

knoll overlooking Lees creek and most 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 there 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 union—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, Samuel Matkin, 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 such 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 alterations. 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 liability to frosts, 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 13th 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 the money thus earned 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 his 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, Monticello 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 Aena 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 Cutty, on the Alberta railway, and forty-five miles