES.

Whiter Than Snow.—J. S. Ogilvie, N. Y.

Every poor book, every weak book, read takes so much of our leisure time, so much of our mental strength, of our power to assimilate good books. We all complain that we can not remember what we read. There is this difference between a valuable book and a worthless one—the one that nourishes the mind, strengthens every part, improves the memory, gives force to good purposes, helps to put life to a higher plane, and increases the desire for more books of the same kind. If of the making of books there is no end, what a pity we could not have good old books periodically republished, advertised and read, rather than the weak books with which we are inundated. "Whiter Than Snow" is not an immoral book, only a weak one. That careful choice of words that marks the scholar is wanting—the author has only books to offer—nice clean books, but it is a great pity to spend time on such little books when the great ones are unread.

The author of "A Yellow Aster" has written a new novel entitled "Children of Circumstance," which is to be published in D. Appleton & Co's Town and Country Library.

STAKE CONFERENCES.

Members of the First Presidency and Council of the Apostles are expected to be in attendance at the next ensuing Stake Quarterly Conferences, as follows:

Bear Lake Stake, Saturday and Sunday, November 3rd and 4th—President George Q. Cannon, Elder Heber J. Grant.

Summit Stake, Saturday and Sunday, November 3rd and 4th—Elder Francis M. Lyman.

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HOOD'S PILLS are the best after dinner pills, assist digestion, prevent constipation.

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AN OPINION GIVEN.

Recently Mr. J. D. Thomas, of North Dakota, visited the Shenandoah Valley, Virginia, and after carefully examining the country located in Winchester, he writes to Mr. V. Richards, Land and Immigration Agent, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, Baltimore, Maryland, as follows: "I have been in nearly every state and territory of the United States, and am frank in my opinion that this valley surpasses all other sections in the Union. The lands are low in price, and produce profitable crops. I thank you for directing me here, and solicit those seeking pleasant and profitable homes to locate in this country."

High Grade Candies.

Fine hand-made Creams, 15 cents a pound, at Spencer's Candy Kitchen, 44 West First South Street.

Wasatch Restaurant, Larson Bros., 30 E. Second South St. We serve the best 25c dinner from 12 to 2, hot broth, 15c, oysters, New York counts, 25c half doz., hot cake and coffee, 10c.

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The Chicago, Union Pacific & Northwestern line, offers the best accommodations to the traveling public en route to Chicago. Through trains, fast time, magnificent sleeping cars, elegant dining cars, colonial sleepers, reclining chair cars and handsome day coaches.

A Fire Proof Safe, only $15.

See Griffin's advertisement on Home Industry page.

When Baby was sick, we gave her Castoria.
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria.
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria.
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Keep your deeds and other valuables, including jewels, in a safety deposit box at Zion's Savings Bank & Trust Co. Rent for the year only amounts to a few cents per month. [illegible]

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