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The Most Remarkable Town in North America

By J. O. CURWOOD

(Written Expressly for Twentieth Century Review.)

NOT long ago I had the pleasure of visiting one of the most prosperous towns in the world. At least I have not been able to find any other town either in literature or personal investigation that equals it in prosperity. In many other ways it is the most remarkable town on the North American continent. In the first place, it is a town of farmers. In the second place, it is a "city of elevators." This place is Rosthern, on the Canadian Northern Railroad, in Central Saskatchewan. Just fifteen years ago there was only the gray prairie there, with only the grass waving in the wind to greet one's eyes; along the silent banks of the great Saskatchewan the coyote and the bear roamed un molested; two Indian trails, still feet met and crossed, and went into the north, the east, the south and the west. Over these regions, still primeval in their wild beauty, there roared none of the smoke of passing trains. Steam was yet to come; now and then a line of prairie schooners, big gray-white camastoga wagons, trailed toward the distant horizon. Loneliness reigned there—lonely but beautiful desolation; and the big, whirling world, the world of steam and iron and commerce, might have been a million miles away.

Then, one day, in the beautiful spring of the year in 1884, a band of Indians, traveling down from the far North with their winter's catch of fur, camped for a few days, hunting two tributaries of the Saskatchewan, just west of the evening of that day, as the sun was sinking like a red ball in the direction of

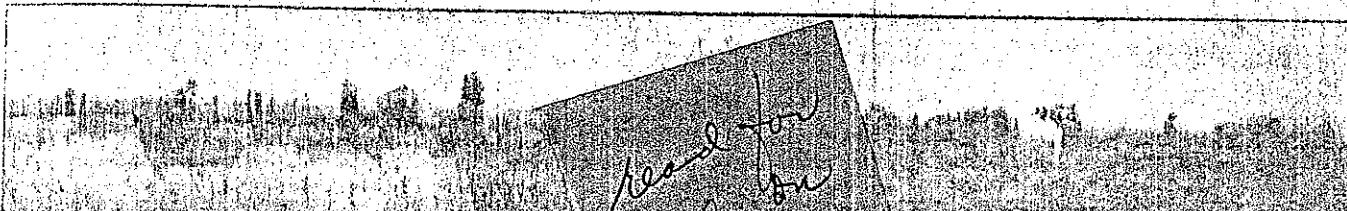
nations of these churches are Roman Catholic, Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Mennonite and Swedenborgian. A college is maintained by the Mennonite Church, and six teachers attend to the education of the children and the other nationalities. From a distance the little town of Rosthern presents an unusual aspect—and from two or three miles away all that one can see across the prairies are towering elevators and lofty church steeples.

So, as well as being the most prosperous town on the continent, the biggest individual wheat shipping point, a "city of elevators," and the country's most remarkable home of churches, Rosthern and its vicinity is a modern babel, where, perhaps within half an hour, one may hear the tongues of a dozen different nations spoken.

One might naturally suppose that this unusual aggregation of citizens and settlers, encompassed in such narrow limits, would produce a social situation that is absolutely unique—and it does. Ménomines, Yankees, English, Canadians, Germans, Swedes and the people of other nationalities mingle indiscriminately. Racial barriers seem to be almost absolutely removed, and the Mennonite farmer and the Yankee farmer live side by side in sociable neighborliness; in most cases equally prosperous, clean-livers, contented with life and with

WOULD PAY ONLY THREE TIMES.

Porter Wright, who was a servant in the employ of Daniel Webster, says the great statesman's sense of humor was infinite. On one occasion a man presented a bill to him for payment. "Why?" said Webster, "I have paid the bill before." The neighbor assured him that he was mistaken. "All right, then, call again in the morning, and I will settle with you." As soon as the man was gone, Webster called his son Fletcher, and told him to look over his papers and see if he could not find a received bill. To the surprise of both, two received bills were found, showing that the bill had been paid twice. Webster put the receipts in his pocket and said nothing. In the morning the neighbor returned for the money. Webster took his seat under the old elm, and ordered Wright to bring out the decanter. Filling the glass to the brim, he handed it to the man and told him to drink. Webster then began: "Mr. Blank, do you keep books?" The man assured him that he did not. "Then I would advise you to do so," said Webster, and pulling one of the receipts from his pocket handed it to him. The man was covered with confusion, while Webster continued: "And while you are about it you had better get a bookkeeper who understands double-entry!" at the same time handing him another receipt. "Now," said Webster, "I am going to pay this bill just once more, but I assure you, upon my word of honor, that I will not pay it the fourth time."



mountain, there loomed up over the sky a number of moving objects. A number of Indians were out to meet these objects, and when they returned to their camp it was in company of a dozen bullock carts and the tribe, their women and children. And though the Indians fed these travelers on game till full, and gave them all the friendly-ness of their tribe, neither white nor red man would touch a word that the other spoke; but these Indians, with their bullock carts, and their possessions in them, were of a race that was the strange and almost unknown in Canada, the Mennonites.

"And the next day, when these pioneers
went to gaze out upon the beauty of the
country about them, they said, "This is the

much of the early history of Rosethorn is told by the people and the children who came with those bullock wagons.

And today Rosthern is the greatest individual wheat shipping point in the world. I do not mean by this that it is the greatest transhipping point, like Chicago for instance, but that more wheat is brought to Rosthern by farmers than is brought by farmers to any other town or city on earth. With the beginning of the Moose invasion the fertile regions where the Menomines first built their mud and clay fort

and clay hills very soon. It

A Typical Scene Near Routham

everybody about there. I was told an interesting story of a young lady of Rossmere who gave a birthday party, and when her guests were assembled they represented six different nationalities. It is interesting to note that this particular young lady was born in Ohio. I was also told that so common is this friendly mingling of the different nationalities that the younger generations are becoming acquainted with more than one language.

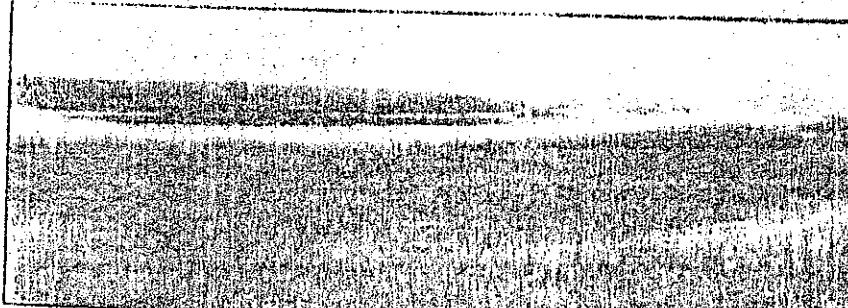
Another unusually interesting result of the assembling of different nationalities upon the little prairies about Rosthern is in the customs and sports which one finds there. If the boy of an American farmer finds his nearest companion and chum is the son of an emigrant recently from the Fatherland, it is but natural that they strike some sort of a fair medium in the way of their amusement, and German customs and games take their place beside those of the States. As a result little Russians who have never known what baseball was now join enthusiastically in that game, while little Yankees may join just as enthusiastically in sports that for centuries have been confined to the regions of the Black Forest or the mountains of Switzerland.

American politicians have not as yet begun to settle among these peoples of Rosthern and its vicinity, and as a consequence there is not a

Remarkable Consumption Curve

Mike Lacy Bundy, of 1433 E. 32nd Ave., Denver, Colorado in a recent letter to the Lung-Germine Co., 88 Rue Blaek, Jackson, Mich. writes as follows: "I feel it my duty to write you that I have been saved from the grave by Lung-Germine. Every one thought I would die in a short time and my doctor could not help me. I was having hemorrhages and fever 103 every day. I heard of Lung-Germine and began to use it. At the end of two months my cough was all gone and I was gaining very fast. I used the treatment four months in all and today I am well and strong, and can truthfully say that I am completely cured of consumption by Lung-Germine." This is only one of the many hundreds of similar letters which this company has received, and according to their advice they have cured completely, and stand ready to prove it to anyone. A free trial of Lung-Germine together with a new book on the treatment and cure of consumption and lung troubles, are sent free by just sending your name and address to the above concern.

If you have a farm to sell or trade, it may be of interest to you to write Buyers' Co-Operative Co., 217 Seventh St., S., Minneapolis, Minn.



A Pretty Stretch of Country

was discovered that this part of Saskatchewan was the greatest "country" for the raising of grain in the world. It was then, where the other grain raising areas had failed, that the wheat crop of the prairie began to develop. Today the agricultural industry is the chief industry of the province. The number of farms in the province has increased from about 15,000 in 1914 to over 250,000 in 1930. The total area under cultivation has increased from 1,000,000 acres in 1914 to over 10,000,000 acres in 1930. The value of the agricultural products has increased from \$10,000,000 in 1914 to over \$100,000,000 in 1930. The chief crops grown are wheat, barley, oats, rye, corn, and flax. The chief industries are flour milling, feed and seed, oil and meal, and the manufacture of farm implements. The chief markets for the grain are the United States, Canada, and Europe. The chief export markets are the United States, Canada, and Europe. The chief import markets are the United States, Canada, and Europe. The chief labor force is employed in the handling of grain and the raising of other crops. The chief labor force is employed in the handling of grain and the raising of other crops. The chief labor force is employed in the handling of grain and the raising of other crops. The chief labor force is employed in the handling of grain and the raising of other crops.

It would be difficult to find a town in every
state of the Union where you would find a set
of buildings more appropriate for the use of
the people than those now existing in Kinsley.
The town is divided into four quadrants. In one
of these, the east, there is a large building which
is used as a school house, a church, a hall, and
a public library. In another, the west, there is a
large building which is used as a school house, a
church, a hall, and a public library. In another,
the south, there is a large building which is used as
a school house, a church, a hall, and a public library.
In the north, there is a large building which is used as
a school house, a church, a hall, and a public library.
The town is surrounded by a large number of
elevators, and the people are engaged in the
manufacture of grain, flour, and other products.
The town is situated in a prairie, and the people
are engaged in agriculture, and the town is
surrounded by a large number of elevators, and
the people are engaged in the manufacture of
grain, flour, and other products.

TESTED HOME REMEDIES.

Refined castor oil, applied to a burn or wart on absorbent cotton once a day for some time will surely remove them.

For soft corns between the toes, or for blisters, paint with iodine. This will take the soreness out of them.

An excellent external application for treating colds is made of five ounces of gum euphorb dissolved in one pint of coal oil, then add half a pint of pure olive oil. Rub once a day.

For a burn or scalding by oil, rub parts affected to cause rapid absorption, put one teaspoonful of charcoal into twelve teaspoonsfuls of water; drink the decoction every fifteen min. until either pain or the desired effect is received. For injuries, severe cuts, burns, etc., apply a poultice made of the sooty and dried manure. In case of snake bite, apply a decoction of the leaves of the plant to the injured part.

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THE
WORLD

was discovered that this part of Saskatchewan was the greatest country for the raising of grain in the world. It was then, when the settlers were raising as high as fifty bushels of wheat to the acre, that the "City of Elevators" began to take form.

Today this wonderful little town of Rosthern, so far as the visible part of it is concerned, is almost entirely made up of elevators. In it there are just about three hundred and twenty-five male breadwinners; its total population is 1,200. Yet in this little village there are eight of the largest elevators in Canada, with a capacity of almost half a million bushels. Even these eight are not enough, and very shortly two more will be erected. Besides these eight large elevators there are two large grist mills for the making of flour, so that it may be said that the entire working population of the place are, in one way or another, in the bread business. At least a half of the workmen and boys are employed in the handling of flour and grain, and the other half is kept busy supplying the wants of the farmers who raise the grain. From early morning until dusk in what is known as the "carrying season" the prairies in all directions are dotted by the teams of drivers coming in with their wheat. At the elevators these farmers are directly paid cash for their products; and so it has come to be said throughout Saskatchewan that the farmers about Rosthern have more ready money at all times than the people of any other farming community in America.

Recently a Rosthern merchant, a "store-keeper," said to me:

"If you hunted for twenty miles in every direction about here you wouldn't find a settler who hasn't got a good bank account or a well-filled stocking hidden away somewhere in the house. Such a thing as credit is almost unknown in this part of the country."

So far as I was enabled to investigate I found that this was so. In my acquaintance with the people I ran across a good many remarkable and interesting facts. I found, for instance, that so far as Rosthern history went back there had not been a single year's failure in crops. I found, too, that no less than twelve different languages are spoken in and about this little City of Elevators, and that, in consequence, there are probably more people in this little town than in the other city of a similar size in America. If it is in the world's interest, I might add that the highest intelligence is represented among the people, with the exception of the foreign laborers.

A Pretty Stretch of Country

better governed little place in the world. The liquor question, as in all western Canadian towns and cities, is entirely settled by the farmers and citizens themselves, and not by a political machine. There is not a saloon in Rosthern, for according to the law of these western provinces only a hotel like hotel possessing a certain number of rooms may have a bar; and even if there were several hotels in Rosthern they could not all possess bars, for these "drinking places" are distributed according to population. These bars are closed at eight o'clock on Saturday night and remain closed until eight o'clock the following Monday morning, and such a thing as a "side door" is unknown.

Nature as well as man has worked to make this part of Canada of more than usual interest. As yet there are thousands of square miles of this particular Saskatchewan region which have not been taken up by settlers, and hundreds of these square miles immediately about Rosthern are comprised of the most remarkable soil in the Dominion. Almost without exception it is of a rich black loam, usually from twelve to twenty-four inches in depth, a sandy clay subsoil, a combination that is ideal for the growing of wheat, as is proved by the fact that last year the settlers in this country raised an average of thirty-five bushels to the acre—a yield that is practically unknown in any state in the Union. As high as fifty bushels were raised to the acre.

I want to give one illustration, which is typical of this phenomenal country. Four years ago Robert Hershey moved with his wife and family from his farm near Des Moines, Iowa, and took up a homestead about eight miles from Rosthern. He was so poor that during a part of his first year in Saskatchewan he worked out. The second year he was in shape to work for himself, and raised 310 bushels of wheat. The third year this was increased to 600 bushels, and last year, with sixty acres under cultivation, he raised a little over 1,800 bushels. The log cabin in which he lived for three years has been replaced by a modern house, and behind it are two big barns.

I give these facts chiefly to show what the future of the wonderful little town of Rosthern may be. With the few settlers now in its neighborhood, it finds room for eight huge elevators. How many elevators will it need when the lumber of hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of timber is cut up?

TESTED HOME REMEDIES.

Refined castor oil, applied to a corn or wad on absorbent cotton once a day for some time will surely remove them.

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An excellent external application for treating colds is made of five ounces of gum camphor dissolved in one pint of coal oil, and then add half a pint of good olive oil. Rub parts affected.

To cause quick perspiration, put one teaspoonful of alcohol into twelve teaspoonsfuls of water. Dose: one teaspoonful every fifteen or twenty minutes until the desired effect is secured.

For bruises, severe cuts, barb-wire laceration or rusty nail wounds, place bits of wool or woollen cloth on live coals and hold the injured member in the smoke of this until the pain is relieved. This will prevent blood poisoning. Mrs. C. P.

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