

# RETURNS HOME FROM CANADA

J. Fewson Smith, the Civil Engineer, Makes Report.

## THE BIG CANAL ENTERPRISE

A Thriving Young Community with Splendid Agricultural and Grazing Lands—Interesting Data.

Civil Engineer J. Fewson Smith, who has been in the Alberta, Canada, country for some time past on canal and colonization business, has returned home. Mr. Smith makes the following report of his labors:

"Some twelve or more years ago the first settlement—Cardston—was established in Alberta, Canada. It is situated some 14 miles north of the international boundary line between the U. S. and the British possessions, near the eastern base of the Rocky Mountains, and lies between the 36th and 37th degrees of longitude west from Washington, or the 114th and 115th degrees west from Greenwich. It now has a population of fully 1,000 people, and is the principal settlement thus far established.

"Within a radius of ten or twelve miles of Cardston are the thriving towns of Estevan, Lethbridge, Mountain View and Cowley. The settlements established during this year are Stirling and Magrath, and the total number of colonists or permanent settlers now in Canada amount to some 4,000 souls. The two named settlements are situated on the irrigated lands along the line of the Alberta canal, which has been under construction since the latter part of the year 1888. It will be remembered that the President of the United States, in that year, entered into contract with the Alberta Irrigation company to do work to the amount of \$100,000 in the construction of the canal. The time set for the completion of the work contracted for was the 31st day of December, 1899. When the agreement was entered into it was presumed by the irrigation company that the entire main line of the canal could be completed within the time, and for the sum above named; but the extraordinary character of the material encountered in excavating has retarded the work to such an extent that the canal will not be completed until the summer of 1900. The cost of the canal, however, the church contract of \$100,000 has been reached, and it is not to be doubted that the President will complete the whole job next spring as soon as winter breaks up.

FIRST IN THE DOMINION.

"So far as known this is the first irrigation scheme of any magnitude attempted in the Dominion; and the Utah colonists, by reason of their experience, are considered the very best people to handle the matter of irrigation successfully, hence their selection.

"As a brief description of the country and the works may be of interest reference is here made to them. On passing the border line the traveler is at once impressed with the vastness of the country lying before him, for as far as the eye can reach and even extending hundreds of miles beyond, the country is an open undulating plain, and especially is this the case to the north and east; while off to the west some sixty miles the peaks and bold escarpments of the Rocky Mountains, which extend northward and are seen, and as their base is approached the country becomes higher and more undulating and ridgey.

## A VERITABLE PARADISE.

"This vast plain is a veritable paradise for cattle and sheepmen, for it is thickly covered with nutritious grasses. The blue joint grass is everywhere abundant. Cattle and sheep are in good condition and consequently realize good prices. Three and four year old steers sold on the spot for \$50 a head; cows \$35 to \$38 a head, with sheep, hogs and farm produce realize correspondingly favorable prices. Apart from the farming done by the 'Mormon' colonists, but little has been accomplished in this direction by the few original settlers who have ventured west beyond the line of general settlement, and these have confined their operations mainly to cattle raising, for which the country is pre-eminently adapted. But from all present indications this region is equally well suited to farming operations. At the office of the irrigation company at Lethbridge may be seen a specimen of wheat raised during the past summer, by a colonist at or near Magrath. The heads are remarkably large and full of fine, plump kernels of grain. And it is understood that this was grown without the aid of irrigation water, the canal, as yet, being uncompleted.

## FARMING SUCCESSFUL.

"In the vicinity of Cardston farming operations are carried on with great success. Wheat, oats and barley are raised abundantly and vegetables of every kind. The experiment of raising sugar beets was tried last summer and proved a complete success. While the quantity raised was small it was of point of quality, decidedly superior to the Utah product. When once the irrigation scheme is completed and water available, the region settled by the 'Mormons' will undergo a complete transformation. A sugar factory already looms up as a probability of the near future.

"Returning to the irrigation enterprise, the company's headquarters are at Lethbridge, a point on the Canadian Pacific Railway, and junction of the Alberta and Crow's Nest railways. Mr. E. T. Galt, one of the board of directors, is also general manager of the enterprise assisted by Mr. Magrath, President George Q. Cannon of Salt Lake is another of the board of directors, and Mr. George Anderson, C. E., of Denver, Colorado, is the chief engineer of the company.

"The contractors have been especially represented by President A. O. Card, of Cardston, and Mr. M. D. Hammond, of Cache Valley, Utah.

## ENTERPRISE OF MAGNITUDE.

"As before stated, the enterprise is one of considerable magnitude, involving great expense and engineering problems of more than ordinary character, but these have been handled with good judgment and engineering skill. The source of water supply is the St. Mary river, which takes its rise in the Rocky Mountain range, south of the international boundary line and flows in a general northeasterly direction to its confluence with Belly River, an affluent of the Saskatchewan. From the head gate at the St. Mary to Stirling the total distance is 61.3 miles. Thirty-five miles of this distance is covered by the excavated portion of the canal, while the remaining 27 miles of the route are the natural channels of creeks and smaller water courses, which have been utilized.

"But for the use of these natural water courses the scheme would have been quite impracticable owing to the great difference in elevation between the intake and the delivery, this difference being 524 feet. The dimensions of the canal at the head are 20 feet bottom width with one and one half to one side slopes. At the lower end the reduced width is 6 feet. Measurements of the flow of the St. Mary river, made in the months of May and August of this year gave results as follows:

"May minimum, 401 second feet.

"May maximum, 5,529 second feet.

"In August the flow ranged from 1,488 to 1,555 second feet. All sources of information agree as to the unfailing and abundant water supply. An item of great importance in connection with the irrigation scheme is the fact that the irrigation of the whole region is underlain with an impervious clay, through which there will be but little if indeed any percolation whatever. This will be alike beneficial both to the supplies and uses of water, since its capacity for duty will thereby be vastly increased and extended. The clays just referred to overlie coal measures of vast extent.

"At Lethbridge and under the management of the irrigation company, extensive coal mining is carried on, the output from the mines rarely falling short of the demands. Mines are reported to make from 60 to 100 dollars per month, according to experience and ability.

## SACRED CONCERT.

A sacred concert was given by the First Methodist Sunday school last evening and a pleasant affair it was too. The program, which was very meritorious, was as follows:

Song.....By the school

Scripture reading and prayer.....

Song.....By the pastor

Solo.....By the school

Recitation.....Robert Goodwin

Song.....Primary department

Recitation.....Lena Roberts

Solo.....Bessie Johnson

Exercise.....Zura Hens

Song.....Six little girls

Recitation.....Isabel Jayne

Solo.....Carrie Calvin

Recitation.....Orville Post

Good-night song.....Primary department

At the close of the program boxes of bonbons were distributed to all the children of the school.

## WORKED AN OLD GRAFT.

Four Crooks "Touch" Drug Stores to the Tune of \$22.

An ancient "graft" was successfully worked last night by four crooks—three men and a woman. Altogether they made \$22. First they went to the Wallace drug store. The woman remained outside while the men went in and told the clerk about "my sister who has a fit just around the corner, please go and help her." The clerk did so. Soon the "lady" revived and the clerk returned to the store only to find the men missing. The woman then went to the Wallace drug store and told the clerk about "my sister who has a fit just around the corner, please go and help her." The clerk did so. Soon the "lady" revived and the clerk returned to the store only to find the men missing. The woman then went to the Wallace drug store and told the clerk about "my sister who has a fit just around the corner, please go and help her." The clerk did so. Soon the "lady" revived and the clerk returned to the store only to find the men missing.

## POLICE POINTERS.

James Easton was floating around town yesterday transporting a whisky muddled brain and \$50. At the police station Jim wanted another drink or two but was locked up in the drunk house.

## AN OLD FAMILIAR FACE SHOWED UP.

An old familiar face showed up at the station yesterday in the person of Al Householder. Al was guilty of the same old offense—too much lager.

## JAMES WILSON, ANOTHER ACTING MEMBER.

James Wilson, another acting member of the "dirty" eleven, was run in last evening by Officer Parry on the vagrancy charge.

## ONCE UPON A TIME THERE WAS A YOUNG MAN.

Once upon a time there was a young man at the city bastille named Louis Johnson. Being a good prisoner, Jailer Kimball made him a trusty. But now Louis is not east.

## HE WAS TIRED OF JAIL LIFE AND QUIETLY WALKED AWAY.

He was tired of jail life and quietly walked away.

## COUNCILMAN ROBERT MORRIS HAS EXAMINED THE STOLEN GOODS AT THE STATION.

Councilman Robert Morris has examined the stolen goods at the station but failed to identify any of the articles. In the meantime the jewelry remains unclaimed.

## THE CITY'S HEALTH.

The report of the local board of health for last week showed births, males, 7; females, 5; deaths, males, 7; females, 4; bodies brought from other places for interment here, 8; contagious disease flags outstanding, 17, covering seventeen cases of scarlet fever and one of smallpox; infectious diseases reported, one typhoid fever case. The smallpox case reported is that of F. M. Samuelson, the painter, which with Dr. Ray's case, reported last week, makes two cases both in the pesthouse.

## Cuticura SOAP

Makes the Hair grow. Clears the Complexion. Softens and whitens the Hands. Preserves and beautifies the skin of infants and children.

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