

IN THE NORTH-WEST.

The Country Around the Lesser Slave Lake.

In his description of the country through which the route of the North Canadian Pacific railway lies, W. J. M. writes:—"On leaving the Lesser Slave Lake and going west the line of the North Canadian Pacific railway would likely follow the valley of the Little Smoky river. This is a stream of about 400 feet wide, flowing in a valley of 250 feet deep, with a width of about half a mile. The surrounding country is generally table land, wooded and with good soil, though small swamps, which could be drained, are rather numerous; or the valley of the Heart river might be followed. This is a plateau gradually sloping towards the Peace river. The soil is chiefly good, with occasional swamps and some prairie land along the smaller streams. At the point of junction of the Heart and Peace rivers, the latter is a noble stream, thirteen hundred feet wide, with open grassy banks, and on its westerly shores prairie and aspen alternate in constant succession, while the soil is always rich. We are told, in the geological reports, that from this point west to Dunvegan from the eastern base of the Rockies about twenty miles north of Hudson's Hope, a range of hills extends nearly due east till it meets the Peace river about twelve miles below its junction with the Smoky river. The tract of country lying south of that range, and between it and the Peace river, is generally fertile. The travelled trail from the Smoky river to Dunvegan lies at a considerable distance back from the river, and passes almost all the way through a prairie country. The plateau is nearly level beyond the heads of the ravines, which run towards the Peace, wide stretches of grass alternating with aspen coppice and patches of willow. As Dunvegan is approached the surface becomes undulating and broken, and this section is pretty generally wooded with poplar. The soil is everywhere exceedingly fertile, and the aspect of the country very beautiful.

To the south-east of Dunvegan a few miles, say thirty, occurs what is known as "La Grande Prairie," which is worth nothing, as a description of it will apply to immense tracts in this portion of the region traversed by the "North Canadian." A short distance beyond the "Riviere Brule" the trail begins gradually to ascend to a broad ridge, gaining eventually a height of 200 feet above that of the prairie and passing at the same time into a wooded country. This higher trail has been called a ridge, but has at this point a width of about 17 miles. It runs N.-E. S.-W., and continues to bound La Grande Prairie for many miles. When the trail crosses the easterly portion of this plateau it is three parts wooded, with many pretty prairie-like openings. For the last six miles before reaching the north side of the Grande Prairie, the woods become dense, and consist of aspen, cottonwood, alder and birch with an occasional spruce. The soil of the prairie to the north of the higher plateau is uniformly a fertile black loam, with here and there a few boulders and coarse though always rich soil. This so called prairie is about 40 miles in length by twenty wide, and contains about 250,000 acres, and is well watered. "The soil is almost everywhere exceedingly fertile, and is often for miles together of deep rich loam, which it would be almost impossible to surpass in excellence." The next twenty-one miles west of Dunvegan, on the south side of the Peace river, are described as open and prairie-like, with poplars and willows in the bottoms, the surface gently rolling, and covered with a luxuriant growth of grass and wild pea. From the two hills in the vicinity an extensive view of similar prairie country opens to view, bounded on the south by a low wooded ridge. No mountains, or hills, properly so called, can be seen in any direction. The great Peace river here flows in a tranquil stream, in a valley from two to three miles wide and eight hundred feet deep. West of this to Hudson's Hope the country is generally a great plain, averaging about 1,000 feet above the sea level, and through which the Peace flows in a great valley. As far east as the mouth of Pine river, about fifty miles, this valley varies in width from one and a half to three miles in width at butt of plateau, and from one and a half to two miles at bottom. From Dunvegan to Pine river is about ninety miles, and from Pine river to Hudson's Hope is about fifty miles more. The south slopes are generally covered with poplar copse and prairie with good grass, while the northern slopes are invariably timbered with spruce and poplar. The land all appears to be rich and well suited for agriculture; the timber being small could be cleared with a small amount of labour. The next section is the famous pass through the mountains by which this great river, which rises west of the Rockies, flows easterly through them and is thus, as well as this portion of the route generally, described by Capt. Butler in an appendix to his "Wild North Land."

I am still of opinion that the Peace river affords a passage to the Western ocean vastly superior to the known passes lying south of it. What are the advantages I claim for it? It is level throughout its entire course. It has a wide and deep navigable river flowing through it, its highest elevation in the main range of the Rocky mountains is about 1,800 feet, the average depth of its winter snow is about three feet, and by the first week in May, this year, the snow, which had been unusually deep, had entirely disappeared from the north shore of the river, and vegetation was already forward in the woods at the mountain base. But though these are important advantages for this mountain pass the most important of all remains to be told. From the western end of the pass to the coast range of mountains, a distance of 300 miles across British Columbia, there does not exist one single formidable impediment to a railroad. In my next I propose, with your leave, to follow the line of the North Canadian through the mountains to its terminus on the Pacific.

A little black boy stood with his little sister at the edge of a water-lily pond in Florida. "Ephum," said the girl, "what makes so many oak tails grow in this heap?" "Doan you know?" inquired Ephum; "why, dey grew up from kittens dat people hez drowned in de pon, of our as."

"Prof. Willis, the physiognomist, says: 'Beware of the girl that has black eyes, when the girl with blue, and run from the girl with grey eyes.' This practically restricts the choice of the foolish young man to the Circassian girl with pink eyes, who is not warranted genuine outside of the dime museum.

ROUND THE GLOBE.

Uxbridge, Mass., boasts of a pair of steers that have a trotting record of 3 08.

The hard winter has destroyed hundreds of quail in Kansas. Whole coveys have been found under the hedges frozen to death.

J. Schweizer of Solothurn, Switzerland, has patented a steam velocipede which attained a speed of about twelve and a half miles an hour.

An alleged prairie wolf has been discovered prowling about Essex, in England. The animal was killed on the railway near North Weald. It has been pronounced by two eminent naturalists to be a fine prairie wolf.

Mrs. Harris of Dubuque believes thoroughly in dreams. A handsome span of horses, buggy, and harness were to be disposed of by lottery and she dreamed that ticket No. 75 drew the team. The next day she bought ticket No. 75, and when the lottery was drawn her dream came true.

Thirteen weeks ago Charles Albright of Cincinnati picked up a big stray cat that was wandering around his store. The cat bit him in the right hand. A few weeks later blotches broke out on his right arm, and now they nearly cover his body, and the doctors say that he is suffering from blood poisoning and will die.

A simple preparation for rendering woven fabrics more or less incombustible consists of three parts of borax and two and a half of sulphate of magnesia, mixed with twenty parts of water just before using. The fabrics are first thoroughly impregnated with this solution, then wrung out, and washed after having become nearly dry. A mixture of sulphate of ammonia and sulphate of lime is used by some.

The Paris *Nigaro* has published an article on the manufacture of skeletons, in which the writer says that just out of Paris there is an establishment where human bones of all sorts are collected, and after being carefully prepared, are fastened together with wires, and when the work is done it is impossible even for the scientific eye to detect anything wrong in a skeleton that has been made up from the bones of several different individuals.

The men of Wallaston (Mass.) Congregational Church are trying to recover from the effects of their fair that closed on Thursday night. It was the regulation church fair, with fancy work, cake, home-made candy, and lots of other things to eat, but the work was all done by the men, who waited on the tables, sold their handwork, and say they made \$800 clear. Some of them think it has really cost them more than that.

What wouldn't the average boy give if his pa would only send him to the Fort Wrangel training school in Alaska! The newspaper of that place says that the boys of the school last year killed for the use of the institution 151 deer, 11 seals, 1 bear, about 150 wild geese, over 300 ducks, and numerous grouse, porcupines, marmots, and snipe, and caught all the salmon, halibut, codfish, trout, herring, flounders, crabs and clams they needed.

John Evans of East St. Louis will be known as one of the very few men who have been blown up by dynamite and lived to tell of it. He was putting dynamite cartridges in a hole in the ice preparatory to an effort to break up an ice gorge in the river. He had placed all but one in the hole, and was in the act of putting that in when the electric current was turned on and a tremendous explosion followed. John, after a short flight, began to say unpleasant things about the man who set off the dynamite. He was not hurt much.

The immense quantity of peanuts grown in Africa, South America, and in the Southern States afford not only a pleasant article of food, but a very large source of oil production. The seed contains from forty to fifty per cent. of a nearly colorless bland, fixed oil, not unlike olive oil, and used for similar purposes; it is a non-drying oil, which changes but little by exposure to the air, and remains fluid even at several degrees colder than thirty-two degrees, Fah. A very great quantity of soap is manufactured from this kind of oil; indeed, some of the finest toilet soaps imported from France are of this material.

A wagon road and railroad track run side by side for a quarter of a mile near Adairville, Ga., and then the road crosses the track. Walter Curtis's horse took fright at an express train there the other day and ran away. The engineer put on steam and tried to beat the horse to the crossing, but the animal got there first, just in time to be knocked sixty feet, by measurement, and instantly killed. Curtis was found thirty-five feet from the point of collision. A three inch iron ring which he had in his pocket was bent almost double, but his gold watch was going all right in his vest pocket, while the chain was found in a field.

Two wealthy English sects which are reputed to make no converts are the Unitarians and the Quakers. The latter are believed to keep a closer scrutiny as to members than any other religious community, and estimate their numbers in England at fifteen thousand. These include no poverty-stricken persons, although there are some to whom assistance is given from the funds assigned for the purpose. The Quakers are perhaps the wealthiest class in England. They are well represented in the legislature, but while "Friends" have reached the Privy Council and baronetage, a Quaker peer has to be erected.

Cherry Bob of San Antonio, the proprietor of a saloon, is moved by the announcement that Messrs. Moody and Sankey are to visit that city to publish the following card: "Editor San Antonio *Light*; Fellow saloon men! now that Moody and Sankey are expected to visit us, would it not be advisable to get the inside track of them by closing our establishments on Sunday and keep holy the Sabbath? Fellow saloon men! let us close our doors on the Sabbath? let us keep sacred the seventh day; we will lose nothing by it, but would be held higher in the estimation of our fellow citizens and receive the credit of the outside world."

armor plates has also been increased until the Italian ironclad Italian has thirty-six inches of armor on her sides and carries four 100-ton guns, which throw 2,000 pounds a distance of ten miles. Not satisfied with even such monstrous guns, the same Government contracted, two years ago, with Krupp, to build for them five forged steel breech-loading guns of 125 tons each, fifty-five feet long, and a projectile of 2,500 pounds.

Anderson H. Jones, a colored man, who went to Liberia six months ago from Missouri writes home from Brewerville, a village fifteen miles from Monrovia, giving some account of the country. He says that there are no horses, no mules and no oxen in the whole settlement. All the work is done with the hoe, the rake, and the axe. He says: "I have been all over the settlement, and I found the largest number of people in a suffering condition for something to eat and for clothes to wear. There isn't any doctor in this settlement—the settlement is too poor to support one. Calico is 25 cents per yard. A common laborer when he can get any work to do, is paid 25 cents per day. Pickled pork is 25 cents per pound; shoulder meat, 25 cents per pound. All the flour and meat used here is imported from England and America. Cornmeal is 10 cents per quart. Common flour is \$15 per barrel. The only slow way the settlers have to make money here is by raising and selling coffee. It will take a newcomer like myself from five to six years to get a coffee farm in trim for selling coffee. The public schools are poor. There is a class of people over here who do not want the true condition of things written back home."

Washington's Birthday in 1796.

Only those who have carefully studied the political history of the country can have a just idea of the extraordinary condition of affairs that existed in 1796. It was the last year of Washington's second administration. The Father of his Country was about to retire to private life; and it was at the very close of a public career as honorable and useful as that of any other patriot in the world's history, that he suffered such abuse as might be heaped upon a corrupt and selfish politician.

The trouble arose out of what is known as Jay's Treaty. The relation between England and the United States had been intolerably bad, and President Washington had sent John Jay, then Chief Justice, to England to make a treaty. Mr. Jay had to take what he could get, and that was a treaty which pleased no one, and which was regarded as abominable by all those who, with Mr. Jefferson, favored the alliance with France.

But Washington, though by no means better satisfied than others, held to the opinion that any treaty was better than none and determined to ratify it. If the Senate would consent to it. He did so, although probably seven-eighths of the people were opposed to the treaty; and the result shows his wisdom.

Always before that year Congress had adjourned early on the 22d of February, to go in a body to present the respects of the members to the President, and congratulate him on his birthday. So high did party spirit run that a resolution to follow this custom was opposed and vetoed down!

Fancy what would be the result of an attempt to rally the Democrats of this generation in opposition to a resolution to celebrate Washington's birthday! Not a man would "rally."

A Philosopher's Lamentation

Here is a thrift of money if you want money! The money saving would pay your national debt for you, bridge the ocean for you, wipe away your smoky nuisances, your muddy ditto, your miscellaneous ditto, and make the face of England clean again,—and all this I reckon as mere zero in comparison with the accompanying improvement to your poor souls—now dead in trespasses and sins, drowned in beer-butts, in gluttonies, slaveries, quackeries; but recalled then to blessed life again and the sight of heaven and earth, instead of pay-day and Meux and Co.'s Estire. Oh, my bewildered brothers, what foul infernal Ciroe has come over you and changed you from men, once really rather noble of their kind, into beavers, into hogs and asses and beasts of the field or the slum?—*Thomas Carlyle.*

PEOPLE.

Henry Ward Beecher's children and grandchildren have had a reunion in Brooklyn.

A curious coincidence in connection with the death of Gen. Hancock is that the prescribed term of mourning for Gen. Grant ordered in the army expired on that day.

Col. R. G. Ingersoll was baptized in a theatre. His father, a Congregational minister, was turned out of a church by fire and sought temporary quarters in a theatre.

Mr. Paul Mohr, of Washington Territory, who came a week or two ago with wonderful stories about the flowers that bloom in the winter out there, was soared to death in Washington a day or two ago by being introduced to Dr. Mary Walker.

Letocq, who was with the late Prince Imperial when killed in South Africa, was one of six men of the crew of the schooner *Riflemen* of Guernsey, drowned when the vessel foundered off Flamborough Head recently on a voyage from Shields to St. Servan.

Arthur Orton, otherwise Thomas Castro, who figured for a while as Sir Roger Tichborne, is lecturing in Ireland. His lecture is facetiously described as consisting of an evening suit, no oratory and no English, and his audiences hail him with cheerful cries of "Roger" and "Wagga-Wagga."

In his lecture the other evening, Dr. Kneeland gave the latest prices for wives among the Santhal people. If the woman is young and pretty the husband must pay to her relatives from \$3 to \$5. Divorced women are quoted at about \$1.50, and widows at seventy-five cents each.

Mr. Phillip D. Armour is a very generous man. A clergyman in whom he had confidence one day asked him for \$30 to relieve a poor woman whose new-born baby was lying naked in her room where there was neither fire nor food. The money was at once handed to the parson, who afterwards returned it with a note saying that he had "discovered that the woman was of ill repute and the child the result of sin." Mr. Armour at once sent word to Mrs. Armour, who gave the starving woman and child ample assistance, while her husband, stamping with rage, shouted to his clerk: "If that damned scoundrel comes in here again throw him out!"

Last year an attempt was made to rehabilitate Gen. Arthur Gorgel, who, in 1849, being dictator of Hungary and commander of the insurrectionary troops, capitulated to the Russian army. Gorgel is still alive, but the meeting of Honveds, or national militia, which assembled last year at Pesth, refused, by a very large majority, to remove the stigma attaching to the unfortunate officer's character. The home minister of Hungary has now somewhat tardily quashed the vote recorded by the Honveds, and declared that they had no business to constitute themselves into a court of honor for the trial of Gorgel.

Mr. Henry M. Stanley, the African explorer, relates that when he started on his tour through the "Dark Continent," he took in his baggage a large collection of books. But as the number of his men was lessened the books had one by one to be left by the wayside, until, finally, when less than 300 miles from the Atlantic, he had left only the Bible, Shakspeare, Carlyle's "Sartor Resartus," Norie's Navigation and the Nautical Almanac. At Zinga the Shakspeare was abandoned, and afterward Norie, the Almanac, and last, "Sartor Resartus" were thrown down, only the Bible going through to the end.

The treatment New York brokers gave new members was, years ago, so rough that the governing committee interferred. Whoever ventured on the floor for the first time in those days was seized, his clothes pulled off and himself sent into the street in his underclothes. When Nat Jones went on he was accompanied by E. K. Willard, a very well known broker. Jones had not gotten far on the floor before the cry "New Tennessee! New Tennessee!" was raised. He was closed in upon and his sleek plng knocked off. He says, telling of the experience, that seeing Willard, the man who had promised to stand by him, fleeing, he knocked in his hat because he wanted to make some sort of show. When little Brewster went on all the men on the floor gathered about him, and flapping their arms against their sides crowded as lustily as 500 voices could. Then Brewster's hat went off, and when the crowd was through with him he looked not nearly so much like a bantam as when he went in.

FROZEN CATTLE.

Enormous Losses of Ranchmen on Account of the Great Snow Storms.

The extent of the damage to Western ranges, occasioned by the recent snows, has never been thoroughly comprehended, for the reason that ranchmen have been unwilling to have their losses known. It has been claimed that few cattle have died, whereas, if recent reports are to be credited, the herds in many localities have been decimated. "It is the most fatal storm ever known in the West," said Mr. George D. Ford, a prominent cattleman who has just returned from a trip into the Panhandle. "That of last winter wasn't a circumstance to this one, though ranchmen had good cause to consider it a pretty severe one. I never saw anything like it. Along the drift fence north of the Canadian River dead cattle are strewn by thousands. An actual count in places shows 150 dead animals to the mile. If this rate is kept up the entire length of the fence, which is 200 miles, there are 30,000 dead cattle in this one place. They include Colorado, Kansas, and No Man's Land through cattle that have drifted down to the fence. Along the Arkansas River, west of Dodge City, the situation is as bad. The through cattle have drifted down from the Union Pacific and have been frozen by thousands. The irrigating ditch north of the Arkansas River is full of carcasses."

"How widespread is the damage?" "It is coextensive with the snow. In Wyoming, New Mexico, and Texas, the cattle are in good shape, but in Kansas, the western part of the Indian Territory, and in Colorado, north of the Arkansas River, the losses on through cattle have been frightful. They will not fall short of 50 per cent. and in some ranches southwest of Dodge City the losses on the natives will aggregate 25 per cent. I tell you there never has been such a winter. Entire herds of through cattle have been wiped out. A herd drifted down to Palodora Creek in the Panhandle and took shelter under a bluff, around which runs a read. They died there, and the carcasses had to be dragged away before the stage could pass. Around Dodge City cattle in sheds were frozen to death. Many of the smaller owners will be bankrupt when spring opens, and I know of some firms that were millionaires a few years ago that haven't any money to spare now."

"Will the price of cattle go up in consequence of the losses?" "I am afraid not, and that's what makes the case so bad. There are lots of cattle in other parts of the country, and Texas cattle especially will not affect prices. The Texas people are hard up, and Kansas, Colorado, and Indian Territory men being unable to help them, they will sell at any price."

Canadian National Park.

The district near Banff, in the Canadian Rocky Mountains, where it is proposed to establish a national park, is said to be a beautiful spot. It is renowned for its salmon trout, its duck, and its wild geese, while other attractions are fine scenery, a magnificent waterfall, and hot springs of remarkable qualities. Of the springs a recent visitor says: "They consist at present of three principal springs or outlets, in which water, highly impregnated with sulphur, boils out of the sand. The water in the hottest one at present known has been tested and found to raise the thermometer to 112° Fahr. In the second, which is the one generally made use of, and with which Lord Lansdowne was highly pleased, the water attains a heat equal to 90 degs. Fahr. In the third or coolest one it rises only 80 deg. Fahr. The three are situated on the side of a mountain, which to all appearance is nothing but sulphur, and during a month's stay in the vicinity the writer came across no less than seven caves, and six hot springs coming out of the side of the mountain. The new line of the Canadian Pacific Railway runs close to the proposed national park."

Manager (to supernumerary): "I am going to give you a small part in the new play. Do you wish your real name on the bill, or will you use an assumed name?" Supe: "I guess I will use an assumed name." M: "Very good. What shall it be?" S: "Signor Vermoelli." M: "That's a high-sounding name. Why do you use Vermoelli? Got it out of a cook book, did you?" S: "Yes; and I use it because I am a supe, you know."



FANCY COSTUMES FOR LADIES

FIG. 1.—ROSE GARDEN.—Skirt of white satin having bands of green velvet ribbon sewed on it to represent a trellis, with bunches of pink roses placed at the inner-sections, and the bottom finished by a garland of pink roses and leaves. The pointed corsage is of white satin trimmed to match the skirt. Full back drape of pale blue gauze. Pink roses in the hair, white satin slippers trimmed with roses, and blue silk stockings. A basket of roses in the hand.

FIG. 2.—SPANISH GYPSY.—Skirt of cardinal sash, bordered with gold fringe and crossed at the right side disclosing an underskirt of white cashmere. Scarf of gold striped gauze arranged as a drape. Spanish jacket of cardinal velvet trimmed with gold braid and opening over a

blue cashmere trimmed with three narrow bands of eoru foulard. Apron of eoru foulard embroidered in yellow, red and blue, tucked up to the waist on one side and finished on the back with a sash matching the apron. Corsalet of red satin slippers with red and gold bows. Tambourine ornamented with red and white satin ribbons.

FIG. 3.—JAPANESE LADY.—Japanese robe of flowered India silk, the loose flowing sleeves lined with pink silk and showing close under sleeves of blue silk. The collar of the robe is of pink, and the broad sash of blue silk is tied in a large bow at the back. Hair arranged in Japanese fashion with gold pins.

FIG. 4.—ITALIAN GIRL.—Short skirt