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No. 38

LIFTING THE BURDEN

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"The Liberal"

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Letter from Lethbridge.

To the Editor of THE LIBERAL:

DEAR SIR:—

Since my last letter another year has come and gone, and I can now give your readers more of the facts in connection with the settlement and agricultural possibilities of this part of His Majesty's dominions. Settlement is going on very rapidly, not only in the district, but all over Alberta. To the north of Lethbridge, across the river, a large quantity of land has been homesteaded, while to the east along the line of the C. P. R. there are quite a number of settlers and a town site laid out. Lethbridge is growing steadily as also are the adjacent towns of Stirling, Raymond, Magrath and Cardston. Waterworks and sewerage are being installed in Lethbridge and a number of new industries are among the possibilities in the near future. I have ceased making trails across the prairie and will soon have to travel entirely on the King's highway where a line of telephone poles add their interest to the landscape.

I presume your readers would like to know something of the climate here. On the whole the summers are somewhat cooler and the winters shorter and milder than in Ontario. I have known the summer heat to go as high as ninety on one occasion, but I would not have known it had the thermometer registered it. But so far as my experience of it goes it is not so hot in summer as Ontario. We had our first cold snap in November this winter which lasted about a week. According to weather reports of Lethbridge the months of December and January showed a temperature of from 35 to 60, Fahrenheit, and considerable plowing was done. February has been the coldest for some years, there being considerable zero weather, as low as 27 below zero being recorded. The climate is healthy and livable. As an evidence of the purity of the air I may state that I have seen the carcasses of dead horses and cattle that have been three years on the prairie, with a large portion of the hide still on the frame, as the flesh seems to dry up rather than purify.

Much has been said of the Chinook wind in this country. As many of your readers doubt imagine, we are all bald headed from the violence of it. I will briefly explain the conditions I find them. The Chinook is a wind which blows from the west or southwest, most prevalent in the colder part of the year. It is a warm wind always below freezing point, and to its influence is attributed the mildness of the climate in winter. The disagreeableness of it is its persistence, there being no protection from it on the open prairie. One peculiarity about it is its lightness as compared with a wind of the same velocity in Ont. In other words a wind of say 40 miles an hour does not exert the same pressure as a wind of the same velocity in Ontario. Although I was told of this peculiarity when I first came here, I did not believe it until my experience of it convinced me. On the whole it is more a blessing than otherwise. According to reliable data, the true Chinook belt extends from the international boundary to High River, about 30 miles south of Calgary; but its influence extends in a gradually lessening degree for 100 miles farther north, and for 300 miles to the east. Lethbridge and vicinity is well in the true Chinook belt.

We had our first experience with irrigation this last fall, and although imperfectly done, from the land not being in proper shape for it, the results were most gratifying, as much as 95 bushels of oats and 40 bushels of spring wheat being grown to the acre. On the whole the problem of applying the water to the land will be a very simple matter when we get the land in proper shape for it, and I may say that the people of this district are alive to the possibilities of irrigation. Fall wheat and barley are among the profitable crops that can be grown to perfection here. I mentioned in my former letter that we had a brewery and malt-house in the town, so that our market for barley is local. We will have an unlimited market to the west for both hard and soft wheat as well as a local market as soon as enough wheat is grown here to warrant the erection of a mill. I have had enquiry from a milling firm in Toronto in regard to Turkey red wheat, a hard fall wheat which will be grown extensively here. One man near Spring Coulee, I'm told, had over 30,000 bushels of it which he expects to sell mostly for seed. I mentioned in my former letter that we expected to grow Alfalfa here. The growing of clovers has seemed to be problematic in the west, but it remained for Mr. Fairfield, of the Immigration Experimental farm, who has had considerable experience and given much thought to the growing of Alfalfa, to demonstrate the probability that Alfalfa will be one of the good things in this district. He found that there was an absence of bacteria in the soil

which prey upon the roots of clovers forming small nodules, which enables the plant to assimilate free nitrogen from the air. He is most enthusiastic on the success attending the introduction of the factena into the soil and predicts the entire success of Alfalfa growing here.

We have the usual difficulties attending agriculture in new countries of soil, climate, altitude, etc., and we have a co-operative society among the farmers here for the purposes of discussing these conditions and are rapidly finding out the best means to pursue in regard to them. The association is in co-operation with the Lethbridge and District Agricultural Society and is identified with Institute work and are now asking for a membership on the Lethbridge Board of Trade. One of the aims of this Association is to encourage the planting of trees, both ornamental and shelter belts, and I predict that in ten years time the face of this country will have undergone considerable change.

Apologizing for the length of this letter, I remain

Yours very truly,

A. E. KEFFER.

Lethbridge, Alta, Mar. 1st, '04.

Gormley.

A friendly match between the Glen Grove O. H. R. C., of Toronto and Victoria Square was shot off on Saturday, 19th inst., on the range of the latter, resulting in a victory for the country boys by nine points. A driving snow storm lasted the entire match, making it very difficult to shoot a high score. A. Quantz's gun sprang a bad flaw which accounts in a measure for his unusually low score. The following are the scores: Toronto Team: D. Nealy 79, C. H. Jordan 79, Latimer 72, Bailey, 63, Hughes 55.—Total of 343. Victoria Square Team: W. Capell 85, G. Forester 78, C. P. Read 69, Thomas Read 68, A. Quantz 54. Total of 357.

Victoria Square

The surveyors have parted from our midst to regions farther north. Though gone they will not be forgotten as they liberally supported our missionary cause.

Mr. J. Mortson and family have moved to their new home. We might try to call on them soon.

Rev. Mr. Smith preached an excellent sermon on Sunday. Let us all practise the advice and truth revealed to us that the quantity of work we do is not nearly as important as is our motive for doing it.

Mr. L. Nichols took a long and pleasant sleigh-ride on Sunday last.

Maple

The monthly sale last week was attended by a very large crowd, and over two thousand dollars' worth of stock was sold.

Mr. and Mrs. J. Devins start this week for their home in Carstairs, Alberta.

A pretty event took place in Hope church on Wednesday evening of last week, when Mr. W. T. Cook and Miss F. Thomas were united in matrimony by Rev. W. N. Chantler. The bride was given away by her father, Mr. Wm. Thomas and the wedding march was played by her cousin, Miss Nettie Ackrow. Miss Annie Thomas, sister of the bride, acted as bridesmaid and Mr. Heber Cook, brother of the groom, was groomsman. Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple drove to Maple, where they took the evening train for Toronto, thence to Orangeville and other places. Their many friends wish them much happiness and a long and prosperous life together.

It is an unusual sight in these days to see logs over four feet in diameter, but Jackson Bros. have purchased some that size from Mr. J. G. Constable, to be used in the manufacture of pumps.

There passed away on Wednesday night of last week, at the home of her nephew, Mr. T. Matheson, Flora McKinnon, in her 81st year. She was one of our oldest and most respected citizens. The funeral was largely attended.

Dr. Sisley left last week to take a month's course in the hospitals of Chicago. His practice is being attended by Dr. Ferguson of Toronto.

Pills and Piles.

A prolific cause of Piles is the use of cathartics and pills of a drastic, violent nature.

Followed by a reaction on account of the resinous, drying properties they contain.

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The distracting headaches from which so many women suffer make life a daily purgatory. If men suffered with headache as women do, business would be almost at a standstill. Does not the fact that women only suffer from these severe headaches suggest that there must be a womanly cause for them?

When the womanly organism is diseased, headache, backache, nervousness and sleeplessness are consequences which are sure to follow.

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