FARM HOMES IN THE SASKATCHEWAN VALLEY.

AMERICA'S COMING WHEAT DISTRICT.

The Saskatchewan Valley Land Company's Great Holdings in Western Canada,

Millions of Acres at Nominal Prices—Remarkable Fertility of the Soil.

The population of the Northwest Territories of Canada is already one-fourth American, acording to the best authority. In 1901 fully 18,000 Americans went into this region and this year about double that number. Many had settled there before the present movement. The large acquisition of lands by American companies and the constant growth in popularity of the emigration movement assures a predominant American population in Western Canada and especially in the districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan. For it is along the Saskatchewan valley that American interest in Canada has centered. It is this region which seems the very pick of all the northwest—most favored in climate, soil, transportation facilities, local improvements, markets and general attractiveness to the settler.

The Saskatchewan is a magnificent stream and waters a veritable empire in extent. It is formed by the confluence of the north and south forks—the latter having its rise in the Rocky mountains some hundred miles or so north of the international boundary, and the former in the same range a little farther north. The two "forks" diverge fully 250 miles in their eastern course, but finally come together in the district of Saskatchewan near the town of Prince Albert. The stream then continues its course eastward and empties into Lake Winnipeg. It is navigable and will play an important part in the transportation of bulky freights as the district is opened up.

Only the south fork passes through Assiniboia. This district lies immediately north of Dakota and Montana and extends along the international boundary for 450 miles. Its north boundary line is parallel with the south and 205 miles distant, or about at the 52d parallel of latitude. This vast district comprises 90,840 square miles or slightly more than the area of Minnesota. The eastern part is a park-like prairie with a rich, alluvial soil and is an unequaled farming country. Westward the land rises and is more broken and is better adapted to stock raising.

The south fork of the Saskatchewan passe out of Assiniboia at the middle of its northern boundary, entering the district of Saskatchewan a little west of the center of its southern line. For Saskatchewan is larger than Assiniboia. Its western boundary is the same, but on the east it reaches to the Nelson river and to the north it touches the 55th parallel. In a general way the district is what is called a mixed wooded and prairie country, though the wooded regions are more toward the north, while the south is largely open to prairie, the finest farming lands in the northwest.

The Saskatchewan Valley.

The foregoing description shows that the Saskatchewan valley lies partly in Assiniboia and partly in Saskatchewan. And it is through this valley, partly in each district, that the Saskatchewan Valley Land company has purchased immense tracts of picked lands. The southern boundary of these lands begins on the east a few miles north of Indian Head, on the main line of the Canadian Pacific railway and the center of one of the richest wheat-raising districts in the world, and extends west to a point north of the fertile Moose Jaw district. Regina, center of another notable agricultural region, lies just south of the middle of this line. Northward the company's lands follow the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan railway to and beyond its terminus at Prince Albert, in Saskatchewan, and on the Saskatchewan river. A glance at the map, which shows that the lands of the company lie principally in the watershed of the Saskatchewan river and its southern branch, indicates the reason of the choice of the name, "Saskatchewan Valley Land Company."

Lands at Extraordinarily Low Prices.

The lands controlled by this company were purchased in an enormous block (over 1,000,000 acres) and are being put on the market at prices which seem ridiculously low to the eastern or middle states farmer. The reasons for this are obvious, however, after consideration of the conditions. Land values are largely made by population. As J. J. Hill put it, the finest possible land would be nothing but a worthless wilderness without people on or adjacent to it. The sparseness of the population of western Canada and its generally undeveloped condition is accountable for the fact that land of unsurpassed fertility is so much cheaper than as good or poorer land in the United States. Canada is a very large country with a very small population. The area of Canada is about the same as that of the United States. Of course a large part, more than half, is practically worthless for agricultural purposes. But the population of Canada is considerably less than that of either New York or Pennsylvania, and only about 400,000 persons now live in Manitoba and the territories, although the country has been open to easy settlement since 1882.

The reason of this is that the United States attracted all the immigrants from the old world and that its own people pushed west south of the boundary line. The Canadians were not numerous enough to populate their own west rapidly. But with the practical occupation of all the valuable agricultural lands in the humid and semi-humid regions of the American west, American attention at last directed to Canada. A little investigation brought conviction that the severity of the Canadian climate had been greatly exaggerated and that the possibilities of agricultural production had never been fully realized.

Wheat of the Finest Quality.

Further investigation showed that the best wheat in the world could be raised in western Canada and that the fertile, alluvial soil of the Saskatchewan valley would produce more wheat to the acre than any other part of the globe.

Whole districts average 25 bushels an acre year after year and an average of 15 is considered uncommon; 25 nothing extraordinary, 30 or 35 not amazing, 40 or 50 not marvelous. It was a careful, calculating realization of such facts as these, backed by investigations of the soil and a study of what had been done by farmers and at Dominion experiment farms that led American capitalists to put their money into western Canada with absolute faith in returns. It has thus come about that the Saskatchewan Valley Land company and other American companies now own or have owned and sold to Americans a very large part of the best lands in Assiniboia and Saskatchewan. Minnesota, Iowa and Dakota farmers who have gone up "land looking" and have found that land that would produce as much or more wheat than the land they owned at home and was yet priced at from $3 to $10 an acre against their home land at $25 to $100 an acre, became interested at once. So 18,000 Americans settled in western Canada last year and 30,000 this year.

A Home Among Americans.

Purchasers of lands from the Saskatchewan Valley Land company will be sure to have American neighbors. This is often a great consideration among intending buyers. Owing to the character of the selections it will be possible for relatives, neighbors or friends to settle near together and at the same time be in a community familiar with American manners and customs. So much land does the Saskatchewan Valley Land company own, that the 200 miles over which it stretches will one day be an essentially American community in the heart of Canada.

German, Norwegian and Swedish-Americans are going into the tracts of the Saskatchewan Valley Land company in large numbers. It is estimated that next spring there will be 1,800 American families on farms bought from the company.

All Picked Land.

The company, by arrangement with the railway company and the Canadian government, was permitted to pick 1,100,000 acres from a total area of 6,000,000. This latitude of choice enabled it to come into control of the whole districts famed for their fertility, as well as to choose the best throughout an immense extent of country.

Since the company received its first grant it has come into possession of the Big Quill Lake district, upon which land men have long set covetous eyes. This district has been compared to the Portage Plains—the richest locality, perhaps, in Manitoba.

Transportation Facilities.

As already stated the Canadian Pacific railway runs through the heart of Assiniboia from east to west. It passes through Indian Head, Regina and the other principal towns of the central portion of the district. The Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan railway is operated by the Canadian Pacific railway and furnishes ready and cheap communication with the markets. The Canadian Northern is now building its main line from Erwood in eastern Saskatchewan to Prince Albert. This is the second Canadian transcontinental line and will give direct communication with Winnipeg. The Canadian Pacific is building an extension from the main line at Moosomin, near the eastern boundary of Assiniboia to Saskatoon on the Qu'Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan, where it crosses the south fork of the Saskatchewan river. This will bring much new territory, including the holdings of the Saskatchewan Valley Land company into direct communication with markets. Before long, too, the Yorkton branch of the Canadian Pacific will be extended from Yorkton in the northwestern Assiniboia to Osler. So it is plain that this splendid virgin country will soon be well supplied with railways, the coming of which will inevitably hoist the prices as well as the values of land.

EXTRAORDINARY YIELDS

The Figures for It—Work at Indian Head Experiment Station.

The Canadian government maintains a number of experimental stations similar to those controlled by the several states of the union under the patronage and support of the United States government. One of these stations is at Indian Head, on the Canadian Pacific railroad in Assiniboia.

Indian Head is one of the leading wheat marketing points in western Canada. It is surrounded by a very choice quality of land which is producing enormous crops of wheat. At the town are elevators having a capacity of 179,000 bushels.

Directly north of Indian Head the Saskatchewan Valley Land company owns some very fine lands.

But as to the results of wheat farming in and about Indian Head as recorded by the government station. The director of the station has been very successful in experimenting to show the special needs of the region and has taught the farmers the best methods for the soil and climate. He has showed them how to cultivate the rich lands of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan which have an annual rainfall of not to exceed eighteen inches, without crop failures in the dryest years. Briefly the secret lies in summer fallowing every two years with a minimum of disturbance of the surface of the fields during the crop years.

Red Fife the Best Wheat.

Recognizing that in the soil and the wonderful climate, with its long sunny days during the growing season, Assiniboia and Saskatchewan had the essentials for becoming the very best part of the American wheat belt, Angus MacKay, superintendent of the Indian Head experiment farm, set about to determine the variety of wheat best adapted to the largest results. This has been found to be Red Fife. In 1900, which was a very bad year, the rainfall being light and unevenly distributed through the growing season, the Red Fife on the farm came to the front with a showing of thirty bushels and twenty pounds to the acre. The average yield for the five years from 1895 to 1899 was thirty-seven bushels and twenty-two pounds to the acre. For eight years the average was thirty-four bushels and forty-seven pounds.

Never Less Than 30 Bushels.

There are many farmers in the Saskatchewan valley who have never had less than thirty bushels.

Think of that, you farmers who have been raising ten bushels of wheat to the acre year after year. Think of that, you people who imagine that western Canada is very close to the north pole and in danger of freezing up in the middle of the summer.

By the way, when the frost was blighting corn in parts of Iowa the first of August, it was not felt at all in Assiniboia and Saskatchewan.

Yields As Shown on the Farms.

As it may be argued, and with good logic, that the yields of wheat on an experiment station farm should not be taken for the usual productivity of farms managed under ordinary conditions, where expert knowledge and care may be wanting, some figures are given below to show what the "common, every day farmer" can do in the Saskatchewan valley. These figures show that the experiment station productivity is not uncommon, but the usual thing in the vicinity.

The banner yield of 1901 was that of E. Stueck of Abernethy, who raised sixty-two bushels of wheat on a single acre.

W. R. Motherwell of the same postoffice, got 52 bushels an acre on twenty-four acres.

J. Glenn of Indian Head raised 22,000 bushels on 500 acres or forty-four bushels bushels to the acre.

T. Livingstone of Indian Head raised 9,000 bushels on 180 acres or fifty bushels to the acre.

R. Johnson of Qu'Appelle got 3,600 bushels from eighty acres, or 45 bushels an acre.

Scores of other instances of equal yields might be cited.

Last year 100 bushels of oats, 56 of barley and 25 of flax were not uncommon.

Averages for the Provinces.

But, it may be said, these are special examples of the best yield. That is not the case—they are simply specimens of many similar yields. But to satisfy all inquirers, it may be shown that the average yield for all parts of western Canada—good, bad and indifferent districts taken all together—was nearly 25 bushels to the acre. Here are the figures:

Acres, 2,520,000; yield, 63,176,000.

The whole of Assiniboia averaged 25.90 bushels to the acre last year, and Saskatchewan 25.92¼, both of them beating Manitoba by nearly a bushel to the acre.

One district, in which part of the Saskatchewan Valley Land company's lands lie, averaged last year 29.54 bushels to the acre on 140,000 acres.

Another averaged 28.73 on 97,000 acres.

This year's crop will be, in every respect, the equal of last year's.

Assuming that it is, the yield per acre in the Northwest Territories for the past five years has averaged 21 bushels to the acre. It should be remembered that this included the very bad year of 1900, when thousands of acres of wheat in the northwest were not cut at all. Yet the average yield in the Saskatchewan valley that year was 10 bushels to the acre.

Farming is a business that is dependent upon weather everywhere. In all countries there come bad years. It is the general average of returns for a number of years that should be looked to.

Even in the bad year of 1900 there were many parts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan that got from twenty to thirty bushels per acre.

The Wheat Grades Very High.

While speaking of quantity, quality should not be neglected. The quality of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan wheat is better than that of Minnesota and the Dakotas. Most of it grades No. 1 hard. Any other grade is the exception. The price rules about the same as in the United States. As the price of wheat is determined in the central markets of the world, the fact that Canadian wheat is shut out of the United States by the tariff of 25 cents a bushel has no effect on the price.

Moreover, Minneapolis millers are beginning to grind Canadian wheat in bond. The Washburn-Crosby Flour Milling company of Minneapolis has recently ground 200,000 bushels in that manner, and is building a 3,000-barrel mill which, if conditions favor, will be used exclusively to grind Canadian wheat.

WHY WHEAT GROWS THERE

Reasons for the Productiveness of the Saskatchewan.

The Saskatchewan valley is becoming one of the greatest wheat producing sections of the American continent for these reasons:

First—It has a black alluvial soil, particularly rich in the food required for the wheat plant—so rich, in fact, that the farmer will not need to trouble himself about fertilization.

Second—A climate under which the plant comes to maturity with great rapidity.

Third—On account of its northern latitude it receives an abundance of sunshine during the period of growth.

Fourth—Absence of rust, due to dryness of climate.

Fifth—Absence of insect foes.

Sixth—Absence of noxious weeds.

GREAT FOR HUNTING

Plenty of Wild Fowl in the Saskatchewan.

If the prospective settler has a weakness for the gun he will find recreation as well as occupation on his own lands. Chickens and ducks and wild geese abound. There is probably no better small game country in the world than the prairie country of the Saskatchewan below Prince Albert or going into the wooded country beyond the hunter will find many opportunities to get a shot at the lordly moose.

TAXES ARE LIGHT

No Excessive Assessments and Very Low Rates.

Low taxes are one of the inducements to the prospective settler in the Saskatchewan valley. On land that he gets from the Saskatchewan company at from $5.50 to $7 per acre he is certain not to pay in taxes more than $7 to $18 on 640 acres a year, and it may not be more than $2 or $2.50. The government machinery is very simple, and inexpensive. The general federal government looks after its peculiar affairs, but other matters are controlled by the territorial government. This territorial government is assisted by the federal government. No system of municipal or county organization has been provided. The organization of school districts is optional with the settlers. Each school receives a yearly governmental grant of from $300 to $350. The existing schools are very good.

HARVESTING SCENE ON THOMAS McKAY'S HILLSIDE FARM, PRINCE ALBERT, SASKATCHEWAN VALLEY.

A BUNCH OF PURE BREED CATTLE ON THE ARM RIVER, SASKATCHEWAN VALLEY.

A STACKING SCENE ON PROUSES' FARM, GRANDON HILLS.

CLIMATE IS EQUABLE

Saskatchewan Valley Most Healthy and Enjoyable—Few Sudden Changes.

Crops Mature Quickly—Rainfall at the Right Time—Stock Does Well.

The Saskatchewan Valley has a very equable climate. The general elevation of the region is about 1,800 feet above sea level, or perhaps twice the average altitude of Minnesota.

Of the climate of this section, R. F. Stupart, director of the Canadian meteorological survey, says:

"The salient features of the climate of the Canadian northwest territories are a clear, bracing atmosphere during the greater part of the year, cold winters and warm summers and a small rainfall and snowfall. The mean temperature for July at Winnipeg is 66 and Prince Albert 62. The former temperature is higher than that in any part of England and the latter is very similar to that found in many parts of the southern countries." At Prince Albert the average daily maximum in July is 76 and the minimum 48. Owing to this high day temperature with much sunshine, the crops come to maturity quickly. Although the rainfall is not large, it is sufficient.

Rain at the Right Time.

About 75 per cent of the precipitation is during the months when crops are growing. Thus western Canada gets as much rain when it is needed as much more humid countries do.

With rain coming when it is needed and the several hours more of sunshine, this northern country gets than lands farther south, it is easy to understand why crops mature so quickly.

The mean temperature in July in the region where the Saskatchewan Valley Land company's lands are situated will average about 62, and the annual rainfall close to 18 inches.

While it is true that the part of Canada under consideration has a mean annual temperature of about 7 degrees below that of southern Minnesota and that the winters show temperatures considerably lower, it is undoubted that the winter season in Assiniboia or Saskatchewan is as pleasant as in southern Minnesota, perhaps more so. The bright, clear cold is very enjoyable. Men work out doors and travel with teams everywhere all through the winter, just as they do in Minnesota. Stock will winter well without shelter, though sometimes they require to be fed by hand. It is unquestionably a very healthful country for stock.

Springs Are Early.

Thanks to the warm winds from the Pacific coast, winters "close promptly and decisively." Sowing is done during the whole of April. It is very seldom that the spring is long, damp and cold. The growth is phenomenal and harvest comes in the middle of August.

"With such soil, marvelous in the amount of its plant foods, and with the long bright, even occasionally hot, summer days, the metabolism of the plant cells is so rapid as only to be likened to the growth of plants under glass."

The climate is an excellent one for the human race. It is very stimulating and exhilarating. Yet the span of life is in no way shortened by this fact.

This country is north of the cyclone and blizzard belt. Neither are known.

No more are dust and sand storms.

The number of absolutely clear, sunshiny days is not exceeded by any other good agricultural country in the world. It is 200 out of the 365.

Cure for Disease.

Cholera, yellow fever, malaria or dysentery have never invaded this part of the world. Inflammatory rheumatism is extremely rare. Asthma is often cured by the pure air of the Canadian northwest. Consumption is very rare. Disorders of digestion are almost unknown, and many immigrant dyspeptics here find a cure merely in location.

MARKETS AT HAND

Good Shipping Points Abound in and Near the Saskatchewan Valley Company's Lands.

Local Consumption of Farm Products Large—Wheat Can Be Marketed at Good Figure.

There are splendid facilities for marketing the products of Saskatchewan valley farms. A market is of first importance to a farmer. He must know what will be bought and where it will be bought.

First as to wheat. For the wheat of the Saskatchewan valley there is always an unlimited demand. Wheat is as good as gold. And transportation charges are not so high as to cut off the farmer's profits. There is a big profit in raising wheat at the present moderate prices.

For whatever else that the farmer of the Saskatchewan valley may raise he will find good markets eastward at Winnipeg, westward in the mining and cattle countries and in the small towns and cities that are growing up at his very doors.

Regina, the capital of the northwest territories, at which point the Canadian Pacific branch that runs through the Saskatchewan company's lands, leaves the main line, has a population of 2,645.

Moose Jaw, further west, has 2,200 people, and is at the junction of the Soo line with the Canadian Pacific. From this point through trains run to Minneapolis and St. Paul. Then there are Indian Head, McLean and all the stations on the Canadian Pacific and Canadian Northern eastward to Winnipeg, including such thriving cities as Brandon and Portage la Prairie.

On the Prince Albert branch or Qu' Appelle, Long Lake & Saskatchewan line, the principal towns are Saskatchewan, Rosthern and Prince Albert. The latter has a population of 2,300 and will in the near future have two other railway lines, both of which will cross the company's lands. The town is lighted with electricity, and is well supplied with stores, churches, schools, three saw-mills, two large grist mills, with a capacity of 100 barrels per day each, brickyards, two breweries, newspapers, etc. It is a divisional center of the Northwest mounted police. There are many other promising points between Regina and Prince Albert.

The Canadian tariff is such that the local producer has a monopoly of the local market if he has the wherewithal to supply it. The duty on hay is $2 per ton, wheat 12 cents per bushel; potatoes 15 cents per bushel; eggs, 3 cents per dozen; flour, 60 cents a barrel; cheese, 3 cents a pound; fresh meats, 3 cents a pound; mutton and lamb, 35 per cent, beans, 15 cents per bushel; oats, 10 cents per bushel; barley, 30 per cent; cabbage, 25 per cent; butter, 4 cents per pound.

The local demand for oats and barley is almost unlimited.

ONE CROP PAID ALL

Cost of Farm and Expenses and a Handsome Profit.

In 1900, Joseph Glenn of Indian Head, Assiniboia, bought a quarter section of land (160 acres) for $200. Last year the entire quarter section was under crop. He allows expenses in connection with the crop as follows:

Breaking, at $5 per acre	$800
Seed Grain	144
Labor and seeding	50
Binder twine	84
Harvesting	250
Delivery to elevator	210
Incidentals	160
Total, including cost of farm	$1,998

The yield was 7,447 bushels of wheat, which sold at 55 cents, realizing $4,095.85. The average yield per acre was forty-seven bushels. After all expenses and the farm were paid for, Mr. Glenn's clear profit was $2,097.85.

A PLACE FOR HEALTH

Cool Nights Make Summer Work a Luxury.

One of the delights of western Canada is found in the cool, invigorating nights which prevail during the summer months. The excessive heats of the summers of the south is driving many of its people into the northwest. The Anglo-Saxon who is making the North American continent the world's field of industry is no friend of torrid atmosphere. He can stand the heat of the days, but nights must give to his body the rest it demands. The long days and cool nights of western Canada explain why the farmer in that country can do more work in one summer than the farmer of the far south can in two. Instead of the tortures of a sleepless couch on a hot summer's night, he sleeps the sleep of the just in an atmosphere meant by nature for her strongest sons. The cool nights with their rest equip him well for the battles of the long day and when autumn comes the farmer of western Canada, by his works, has proven that twice as much can be accomplished in one season as in the lands where the heat of the summer's day continues through the summer's night.

DIVERSIFIED CROPS

Wheat Leads, but Many Other Things Pay Well.

It is asserted by good authorities that the districts of Saskatchewan and Assiniboia will become the chief wheat growing region of the continent. Wheat certainly will be the principal crop for many years, but not the only one, by any means. Last year Assiniboia produced about four and one-half millions of bushels of oats and 200,000 bushels of barley. Saskatchewan had half a million bushels of oats and 90,000 bushels of barley.

This beautiful, undulating prairie country, parts of it park-like with lakes and trees, ready to produce a crop after the soil is broken, has such bountiful fertility that it will produce freely of many crops. The country abounds in water and natural hay and rich ranges.

Water may be obtained almost anywhere by shallow wells. The great rivers and lakes, and the scores of small rivers and creeks that are found in the Saskatchewan Valley Land company's grant insure an abundant supply of water.

In Assiniboia and Saskatchewan can be found some of the finest herds of well bred beef and dairy cattle in the world, and the above facts show how well suited the country is to stock. Horse raising is also a profitable industry.

Potatoes, turnips and all kinds of vegetables yield bountifully.

The territories last year produced 700,000 pounds of butter at the twenty creameries the government maintains for the benefit of the settlers.

NO COAL TRUST THERE

The Fuel Problem Is Unknown in Western Canada.

While the people of the western and northwestern states are perplexed with the fuel problem the farmers of the Saskatchewan valley are unruffled. They know no fuel problem. Execllent wood costs about $3 per cord in any part of the valley. It is brought from the forest of Saskatchewan, north of Prince Albert. Many farmers use it exclusively.

In addition an excellent coal is to be had from the mines in the vicinity of Alberta. It is laid down in the Saskatchewan valley at $5 per ton. The supply of both coal and wood is unlimited and is not controlled by trusts.