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EARLY HISTORY OF CALGARY

by

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A THESIS

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Fort Calgary 1876 (Looking North-West)



### COAT OF ARMS OF CALGARY

The upper third of the shield shows the Rockies. The lower two-thirds bears the Red Cross of St. George, mounted by the Maple Leaf which again is inset by a Buffalo Bull. The supporters, a Horse and Steer, represent the wealth of Calgary.

The Crest shows the Royal Crown (a sign of loyalty), and a Sunburst. Below are the Rose, the Thistle and the Shamrock, declaring the ancestry of Calgary which was founded in 1882, and in 1894 received her City Charter. The motto is "ONWARD," and the Union Jack and Canadian Ensign speak of the Empire.



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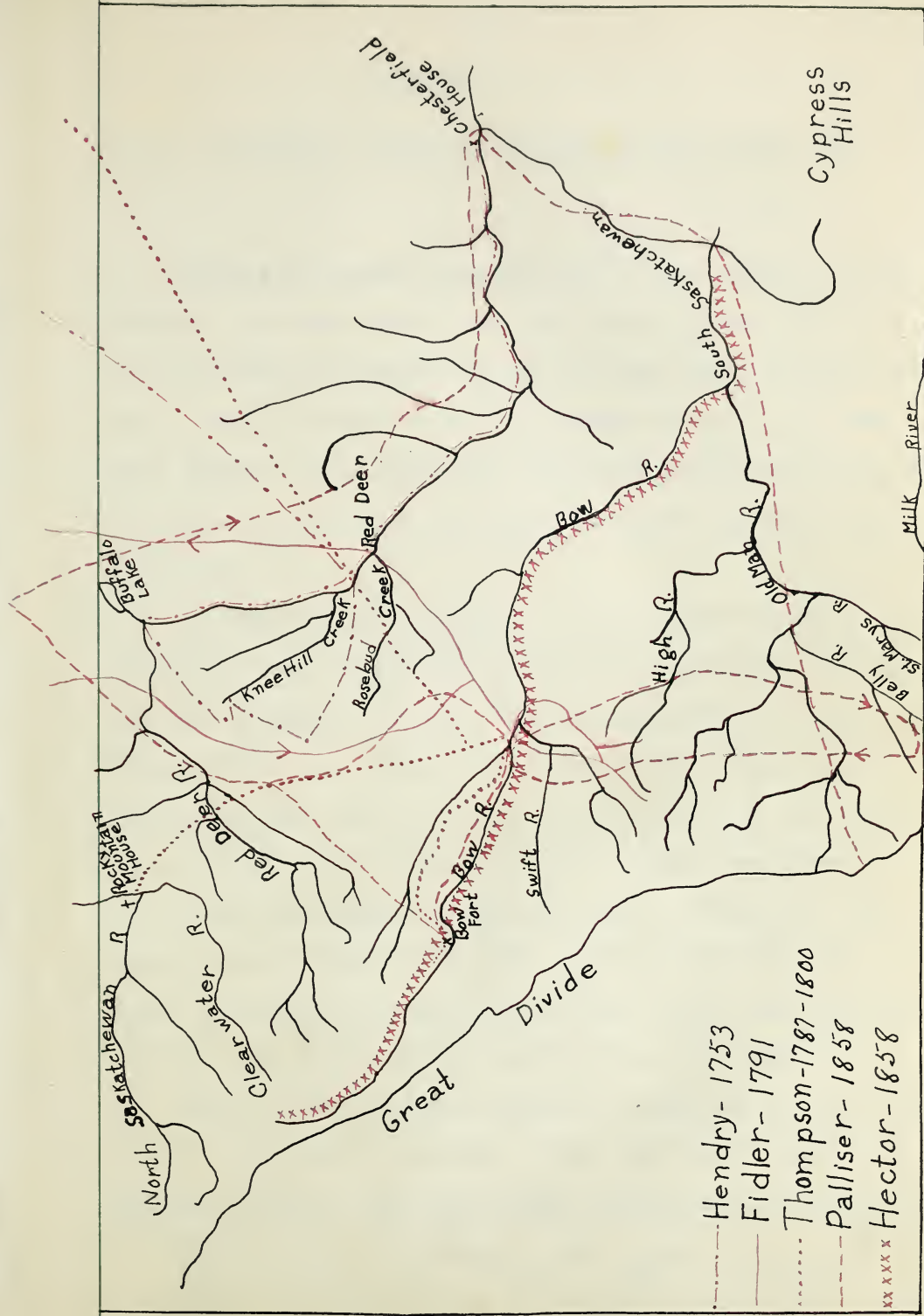
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Taken from—"In the Shadow of the Rockies"





## CHAPTER I

### EARLY EXPLORERS, FORTS AND TRADERS OF THE SOUTH-WEST

Beyond the great prairies and in the shadow of the Rockies, lie the foothills. For nine hundred miles the prairies spread themselves out in vast level reaches, and then begin to climb in softly rounded mounds that ever grow higher and sharper till here and there they break into jagged points, and rest upon the great bases of the mountains.

In this foothill country, in the Upper Saskatchewan district, there dwelt the Blackfoot Confederacy, comprising the Blackfeet, Sarcees, Piegons and Bloods. The Blackfeet, Bloods and Piegons were the advance guard of the Algonquin migration, which had been deflected southward by the Crees to the country of the South Saskatchewan.<sup>1</sup> Here they were joined by the Sarcees, a branch of the Athapascans of the north, who, having separated from their kinsmen the Beavers, travelled south, and were admitted into the Blackfoot Confederacy about 1800.<sup>2</sup>

These tribes quickly adapted themselves to the roving life of the buffalo hunters. They held their territory against invasion from the Crows, Flatheads and Kutenai

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1--Alberta, Past and Present, Blue, John--Pioneer Historical Publishing Co., Chicago, 1924. P.207-208

2--History of the Province of Alberta, MacRae, A.O. Western Canada Historical Co., Calgary, 1912. P. 65-66



of the south, from the Assiniboines of the east, and from the Crees of the north. In their raids to the south they secured horses, which made them formidable in war and successful in the chase. The four main divisions lived independently of each other; each had its own head chief, council and sun dance.<sup>1</sup> It was this restless, aggressive and predatory people that the white men met when they came to the south-west.

The French were the first to invade this region; in 1749 Legardeur de Saint-Pierre was sent out by M. de la Jonquière, Governor of New France, to take charge of the western posts. He, at once, dispatched one of his lieutenants, De Niverville, up the Saskatchewan, with instructions to establish a fort beyond the farthest point that had been reached by French explorers. On his way De Niverville fell ill, but his men continued the journey. Upon their return, they asserted that they had reached the foot of the Rocky Mountains, and that they had built a fort there, which they had named La Jonquière.<sup>2</sup>

The site of this post is still a matter of speculation. The historians, Cours and Masson, suggest that the fort was built at, or near, the site of the present city of Calgary. Captain Brisebois, the first Mounted Police commander of Fort Calgary, stated that he had found traces

1--Blue, op cit p 207-208.

2--MacRae, op cit p. 4-5.



of the old French fort at the junction of the Bow and Elbow in 1875.<sup>1</sup>

However there is evidence to believe that the fort was never built; Anthony Henday, who spent the winter of 1754-55 with the Blackfeet, heard not the slightest rumor of a white man's fort. The Indians would certainly have mentioned it to their white guest if they had known about it, and that it could exist, without their knowledge, was impossible.<sup>2</sup>

Dr. John McDougall, who spent the greater part of his life among the Indians of the south-west, and who knew them and their traditions perhaps better than any other white man, wrote in 1910, "It seems strange that none of the Indian tribes should have knowledge of such a fort. They knew of the forts, Mountain House, White Mud House, Beaver House along the North Saskatchewan, of Chesterfield House on the South Saskatchewan, and of the Bow Fort on the Bow River, but after fifty years of understanding their language, and sojourning with them, and studying their traditions and history, I have never heard a word of any house near where Calgary now is. Moreover, if such a fort had been built, surely there would be strong physical evidence of it. Such is the character of the soil and

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1--MacRae, p. 6-8.

2--In the Shadow of the Rockies, MacInnis, C.M. Revington's, London, 1930. p. 28.





climate of the Bow River Valley, that any disturbance of its surface will remain for a long period of time. In those days all the heating was done by huge chimneys of stone and mud, and whenever these were built, they remain unless removed by the hand of man."<sup>1</sup>

If the French did actually build such a fort, it was soon deserted as the French began withdrawing their forces from the West soon after the outbreak of the Seven Year's War in 1754.

The business of exploration was soon taken up by their great rivals, the English. Anthony Henday, an employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, left York Factory on the Hudson Bay in June, 1754; ascended the Hayes River to the Saskatchewan where he left his canoes, and set out overland. He crossed the Red Deer River somewhere between Knee Hill Creek and Three Hills Creek, about the middle of October. Three days after crossing the river, he entered a camp of the Blackfeet comprising over 300 lodges. Hendry spent the winter with these Indians, and in the spring of 1755, he went down the Red Deer to the Saskatchewan and thence to Hudson's Bay.<sup>2</sup>

The next white man to visit the Blackfoot country was David Thompson. In 1787, in the hope that the Western Indians might be induced to trade with the Hudson Bay forts

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1--Calgary Morning Albertan, March 2, 1911--Letter by Dr. John McDougall.

2--MacInnis op cit p. 37.



on the North Saskatchewan, a party under Thompson set out from Manchester House to visit the Blackfeet. They travelled south-west to the Bow River, which they struck near its junction with the Swift River (the present Elbow). Here they found a large camp of Piegans, with whom Thompson remained for the winter, living in the tent of an old chief Sankamapee. He probably saw the present site of Calgary as he stated that the Bow River derived its name from a species of yew, which was used by the Indians to make their weapons. The only trees along the Bow that could be mistaken for yew are the Douglas fir in the present Bowness Park.<sup>1</sup> Thompson noted that the Bow River, which at that time meant the whole of the South Saskatchewan, was the great resort of the bison, the red deer and the natives. In the spring he returned overland to Manchester House.<sup>2</sup>

The next traveller in the Bow River country was Peter Fidler of the Hudson's Bay Company. He left Fort George on the North Saskatchewan in 1792; crossed the Battle, Red Deer, and Bow Rivers, and wintered on the Little Bow. He returned by a more easterly route, crossing the Red Deer at the mouth of Rosebud Creek, near the present Drumheller, which he named Edge Coal Creek, this being the first record

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1--Early Exploration Along the Bow and Saskatchewan Rivers.

Paper delivered to the Calgary Historical Society by  
J. N. Wallace.

2--MacInnis op cit p. 37.



of the discovery of coal in the south-west.<sup>1</sup>

Fourteen years after his first visit, Thompson was again in the foothill country. He spent the winter of 1800-01 at Rocky Mountain House, a trading post established by the North West Company in 1799 on the North Saskatchewan. In November, the ever-restless explorer started on a journey to the Bow River district. He crossed the Bow River at, or near, the site of the present Calgary, and continued south to the Spitzee River, the present Highwood. Here he spent some days in Piegan camps, then started north-west, crossing Sheep Creek, Pine Creek, the Swift River (the present Elbow) and the Jumping Pond Creek. He followed the Bow up to the Gap where he climbed a mountain and had a boundless view to the east. Thompson returned to his horses which had been left at the mouth of the Ghost River, and from there started for home, reaching Rocky Mountain House on December 13.<sup>2</sup>

Despite the work of these explorers, the south-west remained little known, and it was not until the nineteenth century that the British made an attempt to establish a fur-trading post there. In the early years of the fur trade, the buffalo and wolf were not highly prized, and as these were the principal products of the south, no great attention was paid to the Indian trade of this region. Any

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1--The Range Men. Kelly, L. W. W. Briggs, Toronto, 1913.

2--New Light on Early History of the North-West. Coues 1897. p. 703-4-5.







business with the Blackfoot nation was done at Edmonton, Rocky Mountain House, or Fort Pitt, posts on the North Saskatchewan. However, by 1800, the Hudson's Bay and Northwest Companies had established posts at all the strategic points in the north, so they now directed their attention to the south-western prairies where two forts were built.

In 1805 John Macdonald of the Northwest Company, with four canoes and twenty-five men, ascended the South Saskatchewan and erected a winter post at its junction with the Red Deer. This was named New Chesterfield House as a temporary post of that name had been built in the same locality in 1791. They were soon joined by Hudson's Bay traders who also put up houses. In the spring both parties abandoned the posts, and it was not until 1822 that the Companies, now combined, sent a party of over 100 men under Donald Mackenzie to re-establish Chesterfield House. This post was permanently abandoned in 1826 as it was too expensive and too dangerous to maintain in the country of the hostile and war-like Blackfeet.<sup>1</sup>

The other southern post, Old Bow Fort, was built on a plateau on the north bank of the Bow River, at its junction with Bow Fort Creek, about fifty miles west of the present Calgary but there is little authentic information as to when, or by whom, it was built.

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1--Wallace op cit.



Dr. Elliot Cones states that it was built by David Thompson, or under his direction, in the early years of the nineteenth century. However, the construction of such a fort is not mentioned in Thompson's Narrative nor is it shown on his Great Map of 1812. Furthermore, there is no mention of it in the memoirs of John McDonald of Garth, who was Thompson's superior officer at the time.

There is much more reason to believe that it was a Hudson's Bay post. Captain Palliser, who visited the ruins in 1857, thought that the post had been established by that Company to attract the trade of the Blackfeet, Piegans and Bloods, but that it had been abandoned because of the expense involved in keeping a sufficient staff for its protection.

It is probable that Old Bow Fort is the Piegan Post which was constructed in 1832 by the Hudson's Bay Company to attract the Piegans. In interviews given in 1908 by Joseph McDonald of Edmonton, that old employee of the Company said "In 1826 the Company established Bow Fort near the present Morleyville site. Messrs. J. E. Harriott, Fraser, Bird, Munro and my father built it. The Indians regarded it as an intrusion; became troublesome and dangerous so it was abandoned in two years time when the Indians burned the buildings."

The records of the Hudson's Bay Company make no mention of Bow Fort, but the journals of 1833-34 show that the



names of the occupants of Piegan Post agree with those given by Mr. MacDonald. Also, according to the official records, Piegan Post was abandoned in favor of Rocky Mountain House in January, 1834.

Mr. MacDonald's error in the date was a very natural one for an aged man. The existence of two names is easily accounted for; the council at York Factory named the new post after the tribe for which it was being built, while the builders called it after its location.<sup>1</sup>

After these two attempts to establish forts in the south-west, the Hudson's Bay Company left this territory to its original inhabitants for the next forty years. However, it was not to remain without visitors.

At the instance of the British Government, Captain Palliser and Dr. James Hector made journeys in the west between 1857-60. In 1858 the party crossed the Red Deer River several miles below the site of the present city of that name. Here Palliser with two companions left the main party and riding southward, traversed much of the country between the present Calgary and the boundary, then turning north, they followed a more westerly route to Old Bow Fort, where they found the rest of the expedition in camp but with provisions running low and in great fear of the Blackfeet.

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1--Notes on Old Bow Fort. McLeod, J.E.A. Canadian Historical Review, Vol. 1931, p. 407-411.





After spending the winter at Fort Edmonton, in May, 1859, the party started south, and travelling via the Hand Hills and the Red Deer River, reached the Cypress Hills. From this point Palliser continued due west, and crossed the mountains by Kootenay Pass. Hector went up the South Saskatchewan to the mouth of the Belly, and then struck across country to the Bow, which was followed to the mountains.<sup>1</sup>

In his report to the British Govt. on his exploration Dr. Palliser declares that the southern part of the territory is an arid desert which is quite unfit for agriculture, and which should be left to the Indians and fur traders.<sup>2</sup>

After 1860 traders from Montana began to invade the hunting grounds of the Blackfeet and the firm which I.G. Baker had established at Fort Benton in 1855 soon became the great trading corporation of the south-west. At first the trade was nomadic in character, M.W. Endsly, Jeff Davis, and Sanford Sims directing bullock trains, which visited the various tribes, trading whisky and tobacco for buffalo hides and wolf skins.<sup>3</sup>

In 1868 Baker began to establish permanent trading posts in the Blackfoot country. Fort Hamilton was built at the junction of the St. Mary's River with the Belly

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1--MacInnis, op cit p. 52-54.

2--Blue, op cit p. 95.

3--Calgary Morning Albertan, Feb. 28, 1909 p.1.



River. This post was commonly known as Fort Whoop-Up because Baker had warned his men not to let the Indians whoop-up, that is, to round them up. Fort Kipp, named after its manager, was built at the juncture of the Belly and the Old Man Rivers. On the low land lying between the Waterton and Belly Rivers, Stand-Off was established by Fred Wachter. A short time before, five whisky traders had been able to "stand-off" the American authorities in this vicinity by the simple expedient of crossing the boundary line. It was not long before the traders, congregated at Stand-off, decided to erect another post at a particularly desirable point farther up the Belly River. Two of these traders, Healey and Hamilton, slipped away or slid out, during the night, and started construction on the proposed site so that they might claim ownership by priority; thus Slide-Out received its name.<sup>1</sup>

Within the next few years the traders spread farther afield. Spitzee, the Indian name for high timber, was located on the Highwood, near the site of the present town of High River. Fort Conrad was built on Sheep Creek (near the present Okotoks) by C. Conrad of the I.G. Baker Co., but it was burned down by the Indians in 1871. Fred Kanouse had a post, Fort Warren, in the foothills where he traded with the Kootenays. There were also temporary



posts on the Bow and Elbow Rivers and even as far north as the Red Deer.<sup>1</sup>

The Indians were never permitted within the walls of these pallisaded posts. The trader stood at the wicket, a tubful of whisky beside him, and when a customer pushed in a buffalo robe, he handed out a tin cupful of the poisonous mixture. A quart bought a fine pony. When spring came wagonloads of the proceeds of the traffic were escorted south to Fort Benton.

There were a few legitimate American traders who traded Winchester repeating rifles and ammunition to the Indians. These weapons enabled them to hunt the buffalo with success and so increased the quantity of robes to be traded. However, it made the business of the whisky traders more dangerous, and to put a stop to it they organized a body of men styled "The Spitzee Cavalry" after the name of the head-quarters. These ruffians soon forced most of the legitimate traders to leave the country.<sup>2</sup>

The Indians, although much reduced by the ravages of smallpox, were still powerful and of a warlike character. The Hudson's Bay traders could not have established themselves in the Blackfoot country had they not been led by men who knew war.

Only the traveller who courted death went west of

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1--Calgary Daily Herald. Anniversary No., Oct. 22, 1923

Page 4.

2--Albertan - 1909 Anniv. Page 1.





the Cypress Hills without an escort. The half-breed hunters and others of the Red River settlement never ventured into this territory except in well organized armed bands, with guards, scouts and pickets. Whenever they halted in the Indian country, their carts were formed in circular corrals with the shafts turned inwards and the hubs touching. Tents were pitched inside and the horses were corralled in the enclosure. The Blackfeet were determined to guard their land against all intruders, but it was not long before the white man's liquor had undermined their resistance.<sup>1</sup>

To counteract the evil influence of the whisky traders and to bring the story of Christ to these savage peoples, there was a force at work in the west, now weak, but destined to become ever stronger; that of the Christian missionaries.

The first of these men was the young Wesleyan Missionary, the Rev. Robert Rundle, who reached Rocky Mountain House in February, 1841. A large party of Piegans and Blackfeet soon arrived, and Rundle at once started his work among them. That spring he went south, and visited the Blackfeet on the Bow and the Stonies in the vicinity of the present Banff. Rundle worked among these Indians until his return to England in 1848. His brother-in-law,

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1--Forty Years in Canada. Steele, Sir. S.B. Toronto, McClelland, 1914. p. 57-58.



The Rev. Thomas Woolsey, then came west and continued the work until 1853.<sup>1</sup> The success of their work can best be judged by the report that Palliser made of the Stonies in 1857: "Every morning and evening they devote a short time to religious duties and make it a rule to rest from the labors of the chase and travel on the Sunday."<sup>2</sup>

The next missionary to visit the southern Indians was the Roman Catholic, Father Lacombe, who had been assigned to the Edmonton Mission Field in 1852. In 1857 the Blackfeet, who at that time were suffering from an epidemic of scarlet fever, appealed to Lacombe to come to their aid. While attending them he contracted the disease, and by his devotion won a place in the hearts of these savages unsurpassed by that of any other white man. Two years later the Blackfeet asked for a missionary; they promised that the priest would not be hindered in his work and that they would make no more war on their old enemies, the Crees. Lacombe was very anxious to answer the call and finally in 1865 he was allowed to do so. For the next six years he lived among them, sharing their privations, and taking as his parish all the country east to the forks of the Saskatchewan and from the north branch

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1--MacRae, op cit Page 156.

2--Palliser--Journal Reports, Relative to the Exploration of British North America, 1857-60. Page 88.



to the American boundary. When, in 1872, he was called east, his work among the Blackfeet was continued by Fathers Scollen and Fourmond. These priests established the Mission of Our Lady of Peace in a small cabin on the Swift River, about twenty-five miles above its junction with the Bow.<sup>1</sup>

Soon after this a Methodist missionary, the Rev. John McDougall, went to labor among the Stoneys, who had been neglected since the days of Rev. Thomas Woolsey. John McDougall had helped his father, the Rev. George McDougall to establish a mission at Victoria, near Edmonton, in 1863, and for five years he had been in charge of the mission at Pigeon Lake. In 1872 the Methodist Conference held at Winnipeg decided to open up a new mission field in the south-west, and the Rev. John McDougall was assigned to it.<sup>2</sup> Accordingly he and his bride arrived at the scene of their work, on the Bow thirty miles from its junction with the Swift, in November, 1873. The residence was a little hut of logs with a sod roof and parchment windows. Although this intrepid missionary made his headquarters with the Stoneys, frequent visits were paid to the Blackfeet on the plains.<sup>3</sup>

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1--Herald - 1923 Anniv. Article by D.D. MacDonald.

2--Blue, op cit Page 230.

3--Steele, op cit p. 59.





Despite the work of these pioneer churchmen, it was impossible to improve conditions in the west until the authority of law had been established. Methods of doing this were suggested at various times by the Revs. George and John McDougall, Father Lacombe, Colonel P. Robertson Ross, and Sir Sandford Fleming, all of whom had a first hand acquaintance with the prairie country.

Captain W.F. Butler, also, who had been sent out to investigate conditions by Adams G. Archibald, Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba, and the North West Territories, reported in March, 1871, that: "The institutions of Law and Order are wholly unknown in the regions of the Saskatchewan, as the country is without any executive organization and is destitute of any means to enforce the authority of the law.<sup>1</sup>" Consequently he recommended the appointment of a civil magistrate or commissioner to reside in the region of the Upper Saskatchewan, and the organization of a well-equipped force of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty men for service in that district.<sup>2</sup>

About this time, several events took place in the west which gave weight to the recommendations for a police force. On April 9, 1871, the Ottawa Free Press featured the following news: "Latest Saskatchewan advices bring the intelligence of a fight between Cree and Blackfeet near

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1--MacRae, op cit P.218.

2--Ibid p.246



Fort Whoop-Up, in which many of the former were killed at long range by breech-loading rifles. The Crees were not aware that their enemies had been furnished with so deadly a weapon. The rifles had been furnished by American traders. It is a pity that this cannot be stopped. No one knows how soon these weapons will be turned against our own people."<sup>1</sup> News also reached the East that in 1872 some whisky traders in the Cypress Hills had had their horses stolen by Indians, and in retaliation they had gathered together a number of American desperadoes and had wiped out a camp of some thirty Assiniboines.<sup>2</sup>

These events could not be overlooked, and in 1873 the Dominion Parliament, on the motion of Sir John A. MacDonald, passed a bill for the creation of a police force for the North-West. Lieutenant-Colonel George A. French was appointed Commissioner and Major J. F. Macleod Assistant-Commissioner. Recruiting took place in Eastern Canada and by June, 1874, six divisions of nearly four hundred men had arrived at Dufferin, Manitoba.

The march west began on June 12. The long procession consisted of not only two cannon but also of cows, calves, plows, harrows, mowing machines and other agricultural implements, as the force was to be both a police

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1--Kelly, op cit Page 93.

2--Calgary Daily Herald, Jan 21, 1922, Article by the Ven. Archdeacon J. W. Tims.



and a colonizing agency. Division A, under Inspector Jarvis, proceeded to Edmonton, Divisions D and E, under Commissioner French, went to Swan River, which had been made the headquarters of the force, Divisions B, C, and F under Assistant-Commissioner Macleod were sent into the Blackfoot country where the whisky traders were most active. They marched to the Old Man River, being guided for the last part of their journey by a famous half-breed scout of the plains, Jerry Potts. Here they established a fort since known as Fort Macleod.<sup>1</sup>

When Crowfoot, the famous Blackfoot chief heard from Rev. John MacDougall that the Police were coming, he said, "My brother, your words make me glad. I listen to them not only with my ears but with my heart also. In the coming of the Long-Knives (Americans) with their fire water and their quick shooting guns, we were weak and our people have been woefully slain and impoverished. You say this will be stopped--we are glad to have it stopped. We want peace. What you tell us about this strong power, which will govern with good law and treat the Indian the same as the white, makes us glad to hear. My brother, I believe you and am thankful."<sup>2</sup>

1--Albertan, 1909 Anniv. Page 2.

2--On Western Trails in the Early Seventies. McDougall, John. W.Briggs, Toronto, 1911. Page 186.





## THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FORT CALGARY

Before 1875 white men had occasionally passed through the valleys of the Bow and Swift Rivers, but they had paid no more attention to them than they did to any other bit of prairie or foothill. In that year there were less than a dozen white inhabitants in the district. Fathers Scollen and Fourmond still lived with Brother Alexis up the Swift River. John McDougall had been joined at Morleyville by his brother David, who opened up a post to trade with the Stonies.<sup>1</sup> During the summer of 1875, the Hudson's Bay Company built a small post some twenty-five miles up the Bow, at the mouth of the Ghost or Dead Man's River. At the same time John Glem started a farm on Fish Creek where he irrigated from 15 to 20 acres of garden and oats from Sheep Creek with excellent results. His was the first irrigation system in the west. Sam Livingstone, an old place-miner and prospector, was the pioneer of the district as in 1865 he had come from B.C. by way of Rocky Mountain House, and had settled near the camp of Charles Jackson on the elbow of the Swift six miles above its mouth.<sup>2</sup>

Although the valleys of the Bow and the Swift rivers had little attraction for white settlers, they

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1--The Birth of Western Canada, Denny, Sir Cecil E.  
(Manuscript form, in Leg. Library, Edmonton)  
2--Albertan, Article by John McDougall, May 11, 1914.



a favorite hunting ground for most of the Blackfoot, Sarcee and Stoney Indians. Here the elastic wood of the young Douglas fir provided material for bowmaking, the high river banks and the thick evergreens gave protection from the winter winds, and the swift flowing waters of the Bow, rarely entirely covered with ice, attracted those buffalo wintering in the north.

It was here also that the whisky traders frequently met their Indian customers. As early as 1871, an outpost of Healey and Hamilton had been built, seven miles up the Swift, by Fred Kanouse and three other traders. It consisted of a living-room, a store-room and a trading room with a passage running in front into which the Indians were admitted one at a time to trade. In 1872 the Blackfeet attacked these traders, killed one of them, ran their horses off, and wounded Kanouse in the shoulder. Mr. Davis, later in charge of the I.G.Baker post at Calgary, who was trading a few miles above lent them horses to go south.<sup>1</sup> Despite this setback, itinerant traders from the south continued to frequent this locality because they could slip in from across the line, dispose of their whisky, and escape before the police could be sent up from Macleod. It was to meet this situation that the

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1--The Birth of Western Canada, Denny op cit.



police authorities decided to send F Detachment from Macleod, to erect a post at the junction of the two rivers.<sup>1</sup>

This troop was first detailed to meet General Selby Smith, an imperial officer in command of the Canadian militia, who was making a tour of the North-West Territories, under police escort. Inspector Jarvis' detachment stationed at Edmonton was to accompany the General south to Tail Creek (near the present town of Lacombe) from which point the troop from the south was to escort him to Fort Benton where he could board a steamboat on the Mississippi River.

F Troop, with Inspector Brisebois in command, Captain Denny second officer, and accompanied by Colonel Macleod, set out on the northern trip on August 18, 1875. It had been intended to start much earlier in the season, but Colonel Macleod had been detained in Helena, Montana, in connection with the Cypress Hills massacre of 1872. The detachment, consisting of fifty men mounted on horses in good condition, was followed by wagons carrying the baggage, supplies, tents, and forage. They reached the Bow River five days after leaving Macleod and made the crossing in wagon boxes covered with tarpaulins. From there to the Red Deer the journey was difficult because of the soft nature of the ground. After the troop struck

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1--The Birth of Western Canada. Denny op cit.





the lakes and swamps of the park country, the mosquitoes were frightful. At night the men had to build great fires around which the horses would crowd for the protection of the smoke, and it required great care to prevent them from burning their hoofs. The Red Deer River was also high and it took some time to cross it. They met General Smith at Tail Creek and after inspection and a rest the party proceeded south, and in early September reached the hill overlooking the junction of the Bow and Swift Rivers.<sup>1</sup>

Far to the west of them were the innumerable foothills and to the east the open prairies while before them was a spacious valley through which two good sized rivers wound their way; the Bow coming from the west, and the Swift from the south-west. The site of the present city of Calgary was covered with long grass and the numerous small lakes were literally swarming with wild fowl. The river banks were heavily timbered on the south side, the present Victoria Park was covered with large cottonwood trees as was a large island in the Swift which was washed away by the floods of 1885. A colony of beavers had built a large dam across the Swift and it had flooded much of the land south of the present Canadian Pacific Railway.<sup>2</sup>

The Blice descended to the rivers' edge, and proceeded east to where the Langevin Bridge (Fourth Street East) is now located. They caulked the bottoms of the

1--Herald 1923 Anniv. Page 5.  
2--Albertan 1909 Anniv. Page 4.



supply wagons; reinforced them with tarpaulins and started across. Corporal G. C. King was on the first improvised raft, and it was he who seized a rope, jumped into the water and waded to the south bank; thus being the first policeman to set foot on the site of the present Calgary. The troop followed the Bow down to the junction with the Swift where they found a solitary tent the occupants of which were an Indian boy and a Roman Catholic priest, Father Doucet. The latter had been sent from the mission at St. Albert to study the Blackfoot language with the object of opening a mission at Fort Macleod.

The police tents were soon pitched but as the September nights were very cold the men proceeded to dig trenches and cover them with earth and brush. Some of these huts held from six to eight men and with plenty of firewood to burn in the crude fireplaces, there was little difficulty in keeping warm.

For the site of the new post, the police chose a flat bit of high ground at the forks of the two rivers which would provide protection on two sides from Indian attack. This spot, now marked by a stone, is immediately north of the present Canadian National Railway freight sheds.

The I. G. Baker Company had contracted to build the fort and its men arrived in a few days. They proceeded up



the Swift about six miles and cut dry pine logs. A boom was built a little above the mouth of the river and soon all the logs had been driven down. The pine logs, fourteen feet long, were placed upright in three-foot trenches to make the outer walls of the buildings which faced inwards, forming a square of from 150 to 200 feet on the side. The men's quarters were on the east side of the square with the storerooms and shops opposite. On the north side were the stables built for fifty horses, and on the south the officers quarters and the guard room. The buildings were covered with poles and earth and the spaces between the logs were closed with clay. Lumber for the doors and floors was cut with a whip saw by the half-breeds who were camping in the vicinity. The fireplaces were built by John Glenn out of good building stone found in the river. The buildings were ready for occupation by Christmas, although the ten foot palisade was not finished until later. A party of men went up the river and drove down enough firewood to last all winter.<sup>1</sup>

After the Baker men had finished the fort, they built a substantial store and two cabins on the west bank of the Elbow and a short distance south of the barracks. Mr. D. W. Davis was placed in charge and an ex-police sergeant, Kinghorn, became clerk. A billiard table was put in by an enterprising whisky trader.





The Hudson's Bay Company moved down one of the buildings, from the recently established post at Ghost River to a location across the Swift from the Fort and the Baker store. Additions were made to it and a manager's residence and interpreter's cabin were built. John Bunn was placed in charge with Angus Fraser as storeman. Their trading goods soon arrived from Edmonton on a string of carts in charge of George Emerson.<sup>1</sup>

When the police first came, they had found a pile of logs to be used in the erection of a Roman Catholic chapel at the junction of the two rivers. Captain Brisebois told Father Doucet that if he would build on a site farther up the Swift River the police would guarantee him possession of all the land he wanted. This the priest did, erecting a small house on the sharp hill just south of the present Holy Cross Hospital. It was constructed of logs taken from the Old Mission up the Elbow as Fathers Doucet and Scollen had joined forces. Two Roman Catholic policemen, Whelan and Kenear, assisted in building the chapel.<sup>2</sup>

The half-breeds who had helped build the fort, now erected log cabins for themselves on both sides of the Swift or Elbow River as it now came to be called. They did considerable freighting for the police and the two stores with their Red River carts.

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1--Albertan 1909 Anniv, Page 3.

2--Herald, June 2, 1925. Art. by William Pearce.



In two months the Elbow, as the settlement was first called, had become the most populous centre between Macleod and Edmonton.

In the meanwhile the police visited the neighboring Indians who were friendly and prosperous with large bands of horses in their camps. An old Indian death lodge was found on the banks of the Bow, containing the bones of some three or four Indians who had been killed the previous summer by whisky traders. The remains of the man who was killed when Kanouse's post had been attacked were also found

The police were now well housed. Their food came by bull train from Fort Benton, it consisted chiefly of flour, beans, pork, dried apples, sugar, coffee, tea, and canned milk. This was supplemented by fresh venison and buffalo meat while fresh vegetables were obtained from the Glenn garden. After the terrible march across the western plains in 1874 and the hard winter at Fort Macleod, the new home looked like a veritable Garden of Eden. There was an abundance of trees for shelter, good water and plenty of game. As many as ten buffalo were shot in a morning on the hill where the General Hospital now stands.<sup>1</sup>

The first Christmas Eve was celebrated by a dance given in the newly-erected billiard hall. The ladies were half-breed lassies who turned out in large numbers and the Red River jigs and reels were the most popular

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1--King, G. C.; in an interview with the writer.



of the dances. On Christmas day a dinner was given at the barracks, by the non-commissioned officers, to which most of the civilians, resident in the settlement, were invited. It took place in the mess room which was seventy feet long. The police had obtained raisins, currants and other dried fruits, nuts and candy from Ed. McPherson's trading post at Sheep Creek, the present Okotoks. The tin cups, mugs, tin spoons, cheap knives, and forks were placed on the long bare table. The dinner began with soup made of canned oysters and condensed milk after which came prairie chicken trout, deer and buffalo meat, plum pudding, mince pie, nuts, candies, and coffee. Then followed toasts and songs and another dance while whisky traders and horse thieves for the time being were forgotten.<sup>1</sup>

It was not until spring that the new settlement was given an official name. In February, Assistant-Commissioner A. G. Irvine wrote the following despatch to the Minister of Justice at Ottawa:

"As we now have a post or fort at the Bow River, it would be well if it was known by some name. I visited the post about a fortnight ago with Colonel Macleod and when we were there Inspector Brisebois, who is in command of the station, issued an order without consulting either Colonel Macleod or myself, stating that all public documents sent out from his fort were to be headed 'Fort Brisebois.' I, of course, cancelled the order at once, as in the first place, Inspector Brisebois had no authority to issue such an order, and in the second place, the fort was not built by Inspector Brisebois' troop, and neither the troop or the people about there wish the place called Brisebois.





"Colonel Macleod has suggested the name Calgary, which, I believe, in Scotch means 'clear running water', a very appropriate name, I think.

"Should the Minister be pleased to approve of this name, I will issue an order to that effect."<sup>1</sup>

Irvine's suggestion was approved and after April 5 the settlement was officially known as Fort Calgary, although the old name of the Elbow clung to it for several years.

1--Calgary Daily Herald, Nov. 18, 1933. Page 21. Anniv.



## FORT CALGARY AN ISOLATED MILITARY POST

After the excitement of establishing the post and exploring the surrounding country had subsided, life in the little settlement became very uneventful. Except for the periodic arrival and departure of the Baker bull teams and the Hudson's Bay Company's carts very little happened. Calgary was to retain for the next five years the free and easy life of an isolated military post.

John McDougall had come down from Morley shortly after the establishment of the fort, and before long he started holding fortnightly services in the barracks. Before spring they were transferred to the Baker store, which was kept open for business all day Sunday, except at the time of service. It was several years before either company closed its posts on the Sabbath.<sup>1</sup>

Late in 1875, George and John McDougall visited the Blackfeet and chose a location near the Pincher Creek at which to establish a mission. The Rev. George McDougall decided to spend the winter at Morley instead of going back to Edmonton so that he might begin the work early the next spring. However, an event took place which ended all his plans for the uplift of the Indian. On the twentieth of January, with John and his nephew Moses, he left

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1--Herald, 1923 Anniv. Page 12.



Morley to go to the plains for meat. They made camp about ten miles from the barracks at the Elbow, and on the twenty-fourth they killed some buffalo four miles from camp. It was dusk before they started back to camp, and when within a mile and a half of it, Mr. McDougall rode on ahead. When John came into camp, he found that his father had not arrived. He and Moses fired shots the remainder of the night but without success, and it was not until February the fifth that the frozen body was found. It was thought that snow-blindness had caused him to become lost. As it was unhurt, there is no truth in the story that he had been killed by whisky traders, seeking revenge because of his opposition to their trade.<sup>1</sup>

As yet Calgary was merely an outpost in the Indian country, and the trade of the two stores was almost entirely with the natives. They sold flint-lock muskets, overcoats, blankets, Hudson's Bay knives, that could be used as hatchets, pig-tail tobacco by the fathom, carrot tobacco in three-pound rolls, sugar, tea and trinkets. In exchange they took in buffalo robes, pemmican, tallow and dried meat. In 1876 the Baker store shipped 15,000 robes south; each of which cost in trade about fifty cents, but brought from five to ten dollars at Benton.<sup>2</sup>

The Indians also found it profitable to hunt the lesser animals as in the seventies badger pelts brought

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1--Herald 1923 Anniv. Page 12.

2--Calgary Tribune June, 1914 "Log of an Old Timer"





sixty cents, those of the big grey wolf from five to six dollars, of the coyote from two to three dollars, of the grizzly, black and cinnamon bears from four to eight dollars, and of the antelope, deer and elk, thirty cents a pound.<sup>1</sup>

In 1876, F Detachment, consisting of a sub-inspector and thirty-five constables with Colonel J. F. Macleod in command, found plenty of work to do. Although the Blackfeet had patched up a temporary peace with their enemies the Crees, they continued to steal horses from each other, and often some of the marauding braves would be killed. To watch the different bands scattered along the Bow and the Red Deer Rivers was no easy task, and many strong detachments had to be sent down to the Blackfoot headquarters at the Crossing of the Bow, some sixty miles below Calgary.

It was at this point that Treaty Number 7 was negotiated with the Blackfeet, Sarcees, Bloods, Piegans, and Stoneys in the fall of 1877. This was the last of a series of treaties made, after the Red River Rebellion, by the Dominion Government with the various Indian tribes of the West, by which the natives ceded their land to the Dominion and received in return protection, money and supplies. As the Blackfeet were afraid that their land would soon be taken from them without compensation, they



had asked for a treaty through the Roman Catholic missionary, Rev. C. Scollen. The Dominion had acceded to their request and on Monday, September 17, 1877, the Indians met the two commissioners, Hon. David Laird, Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories and Colonel Macleod of the police, at the Blackfoot Crossing or Ridge-Under-the-Water, as it was known to the Indians.<sup>1</sup>

A large council tent and a whole village of smaller tents and teepees had been erected in a meadow stretching about a mile back from the south bank of the river. About eight thirty in the morning, the piercing war-cries of the assembled braves led by their war chief rang out, followed by a deafening roar of hundreds of muzzle-loading guns and pistols. On the skyline there appeared some 3,000 warriors in war paint mounted on ponies. Then followed a mad dash down the hill, the leaders only drawing the horses to their haunches when their noses almost touched the first row of tents. Thereupon a dignified and stately figure walked to the front, spread a robe on the ground and sat down. It was Crowfoot, head chief of the Blackfeet. A stone pipe was filled and lighted; Crowfoot took one puff, and the pipe was then passed on to Governor Laird and Colonel Macleod. The conference was now begun.

The Governor explained that the Queen desired that the Indians allow the white men to raise cattle and that



that she would help the Indians raise cattle to take the place of the rapidly disappearing buffalo. Then he outlined the terms of the treaty. On Friday, Crowfoot announced his adhesion to the treaty; other head chiefs and minor chiefs spoke after him, all expressing their gratitude for the protection offered by the Police. The Indian chiefs signed with crosses and on Saturday a salute of thirteen guns announced that the treaty was concluded.<sup>1</sup>

By its terms the Indians could hunt over unsettled land; the Blackfeet, Bloods, and Sarcees were given a reserve along the north banks of the Bow and South Saskatchewan Rivers, the Piegans were given a reserve on the Old Man River, and the Stonies received land near Morley. All the Indians were given money, cattle and farm implements, but it was several years before they forsook their exciting nomadic life for the less eventful existence that the white men offered them.

The winter of 1877-78 was astonishingly mild and rain, fog, and mud resulted in much sickness. H. Taylor, who had erected a billiard room near Baker's store, held several dances during the winter. The police celebrated the anniversary of their arrival at Fort Macleod by a big dinner and dance in the mess room, to which all the neighboring civilians were invited.<sup>2</sup>

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1--MacInnis, op cit p.105

2--Riders of the Plains, Denny, Sir C.E. Calgary Herald Co., 1905. p.103





In the spring of 1878, Captain Williams, an American officer from Fort Shaw, Montana, visited Calgary. He came up from Fort Macleod where he had been trying to recover some mules, the property of the United States Gov't, which had been carried off by settlers. The visitor expressed his surprise when told that the police treated both white and red man alike, and that only twenty-five men were required to keep order among 3,000 Indians. After a week's stay at Calgary, Captain Denny took him on a fishing trip up the Bow where they visited the Methodist mission at Morley, and were hospitably received by Rev. John McDougall.<sup>1</sup>

In the early summer Inspector Crozier was ordered to take one half of F Troop to Fort Walsh, in the Cypress Hills, where the whisky traders were most active. About midsummer Captain Denny left with all the remaining force except ten men for by this time whisky trade had almost ceased in the Bow River district. The fall and winter passed quietly as nearly all the plains Indians had gone south into Montana after the buffalo.<sup>2</sup>

In the fall of 1879, Calgary was visited by Professor Macoun, Dominion Government naturalist, who was favourably impressed with the site of the little settlement.

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1--Riders of the Plains, Denny, Sir C.E., Cal. Herald Co. 1905, p.105.

2--Ibid p.106.



He wrote: " Two miles before we reached the fort, we stopped at the top of the last slope and looked down over a scene long to be remembered. At our feet lay the Bow River and its beautiful valley. As the river wound from side to side, it left wooded points on the outer margins of all the bends, and from our altitude, water, wood and meadow seemed so beautifully intermixed that the landscape was more like an artist's ideal than a natural picture. Standing by the river's margin or feeding on the green meadows were hundreds of cattle and horses; these added to the natural features, and gave a pastoral character to the scene. Only three short years ago, this same valley was filled with countless herds of buffalo, and the Black-foot and Sarcees were in the midst of affluence. Today the buffalo are dead or gone, and the Indian, broken in spirit, either dies with the stoicism of his race, or partakes of the white man's bounty.

"Calgary itself lay hidden among the distant trees, quietly nestling under a bluff of light colored sandstone, while about a mile beyond in a little grove, could be seen the Catholic mission. Outside the river valley the prairie extended roll over roll into the horizon, dotted here and there with clumps of bushes, but altogether without trees except in the valleys of the small streams. Beyond rose the Rocky Mountains like a wall, bounding the horizon to the west, and giving a vastness to the picture which the holder could feel but not describe.

"Calgary is situated on the right bank of the Bow River, in an angle formed by the Elbow or Swift river, where it joins the former. It is merely a stockade enclosing a few huts which would be very little protection if the Indians were troublesome."1

After being shown the farms of John Glenn and Sam Livingstone, Mr. Macoun wrote: "Here Glenn had 5,000 cab-bages, all commencing to head and without doubt the finest lot I have ever seen. Barley and oats in the same field were excellent, and the potatoes were fine. Mr. Livingstone, another farmer, living a few miles off had also an excellent crop, and all united in saying that the climate was moist enough to grow anything. At the Roman Catholic mission all kinds of grains and vegetables have been raised."2

Thus Professor Macoun became one of the first supporters of agriculture in the south-west, but most

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1--Calgary Herald 1923 Anniv. p.5.

2--Ibid p.5.



people continued to hold to the belief, which had been spread by the Hudson's Bay Company's officials, that the southern prairie was practically a desert with the exception of the narrow fertile belt in the foothills region.

Despite this wide-spread belief, the district around Calgary was gradually being settled. As early as 1876, a Frenchman, named Beaupry, had settled on the Ghost River, the L'Herondelles had started ranching near the Fort and James Votier had settled on a farm near Fish Creek.<sup>1</sup> By the close of 1879 there were quite a number of settlers scattered from Calgary south to Fort Macleod. Fourteen were in the country to the west, most of them engaged in cattle raising.

During the fall the recently appointed Indian Commissioner, Mr. Dewdney, visited Calgary and bought Mr. Glenn's farm where he placed Bruce Wright, a government demonstrator. This farm was to remain one of Calgary's show places for many years.<sup>2</sup>

The Indians were slow to take up agriculture and affluent a few years before they were now in a state of semi-starvation. In 1877 the buffalo had been numerous as Chief Factor Hardisty of the Hudson's Bay Post at Edmonton, in travelling south to take part in the negotiating of Treaty Number 7, had observed the prairie east of Calgary to be black with almost one continuous herd of

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1--Kelly, op cit p.116

2--Ibid p.136.





buffalo.<sup>1</sup> However, during the next year great prairie fires drove the buffalo south to the last great slaughter on the Missouri. They were never to return in any great numbers to the Territories as the American Indians cooped up the main herd south of the Milk River. Some of the Canadian Indians followed the buffalo south while those who remained were soon reduced to a state of starvation. They ate gophers, mice and snakes, and it was not an uncommon sight to see some great warrior lying patiently beside a gopher hole, hoping to snare the little animal.<sup>2</sup>

When Mr. Dewdney visited Crowfoot late in 1879, the old chief made no complaint of suffering although his band was sick and destitute. He only asked that a hole might be made in the barrier of the Sioux so that his young men could get to the buffalo.<sup>3</sup>

Captain Denny, in charge of the Calgary post, took the responsibility of feeding the neighbouring Indians during the summer of 1879, although Mr. Dewdney had ordered that rations were not to be given at Calgary. Denny bought 2,000 pounds of beef daily at seven cents a pound, from Mr. Emerson, paying for it by voucher on the Baker store. In the late summer, Dewdney arranged with the Baker Company, for large quantities of cattle and flour to be sent to the

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1--Herald 1933--Anniv. Art. by R. G. Hardisty.

2--Kelly op cit p.124.

3--Ibid, p.124.



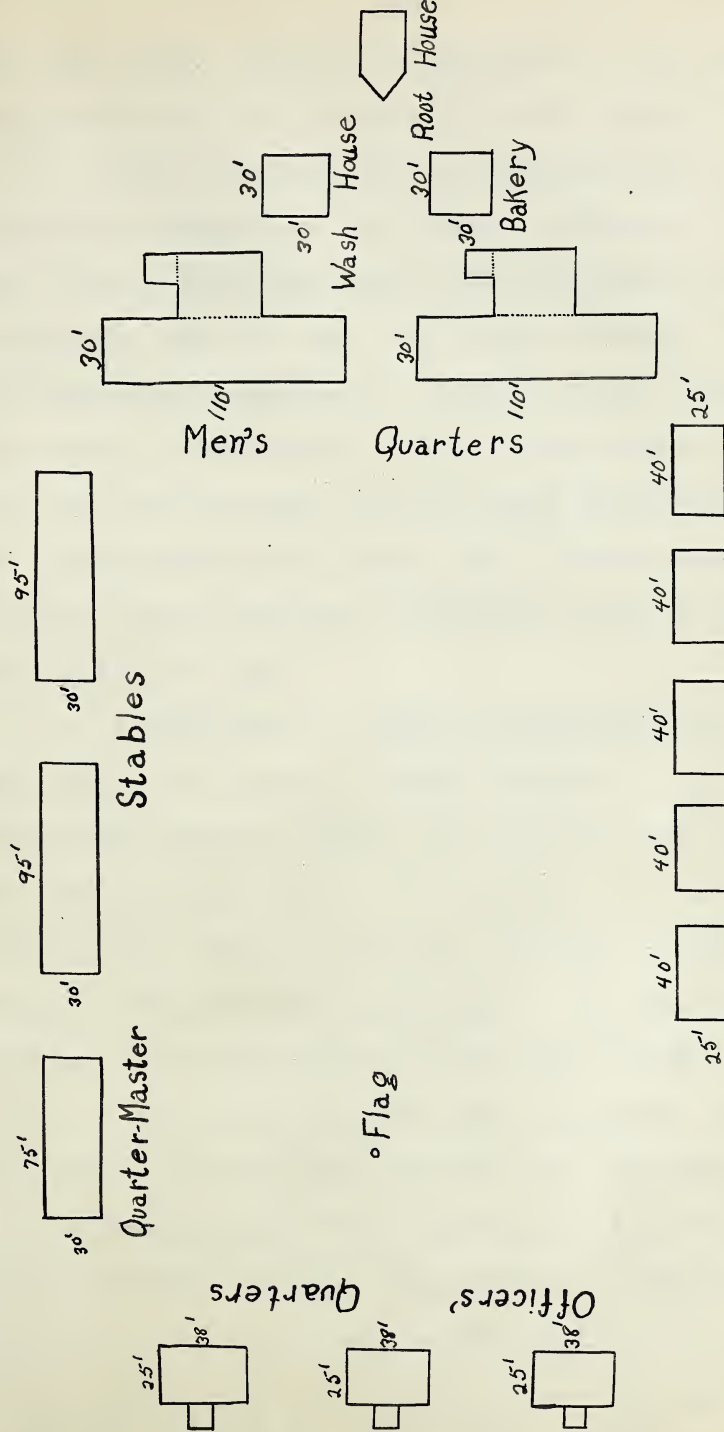
various reserves, but the amount was far from being sufficient.<sup>1</sup>

All the tribes were in a dangerous mood, and in the fall of 1880, the few white men of Calgary were called upon to face the so-called Sarccee War. This quarrelsome tribe had been given their reserve with the Blackfeet at the Crossing, but they could not get along with Crowfoot's band. Knowing the weakness of the force at Calgary, they went there under their principal head chief, Bull's Head, to demand food. To add force to their demands, they fired off their guns in both stores, and started a fire in front of the Baker post. As soon as word of this reached Fort Macleod, the Indian agent, Colonel Norman Macleod, Capt. Denny, Sergeant Lawder, and eight men hurried to Calgary. Upon their arrival, they promised the Sarccees rations at Macleod as there were no cattle or supplies at Calgary. For three days the Indians refused to move, and even threatened the fort, which had fallen into a sad state of disrepair. Finally, Denny had Sam Livingstone bring up a number of carts in which to transport the tents and goods of the wayward Indians. Then Denny began to pull down the teepees after drawing up his men, re-inforced by the four police from Calgary, with rifles loaded. He met with no opposition and by the afternoon the Indians were well on

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1--Riders of the Plains, Denny op cit p.137.





# NWMP Barracks 1880





the road south. The following spring, after much argument, they were taken to a separate reserve south of Calgary.<sup>1</sup>

Chief Crowfoot of the Blackfeet was a frequent visitor to Calgary at this time. Although fifty years of age, he was erect and tall, with a majestic bearing; prominent, aquiline nose and long, straight, black hair. He invariably appeared in a scarlet coat, buckskin breeches and shirt. Attached to a small chain, which extended from his neck to his waist, was his huge Treaty medal (the size of a bread-and-butter plate) and a framed copy of the Treaty. He was patient, honourable, wise in council and a born leader of men.<sup>2</sup>

In September of 1881, the Marquis of Lorne, Governor-General of Canada, visited Calgary. Capt. Cotton and Constables Clarke, Beattie and Leroise were in charge of the fort at this time. In connection with the expected visit of the Governor-General, Constable Clarke made seven trips to Macleod with despatches. Leaving Calgary in the morning, he had supper the same night in Macleod, and the return trip was made in the same remarkable time. Cotton and Clarke laid out the site for the governor's camp, the latter hoisting the first Canadian flag in the district. After visiting Calgary, the governor's party was ferried across to the north shore of the Bow, in two boats twelve feet long and three feet wide. They were met with dem-

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1--Denny, "Riders of the Plains" p.143.

2--When the West was Young. Higinbotham, J.D. Ryerson, Toronto, 1933 p.229



ocrats and were driven to the Cochrane Ranch at Morley to witness a display of horsemanship by the ranch cowboys. Twelve boats had been built in Calgary to carry the Marquis and his party east by river, but at the last moment the river passage was countermanded, and the party returned to Ottawa by way of Fort Benton and the Union Pacific Railway.<sup>1</sup> When the Governor-General returned to Ottawa, he requested the government to name the new administrative district, which was to be formed, after his wife, Princess Louise Alberta, second daughter of Queen Victoria.<sup>2</sup>

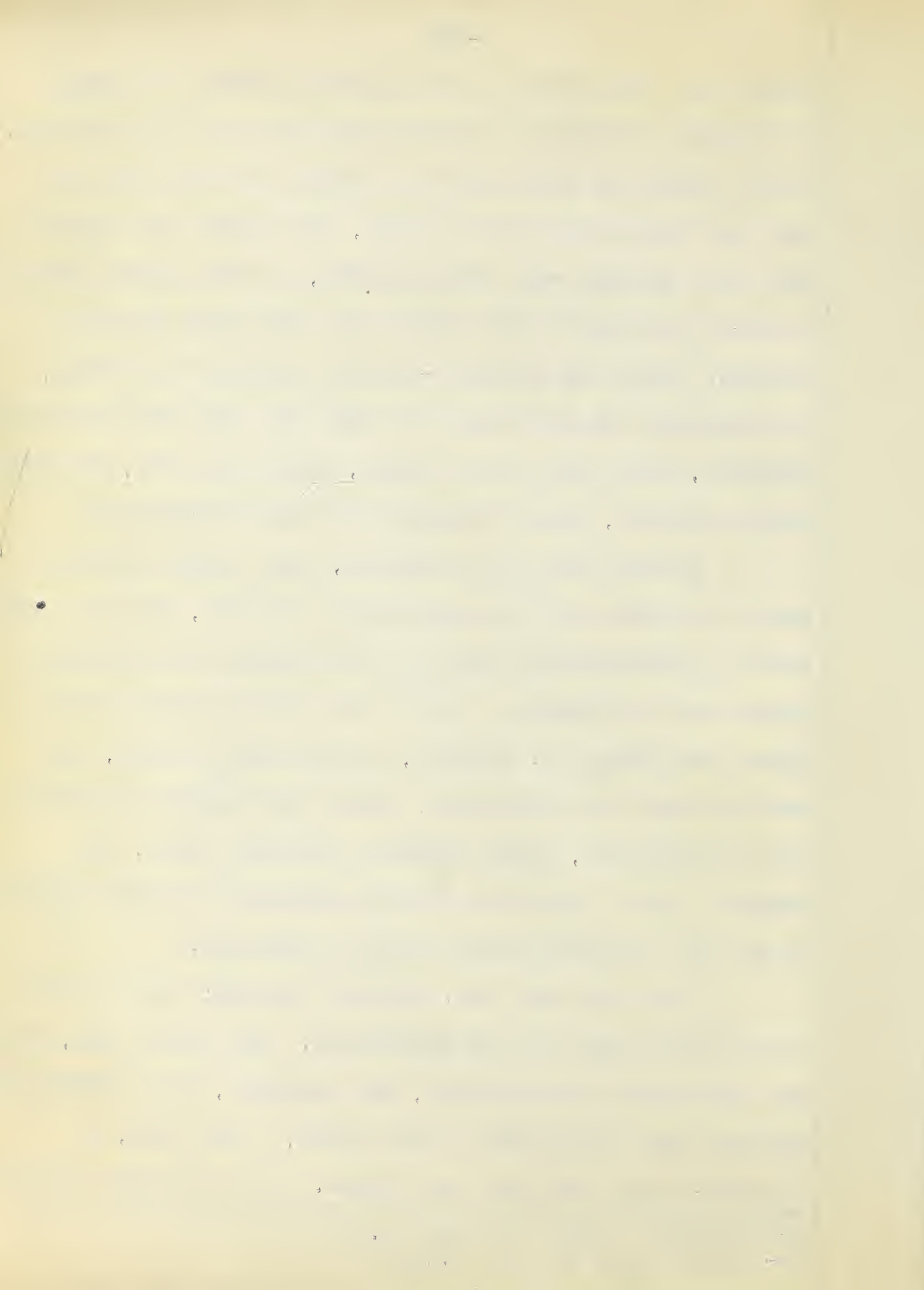
During the early eighties, many cattle ranchers began to settle in the neighbouring country, and as a result several business men found it advantageous to establish themselves in Calgary. One of the first of these newcomers was George E. Jacques, who arrived in 1881, and decided that the settlement, which now boasted of seventy-five inhabitants, could support a jewelry store. He bought a small log shack near the Barracks and set himself up as the first watchmaker west of Winnipeg.

The next year Mrs. Jacques arrived; she was the first white woman in the settlement. Her first home, which was purchased from McVittie, the surveyor, was a twelve by sixteen foot shack with a dirt floor, a mud roof, a leather-hinged door and one window. Her furniture consis-

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1--Albertan 1909 op cit p.8.

2--Higinbotham, op cit p.76.





727. N.W.M.P. FORT, CALGARY.

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ted of a home-made bed with a hay-stuffed mattress, a three-legged stool, two home-made benches and a trunk, which was used as a table. She cooked the venison, bacon and bannock over an open fire. Seven months later, the bride of Jim Barvis, an employee in the Baker store, arrived in Calgary.<sup>1</sup>

Early in 1882 Colonel Walker, while still manager of the Cochrane Ranch, situated west of Calgary, had set up a small sawmill near the junction of the two rivers. When he resigned as manager, late in the summer of 1882, Walker took the sawmill and timber limits in lieu of several thousand dollars that he had invested in the ranch. This mill, just below the junction of the Bow and Elbow, was to furnish the lumber for most of Calgary's early buildings. The log shack was now a thing of the past.

Calgary had become such an important point that, in July 1882, E Detachment of the Police, under Inspector French, was moved from the Blackfoot Crossing to Calgary. As the old barracks were no longer tenable, Major Walker was given the \$35,000 contract to erect new buildings. He bought the old Methodist Church, which had not been used for several years, and added to it, to make a new home for the force, which now consisted of one superintendent, two inspectors, seven sergeants, five corporals,

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1--Calgary Herald, 1923 Anniv. p.12.



sixty constables, and sixty-seven horses. The old pallisade was replaced by a low fence as Indian attacks were no longer anticipated.<sup>1</sup>

In 1882, the settlement became very excited over a reported silver strike in Castle Mountain just west of the present Banff. Joe Healy, Clinker Scott and "Old Man" McLaughlin contrived to start a mining boom at Silver City, the name of the new camp. Healy, who carried splendid specimens of ore obtained in Montana, held claims at Silver City. He was not at all particular in making sure that the specimens he showed interested spectators were from Montana or Castle Mountain. Mining fever raged in Calgary for a year or two with the result that there was a shortage of help and many of the settlers left their ranches for the mining camp.<sup>2</sup>

In May and June of 1882, Sid Van Courtland and William Wright accomplished what perhaps is the only trip ever made by river, from Calgary to Lake Winnipeg. The two men felled spruce trees, sawed them by hand, and then had a French-Canadian build a small boat. This boat, built of unseasoned lumber, gave much trouble until they reached the Blackfoot Crossing where they found oakum and tar, which had been left by C.P.R. surveyors. The two men simply floated down with the current, using only paddles to steer with. They had with them about a thousand pounds

1--Ibid, p.4.

2--Kelly, op cit p.160.



of valuable furs, mostly black and cinnamon bear, which they sold to a Hudson's Bay trader at Prince Albert. From this point, the rest of the voyage was made to Winnipeg by steamer.<sup>1</sup> The Bow and Saskatchewan never played an important part in the history of Calgary as did the North Saskatchewan in that of Edmonton.

1--Herald 1923 Anniv. Page 12.







957. H.B. CO'S, TRAIN OF CARTS FROM THE NORTH, LADEN

WITH 75,000 DOLLARS WORTH OF FURS, ARRIVING AT CALGARY, 1887

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## TRANSPORTATION

During these years Calgary was dependent for transportation upon the Red River cart of the north and the great bull teams of the south. The northern carts, every three of which required a driver, were drawn either by a single Indian pony or an ox, and could be heard creaking at the distance of a mile. They were built of alder-wood with birch axles and the wheels were five feet in diameter. The beds were two and a half by four feet with the sides constructed of upright staves held in position by a top rail. Not a trace of metal was used and the only tools required were a couple of different sized augers, a draw knife and a spoke shave. If a break occurred, it was mended by a strip of moist buffalo hide, which contracted and hardened when it dried, binding the break firmly and making the cart as strong as ever. Each cart carried from 900 to 1,200 pounds and the common rate of progress was twenty miles a day.<sup>1</sup>

The I. G. Baker store obtained its supplies, from Fort Benton, by bull train. This form of transportation was only possible over a period of seven or eight months when pasture could be obtained. A team was made up of

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1--Seventeen Years in the North-West. Begg, Alexander London, 1884. Vol. 1, page 298.





from twelve to fifteen pairs of oxen, strung out. A heavy chain passed through an iron ring at the centre of the ox-yokes and extended from the leaders back to the lead wagon. To this front wagon were hitched two other wagons, swing and trail; also a cart carrying the cooking outfit, blankets and a tent. The wagons had a broad guage of five feet, which made them much more stable on side hills. They were strongly built with the bows on the wagon's boxes covered with canvas so that the goods would remain dry, regardless of the climatic conditions. As much as fifteen tons of freight could be carried by the three wagons. The whole team attached to a wagon was in charge of one man, the bull-whacker, who guided his team by means of a heavy whip. When the bull teams travelled in brigades, they were directed by a wagon boss, who by voice and action forced the teams along at a rate of fifteen miles a day. This form of transportation was only used south of the Bow. An attempt was made during the Rebellion of 1885 to transport freight from Calgary to Edmonton by bull team, but, owing to the soft nature of the ground, it was abandoned.<sup>1</sup>

At first, most of the travelling was by horseback, but this was replaced by stage-coaches in the early eighties. In the Macleod Gazette of April 24, 1883, the Benton, Fort Macleod and Calgary Mail, Passenger and Express Line announced its time-table for the departures of its four-horse coaches for the north and south.





During that fall, Edmonton became connected by a stage coach line with Calgary. This stage left the Hudson's Bay Store every Monday morning and arrived in Edmonton on Friday, after making night stops at Willow Creek, Red Deer Crossing, Battle River and Peace Hills. The return stage left Edmonton on Monday, and arrived in Calgary on Friday. The single fare was \$25.00 and express matter was charged 10¢ a pound.<sup>1</sup> This line continued in operation until the C.P.R. reached Strathcona in July, 1891.

All the mail for the south-west came through the United States; in summer, by steamboat up the Missouri to Benton, and in winter, by stage from Corrin on the Utah-Northern branch of the Union Pacific Railway. From Benton it was carried by messenger, under contract with the Mounted Police, to Macleod. From there the Calgary mail was brought by freighting outfits, and left at the Baker store. When it was opened, there was a general rush for the store. As there was no postmaster, everyone looked through the pile of papers and letters.<sup>2</sup>

In 1880, Colonel Walker, while on a business trip to Macleod, asked for the Calgary mail, and was told that it had left two weeks before by bull team for the north. He overtook the outfit at Sheep Creek Ridge where he got the mail from the driver and brought it on to Calgary, arriving a week before the freighting outfit did.<sup>3</sup>

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1--Blue, op cit p.309

2--Albertan 1909 Anniv. p.1.

3--Ibid p.1.



Shortly after this, Walker, who was then manager of the Cochrane Ranch, took up the question of better mail facilities and succeeded in getting \$75.00 a month subscribed for a semi-monthly service to Macleod. A remittance man, Lord Hewgill, was engaged as mail carrier. In 1883, a regular post-office was established in the back of the Baker store with Mr. William Bannerman as postmaster. American stamps were used on all outgoing letters until the arrival of the railway.<sup>1</sup>

As long as these slow and expensive forms of transportation and communication continued, Calgary could have no future. There was no market for the few horses and cattle raised and the agricultural possibilities were considered negligible. The authorities had seriously considered transferring the four men to some other post and Fred White, Controller of the Police, had actually offered to sell the site of the fort to the Cochrane Ranch.<sup>2</sup> It was only through the influence of the Governor-General, the Marquis of Lorne, who had been favourably impressed with the possibilities of Calgary that the post was not abandoned in 1881. However, conditions were soon to change. Late in 1880 surveys were made up the Bow River and through the Kicking Horse Pass, and in 1881 Major Rogers, the engineer-in-charge, stated that the road would follow this

1--Ibid., p.1.

2--Denny, op cit p.137.



route. This would give southern ranchers a market for their stock and Calgary would become the shipping and distributing centre for the territory south to Macleod, north to Edmonton and west far into the mountains. However, it was not until June 14, 1883, that the railway, for which the west had waited so long, crossed the South Saskatchewan near Medicine Hat and started across the prairies of Alberta.

General-Manager Van Horne of the Canadian Pacific had brought the firm of railway contractors, Langdon and Sheppard, from St. Paul, to build the line from Oak Lake, Manitoba, to Calgary, and they had set out to establish a record of steel laying, which others believed to be unattainable. In the winter of 1881-82 tons of material had been shipped to the supply yards at Flat Creek which was then at the end of steel. This included thousands of ties which were laid 2,800 to the mile and thousands of 30 foot rails of 6 different weights, the heaviest, the 60 pounders, being used for the steeper grades. There was material for stations and section houses, to be located on alternate sidings, 20 miles apart and also for water tanks to be built where water could be found while bridge timbers had to be teamed long in advance of the rails so there would be no delay, when the steel reached the places that had to be bridged. All this material had to be





rushed to the end of steel and then from siding to siding as the railhead advanced. Construction trains ran on a regular schedule, the empties returning to the base of supplies. There was a penalty of \$5,000.00 an hour should the Langdon, Sheppard Company be held up for lack of material.<sup>1</sup>

The contractors had experienced little trouble with Indians, but when they approached within a few miles of the Blackfoot reservation, through which they must build, 1,500 red men, armed to the teeth, went on the warpath, threatening to kill the first white man that dared invade their territory. Father Lacombe was informed of the danger, and as quickly as horseflesh could carry him, he hurried to warn the workmen. He advised them to stop work for a few hours so that he could pacify the Indians. The workmen answered the warning in their usual way of contempt for the Indian. Lacombe decided to protect the workmen if they would not protect themselves. He bought sugar, tea, tobacco, and flour, and invited the Indians to a grand council. After the presents were distributed, he advised them to permit the white men to build their road, and then the governor would reward the Indians. Crowfoot declared that the advice of the Chief of Prayer was good and would be taken. The trouble was over and the workers continued unmolested.<sup>2</sup>

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1--Herald 1933 Anniv. p.20.

2--Calgary Morning Albertan - 1909 Page 4. Anniversary.



As the construction gangs approached the Bow, most of the towns-people crossed the river to watch the track laying. The grading was done by horse teams, then the ties were sent on and were placed in position. Then came the handcars, each drawn by two horses, which brought the rails along the completed portion of the line. On reaching the end of the last newly-laid rails, 12 men, 6 on either side of the truck, seized a rail, carried it forward and threw it down into position. Two others then gauged the distance between the rails, four men placed spikes at each end, four others screwed in the two fish-plates, and another four raised the ties with crow bars while the spikes were being hammered in. The truck containing the rails then passed on, while more men came to make the rail secure. In advance of these, were others fixing the telegraph and getting the grade and the next siding ready.<sup>1</sup>

On August 9, construction had reached the east bank of the Bow and there was a delay of forty-eight hours while the bridge was being built. Half a mile of track was then laid, and Engineers Jim O'Hagan and Leslie McLaughlin, in charge of engines "Old 81" and "126" brought the first train of eight boarding and sixteen flat cars into Calgary. The 12th of August was spent in constructing a bridge across the Elbow, a spur track was then laid west of the river and on the 16th the station, a box car,

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1--Life and Labour in the Far West. Barneby, Henry.  
Cassell and Company, London. 1884. p.267.



arrived, and was set up about where fourth street east is today. The cooking car, eight boarding cars, two store-cars, and the contractor's car were switched onto a spur track. A camp for the men was pitched about where the Capitol Theatre now stands and later a water tank and windmill were set up on the bank of the Elbow.<sup>1</sup>

Calgary soon became the distributing centre for the territory to the north, west and south. Benton as a source of supply was wiped out; the bull team was a thing of the past; southern Alberta was no longer an appendage of Montana.

1--Herald 1933 Anniv. Page 20.







© CONYNGHE  
H. P. 1883

1883

East Calgary September 1883 (Looking North).



## SIX MONTHS OF RAPID GROWTH

It was during the spring of 1883 that the little settlement of less than one hundred people suddenly became the most important point in the Far West. Easterners trecked overland from the end of the steel; Major Walker's mill could not turn lumber out quickly enough, and many merchants and professional men set up their offices in tents until their orders for building material could be filled.

By this time news of the opportunities offered by the West was penetrating even to the Maritime Provinces. George Murdock, a harnessmaker of St. John, New Brunswick, reached Winnipeg in April, 1883, and was advised to seek his fortune in Calgary. He bought a camp outfit and rode to the end of the steel, at Maple Creek, in a box car loaded with wagons. On May 3, the future mayor of Calgary started overland and ten days later he reached Calgary. Here he found "prospects good, Calgary bottom is the finest natural town site I ever saw." The day after his arrival, he borrowed a cabin for a temporary habitation and in the first morning he had two jobs of repairing for which he "charged like the mischief as a dollar is here like twenty-five cents at home." On May 16 he started



to build a shack, twelve feet square and on the 18th he put his name in the window--the first sign in Calgary.<sup>1</sup>

Dr. Andrew Henderson, late of Montreal, rode a cayuse from Maple Creek and on June 8 arrived in Calgary. He secured temporary accommodation with Tom McVittie, Dominion land-surveyor, but soon the doctor erected a building, thirty by twenty-four feet, on the east side of the Elbow, near the Hudson's Bay post. This was to serve both as his office and as a drug-store, but as no supplies were received until the track was laid into Calgary, the building was used as a pay-office for the crews of track-layers and graders employed by Langdon and Sheppard.<sup>2</sup>

On June 11, Messrs. Van Wart and Freeze of New Brunswick arrived and started a general store east of the Elbow. They had to meet the opposition of the Hudson's Bay and Baker stores, but as the old companies continued to cater chiefly to the Indian trade for some time, the new store was very popular with the new-comers from the East.<sup>3</sup>

Calgary had hardly recovered from the railway excitement when the second important event of the year took place, the appearance of a weekly newspaper, the Calgary Herald, Mining, and Ranch Advocate and General Advertiser. It was not the first newspaper in the Ter-

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1--Albertan, 1909 Anniv. Murdock's Diary p.4.

2--Herald 1923 Anniv. p.8.

3--Ibid, p.8.





ritories as prior to this, the Saskatchewan Herald had been established at Battleford, the Bulletin at Edmonton the Times at Prince Albert, the Gazette at Fort Macleod and the Leader at Regina.<sup>1</sup>

The publishers, Messrs. Braden and Armour, had come from Ontario during the summer, and until their press arrived by the first train, they had canvassed the settlement for advertisements and subscriptions. George Murdock noted in his diary that he had given a subscription (\$3.00) and an advertisement to Braden on July 31. As soon as their Washington hand-press was unloaded from the first train, it was set up in a white canvas tent on the west bank of the Elbow, and the two men worked night and day to produce a paper before any of the subscriptions or advertisements were cancelled. Finally on the afternoon of August 31, the anxious partners calmly announced to the crowd of nondescripts, gathered outside the press tent, that the Calgary Herald was out.<sup>2</sup>

The little paper announced its mission life to be: "The collection of all news items of local interest, the encouragement and support of all agricultural, mining and ranching enterprises. The encouragement of all measures, religious and moral intended for the welfare of the community. The exposure of any measure or acts on the part of individuals, corporations, or governments, which appear to be framed against the true interests of the place, people or district.

"Thoroughly independent in the matter of politics, always ready to give credit to one and all irrespective of creed, color, race or politics, whose efforts may be

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1-- Canada and Its Provinces. Shortt, Adam & Doughty, A.G. Tor. Pub. Assn of Can.. 1914, Vol 19pl64.  
2--Herald - 1923 Anniv. p.2.



worthy of recognition.

"Having always the courage of its convictions, the Herald will not be found afraid to speak out its mind freely when there are wrongs to be redressed or manifest abuses to be reprimanded."<sup>2</sup>

With a true western spirit the editors next dilated upon the possibilities of the little town.

"Calgary, which at the present time is creating so much interest throughout the whole North-West, Ontario and England, is located upon a beautiful stretch of bottom land about six miles in length and three miles wide, enclosed on the north by the Bow River in semi-circular form, and on the south by a range of hills from one hundred to one hundred and fifty feet in height.

"It is divided into two parts by the Elbow River, which, at its confluence with the Bow, forms a number of beautiful islands, well wooded and admirably suited for a park. Both rivers are pure, clear and cold with pebbly beds and beaches, dotted with innumerable trees and capable of supplying water-power for an unlimited number of mills and factories, while on the north side of the Bow, another range of hills rises to about two hundred and fifty feet from the bed of the River, and away to the west and south-west rise the Rockies in majestic grandeur, covered with everlasting snow plainly visible to the naked eye, as though they were only a few miles distant.

"Calgary has long been acknowledged as the great central point of the extensive fertile strip along the Rockies, extending from the Blackfoot Reserve on the east to the mountains on the west, a distance of two hundred miles, and an extent from north to south of scarce less distance; but it will now assume a place of much more importance, and will become the greatest distributing point west of Winnipeg.<sup>1</sup>

As soon as the success of the paper seemed assured Braden secured advertisements from most of the early business men. I. G. Baker Company advertised dry goods, harness, saddlery, hardware and agricultural implements. The Hudson's Bay Company kept a first class assortment of

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1--Ibid,



dry goods, groceries and hardware. G. C. King & Company of Calgary and Red Deer had just received a large consignment of pickles, jams, prepared soups and potted meats from the house of Crosse & Blackwell, London, England. Tailoring was a specialty with Maclean & Thomas, who also dealt in drugs and stationery. I. S. Freeze sold Prairie Rose flour, eggs, butter, green apples and all general merchandise. Goods at low prices was the advertised motto of J. G. Van Wart & Son. E. Costello, in his new store next to the post-office, sold ready made clothing, tinware, calfskin boots, felt boots and mocassins. S. Costello advertised his furniture store next to the Royal Hotel and George Fraser his confectionery store just beside the Herald office. G. E. Jacques styled himself the pioneer watchmaker and jeweler of the North-West while James C. Linton carried wallpaper, stationery, newspapers magazines and novels. The Calgary Bath House and Barber Shop was managed by Arnaud and Ogburn, while Cornelius J. Soule operated the Highland Studio, a photographic tent next door to Dr. Henderson's office. Mr. Soule was also an architect and building superintendent. Dr. Henderson advertised his place as Medical Hall as he had a druggist business in connection with his practice. Mortimer & Co. made Vienna bread and sold the Winnipeg Free Press, Bannerman & Co. kept the post office and also







Grazing Ground  
for Police Horses

Elbow R.

C.P.R.

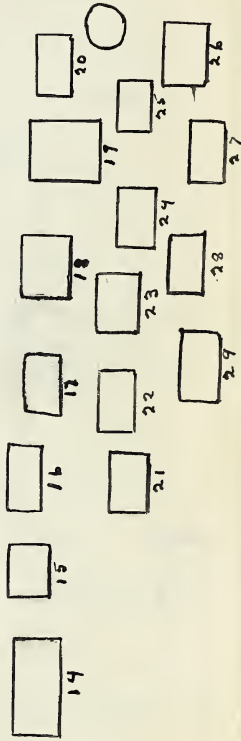
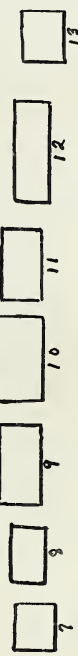
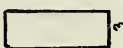
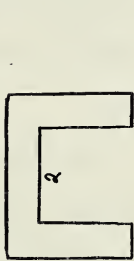
Bridge

C.P.R.

Calgary

November 1883.

- 1- Stables of the Police
- 2- N.W.M.P. Barracks
- 3- Station
- 4- I.G. Baker's Store
- 5- J.A. McKelvie's Store
- 6- Herald Office
- 7- Becker's Office
- 8- Hudson Bay Co.
- 9- MacDonald's Livery Barn
- 10- King's Store
- 11- Chipman's Store
- 12- Calgary House
- 13- Oswald Brothers
- 14- Royal Hotel
- 15- Dr. Henderson's Drugs
- 16- Barn Brothers
- 17- J. Ellis
- 18- W.H. Cushing
- 19- Idyl Hall
- 20- J. Inneshack - corral
- 21- Dr. H.J. Lindsay's Office
- 22- Geo. Murdoch's Shop
- 23- Geo. Jacques Jewelry
- 24- I.S. Freezer's Store
- 25- J.S. Van Wart's Grocery
- 26- Fraser's Bakery
- 27- Graves, McKelvie
- 28- Adams Grocery
- 29- James Loughheed
- 30- J.N. Muir





carried a line of stationery. Major James Walker's mill stocked all kinds of timbers, doors, windows, and buildër's supplies. John Rivet, John McQuire and John Morrow operated blacksmith shops, and J.D.White & Company advertised themselves as Plain & Artistic Sign & Showcard Writers.<sup>1</sup>

Now that the town had a newspaper to tell the outside world of the many opportunities, and now that it had a railway to bring settlers in, the population increased rapidly and by the late fall between four and five hundred people had decided to make Calgary their new home.

The town was situated east of the Elbow, in section 14, as Section 15, west of the river and north of the track, had been reserved by an order-in-council as a grazing ground for the police horses. The only buildings west of the Elbow, except the barracks, were south of the track. They were the Baker store, J.A.McKelvie's store, the half-tent, half-board office of the Herald, the box car railway station, and the Roman Catholic mission. The latter was so far from town that it was found necessary to build a new church east of the Elbow.

The town itself was a collection of log shacks, frame buildings and tents. Stretching north from the railway crossing in a curve following the Elbow were Beeker's legal office, the Hudson's Bay store with Chief Factor Hardisty in charge, Sandy MacDonald's livery barn,



E. E. King's store, Chipman's store, Tim Dunne's Calgary House, which was the main hostel--a long low pine board structure with a water-trough and hitching-bar in front, then Oswald Bros., and down the river Major Walker's mill. In the cluster of buildings opposite King's store there were Dr. Henderson's drug store, the Idyll Hall, Jack Innes' shack and corrall, the Royal Hotel, which had been built by James Reilly from four portable houses brought from Regina, Dr. H. J. Lindsay's office, George Murdock's shop, George Jacques' jewelry store, I. S. Freeze's store, J. G. Van Wart's grocery, George Frazer's bakery, Graves', McKelvie's and Adam's grocery, Bain Brothers' livery stable, Jack Ellis' restaurant and barber shop, and the residence of W. H. Cushing, carpenter, J. N. Muir, barrister and James Loughheed, barrister.<sup>1</sup>

Calgary was no longer the sleepy settlement of the year before, every man who could saw wood and drive a nail was busy at it. In October, Major Walker advertised in Winnipeg papers for twenty additional carpenters, at from \$3.00 to \$3.50 a day. He had just received an order for a couple of carloads of timber to be used in the mines at Medicine Hat. His unseasoned lumber was selling at \$50.00 a thousand. The Hudson's Bay employees were kept busy unloading flour and bacon for Edmonton; about one hundred and twenty carts went north each month and as the freight

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1--Herald 1923 Anniversary P.2.





rate was three cents a pound, the freighters always had money.<sup>1</sup> This traffic greatly helped the ferryman, who transported all goods for the north, across the Bow, at about the site of the present Langevin Bridge. He charged \$1.00 for each cart while a horse and rider was charged fifty cents, and each animal twenty-five cents. These rates were doubled after sunset.<sup>2</sup>

On Sunday very little work was done as it was the day of recreation; on one Sabbath in August a horse race, two foot races, a baseball game and two auction sales took place while the billiard halls and stores did a rushing business. The other holidays were also the occasion for those sporting events characteristic of a western town. Thanksgiving Day was celebrated by a football match between the police and the citizens, James Loughheed being umpire and Major Walker referee.<sup>3</sup> November 17 was also a time of celebration as on that day the first white child was born in Calgary. Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Costello were the happy parents and their infant son, John Calgary, received two lots from the citizens as this was a custom in the towns along the C.P.R. Christmas Day saw a broncho-breaking competition on the land west of the Elbow and the cowboys also displayed their skill by dashing along,

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1--Log of Old Timer 1914 op cit

2--Barneby, op cit p.201.

3--Albertan 1909 Anniversary Page 3.



shooting their guns, and picking up their handkerchiefs on the full gallop. That evening there was a dance in the mess room of the Barracks, which was decorated with flags, bunting and evergreen. Two violins furnished the music and as there were few white women in the town, there were many dusky lassies present. <sup>1</sup>

The fact that this new town, with the railway construction camps near-by, did not develop a spirit of lawlessness was entirely due to the splendid work of the police. They were the sole dispensers of justice; the police commandant was a Justice of the Peace, and from his conviction there was no appeal.

The Scott Act made it illegal to bring liquor into the Territories, except for medicinal purposes, and then only on a permit from the Lieutenant-Governor. The police found it almost impossible to enforce this law as liquor, purchased at \$4.00 a gallon in the East, could be sold in Calgary for \$10.00 a bottle. Many householders, who were fortunate enough to possess permits, which entitled them to five gallons of whisky a year, legally imported it, but illegally sold it to their less fortunate fellow citizens. Liquor came into Calgary in eggs, in pickle and jam tins, and in cunning containers which bore the appearance of Bibles. <sup>2</sup>

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1--Stirret, Mrs. C. Art. in Herald 1933, Anniversary.

2--MacInnis op cit p.105.



The attempts to enforce this law were particularly odious as they made the Force unpopular with many people. A notice which appeared on one occasion showed the attitude which many in Calgary took on this subject: "A meeting will be held to protest against the late mean and despicable action taken by the police in subpoenaing respectable citizens to give evidence as whisky sneaks, thus interfering with the liberty of freeborn subjects, and as likely to intimidate good citizens from entering hotels. Everyone should attend, to protest against such a resurrected tombstoned, iron-heeled law, to bear which is to suffer worse than the slaves in Siberia."<sup>1</sup>

When not attacked from this quarter, the police were liable to equally vituperative remarks from the drys, who accused them of being too lenient in the enforcement of the law.

Late in the fall, the police found great difficulty in securing evidence against many who, they were sure, were engaged in whisky running. Finally they came to suspect Constable Taylor of divulging their plans. One night a band of policemen ducked the suspected constable in the cold waters of the Bow; after this no more information of police doings reached the outside world.<sup>2</sup>

Although the liquor question affected many of the

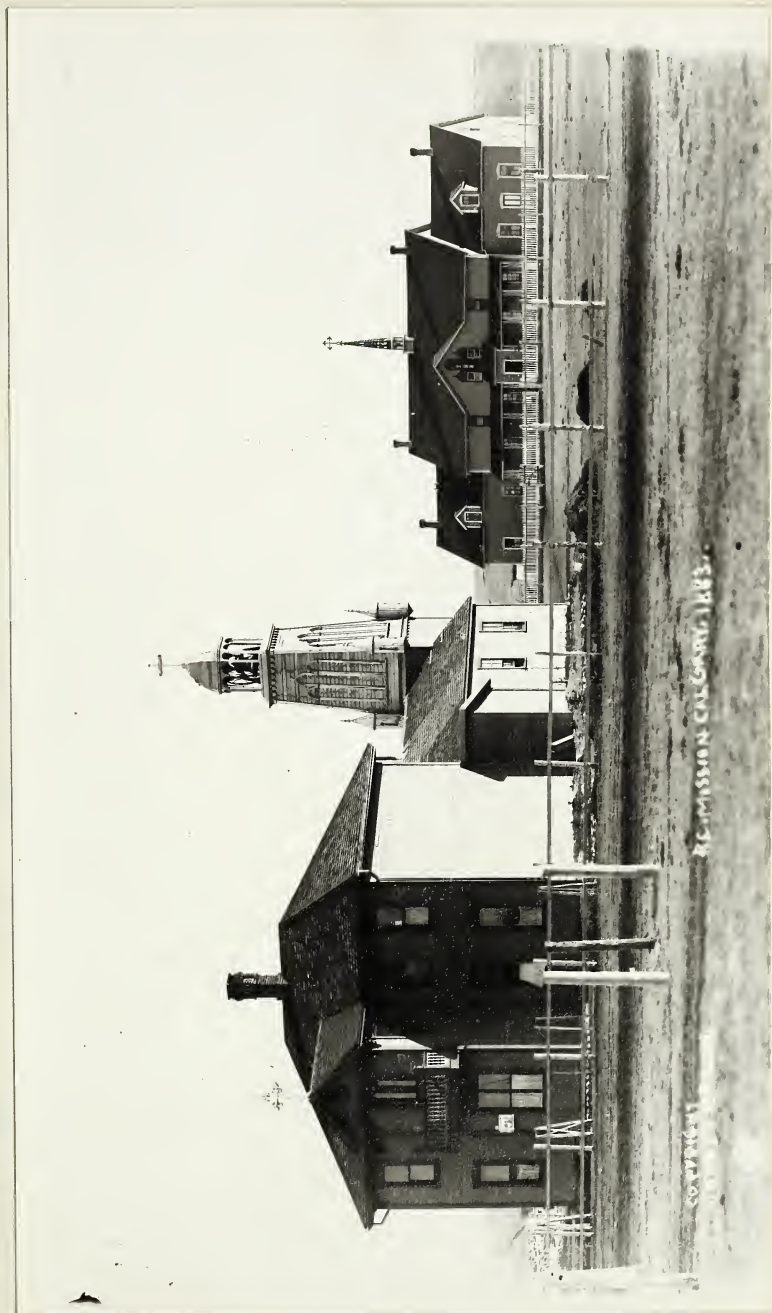
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1--MacInnis op cit p.105

2--Kelly, op cit p.161.







REMISSION CHURCH, 1883.



citizens, to many more it made little difference as they had come west to make an honest living, to build homes, and to rear families. In order to assist them in this, several churches had been established before the end of the year.

Father Doucet, still in charge of the Mission of Our Lady of Peace, held services in the new church situated east of the Elbow, just south of the railway. It was a modest wooden structure, twenty by forty-five feet.

Rev. John MacDougall had held services in Calgary since 1875, but the Methodists were without a church, as the building erected in 1877, had been sold to Major Walker. They felt that the growing town needed a resident minister so in the spring of the year, the Rev. James Turner, in response to their call, came overland from British Columbia. Mr. Turner was a very active worker, and in July a new church was built east of the Elbow, of lumber brought from Brandon.

In June the first Presbyterian service was held in the Baker store when Rev. Angus Robertson spoke to a congregation of thirty. After the first week, services were held in the hospital room of the barracks; later they were transferred to a tent east of the Elbow. In October, Knox Church was built on land donated by Captain John Stewart. The congregation was organized with Rev. A Robertson as moderator and Major J. Walker and Joseph McPherson as elders.



In August, the Right Rev. John McLean, first Anglican Bishop of Saskatchewan, visited Calgary and held a few meetings in a small tent just west of the Barracks. Seven Anglicans met in King's store in October and drew up a letter to Rev. J. W. Tims at the Blackfoot Reserve, asking for regular services. The first meeting held by Mr. Tims was in the orderly room of the barracks on the first Sunday in November. The seats were planks placed on nailkegs and the organ, borrowed for the occasion, was transported to the Barracks in a wheel barrow.<sup>1</sup>

Thus the year rolled down on the little pioneer settlement nestled along the east bank of the Elbow. The ground on which the buildings and tents stood was held by squatter's rights. Trains came in as the railway needed supplies. The steel was just a few miles west of Calgary. There was no municipal organization and no civic improvements. The only streets were the trails which were cut by the wheels of the Red River carts, and by the feet of the horses of the police and cowboys. There were no bridges to cross the many streams, and there were few clergymen to point to the pioneers the narrow trail, which was not so well defined in the days of 1883.<sup>2</sup>

1--Herald, 1923 Anniv.. Page 2.

2--Ibid.





## 1884--CALGARY MOVES

The New Year opened with a bitter quarrel between the C.P.R. and most of the townspeople over the location of the townsite. Section 14, on which the town was situated, had been homesteaded by Captain Denny in 1882 after he had left the police force. By 1883 it had passed into the hands of Captain Stewart and Colonel Irvine, although a Mr. Roselle had a claim on it. In that year the C.P.R. had tried to buy the section but when they failed to come to terms with these pioneer real estate operators, they had the order-in-council concerning Section 15 cancelled,<sup>1</sup> as by their charter, they had been given all the odd-numbered sections along their lines in the north-west. The Company then located the railway station west of the Bow, and through the North-West Land Company began to sell lots in Section 15, which was being surveyed by Messrs. McVittie & Orr. Intending purchasers sent their names into the land agent and late in December, 1883, these persons drew numbered tickets for the order of choice of lots. John Glenn, the old-timer of Fish Creek, drew number one. Corner lots sold for \$450.00, the others for \$350.00, subject to a rebate of fifty per cent if buildings had been erected and occupied by April 1, 1884.<sup>2</sup>

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1--See page 57.

2--Herald Files Of 1883.



The first building on the new townsite was that of Felix McHugh, who in February, 1884, built a log cabin on the north-west corner of Stephen Avenue (8th) and Osler Street (1st East). Mr. McHugh had, in May, 1883, settled a homestead south of the present Louise Bridge on which he had built a shack and stable, and had broken and fenced twenty acres. However, the CPR forced him to move when the surveyors found that he had squatted on an odd section. He then bought two twenty-five foot lots on Stephen Avenue, and in October 1883 drove the logs, which he used in his cabin, from twenty miles up the Elbow.<sup>1</sup>

When Mr. Bannerman was induced to move the post-office to the new townsite, by the offer of two free lots, and when the railway threatened to move the station farther west, the holders of lots in the Denny Estate protested vigorously. A public meeting was held in the Methodist church on January 7 at which Mr. Reilly was the main speaker. He recapitulated the difficulties which he and others had on arriving in town to secure building sites, and ended by advising the people to refrain from building on Section 15. Drs. Henderson and Lindsay, Messrs. Moulton, Armour, Bower, Bredin, Braden, Martin, and Murdoch all voiced approval of his speech.<sup>2</sup>

On January 23 the Land Agent for the Denny Estate, Mr. J;K.Oswald, placed the following ad. in the Herald:

1--MacRae, op cit p.548-9

2--Herald, Jan 10, 1884.



"Denny Estate--the Centre of Calgary City. All surrounding sections now under sub-division. Proposed railroad to enter Calgary by Nose Creek Valley, junction with the C.P.R. on Walker's Claim. Public land grants; Calgary market, with hall and stores; head office, Rancher's Bank, capital \$1,000,000.00; city hall square with five acres for public buildings; passenger and freight grounds; school and college reserve; Roman Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Anglican Churches. A bridge will be built across the Bow on the line of King Street, connecting the trails from Edmonton and Macleod.

The following newspaper notes indicated the evident popularity of the Denny Estate:

"Mr. Moberly, architect, left for Winnipeg, Thursday last. He will return in a week or two and open an office on the Denny Estate. He had already taken orders for the new Market hall, the Rancher's Bank and residences for Colonel Macleod, H. Bleecker, G. C. King, Dr. Henderson, Major Dowling, Capt. Hughes, J. Brady, J. K. Oswald and Capt. Stewart. The Church of England has been donated lots for the erection of a church and manse. Major Walker has entered into an arrangement with Captain Stewart for the erection of stores and dwellings on unoccupied lots on the Denny Estate during the coming summer. Mr. Sparrow butcher, is now building an ice house and temporary shop





on the Denny Estate, until such times as the new market place is erected.<sup>1</sup>2

Despite the activity of the promoters of the Denny Estate, West Calgary soon outstripped its rivals as it had the station and the post-office. Most of the business men moved their buildings across on the ice during the winter or built new frame structures on the new town site. As the police had not been officially notified of the cancellation of the order-in-council, they held up construction until the latter part of January, when the matter was cleared up.

Most of the buildings were situated along Stephen Avenue east from McTavish Street (Centre). They were one-storey structures with straight fronts topped with large signs. They were either built right up to the street line or back a few yards with a hitching post in front. The Hudson's Bay Company erected a one-storey frame store, thirty-five by one hundred feet, at the corner of Stephen Avenue and McTavish Street. The Royal Hotel was built diagonally across the intersection; it was three stories high and was the best hotel west of Winnipeg despite the fact that the upper portion was divided into male and female quarters by factory cotton partitions. East of these two buildings there were Linton's Book Store, G. C. King's store, I. G. Baker's store, Rankin & Allen's store, 1--Herald Jan. 23, 1884.



Martin Bros., Grant & Roger's Hardware, Trott's Drug Store, Dunn's & Sparrow's Meat Market, The Dominion Land Office, and Boynton's Hall, a large frame structure which had been erected by Captain Boynton, a retired army officer but now a rancher.<sup>1</sup> As the buildings were being erected, the streets were graded and wooden sidewalks were laid.

As yet there was no traffic bridge between the two sections of the town. To cross the Elbow with a conveyance necessitated fording the river about one hundred yards above the railway bridge. During the spring or fall this was likely to result in the driver getting a bath as the ice extended out from both banks, but being absent in the middle, it caused the wheels of the vehicle to sink suddenly to a depth of three feet. A floating bridge, consisting of three or four logs chained together, was used by foot passengers. The Herald of April 2, contained the welcome news that the traffic bridge over the Elbow would be completed within a week.

Calgary was now progressing very rapidly and from time to time the Herald wrote optimistically of this growth. In March, the Roselle claim to Section 14 was settled; this was the occasion for a long editorial.

"The settlement of this claim removes the dispute as to whether Calgary will be situated on the east or west side of the Elbow. The town has received a good



start on Section 15, but we do not expect one section to be large enough to contain the future city. It requires very little foresight to predict that Calgary will be the largest city in the north-west. We already anticipate another Chicago, and can hear the sound of the busy mill and see, in our mind's eye, the street cars plying their traffic from the east of Section 14 to the west of Section 16, and from river to river in the opposite direction.

"Our mining, ranching and farming interests , will make Calgary a desirable spot for the capitalist and business man. Our beautiful scenery, genial climate and peculiarly healthy atmosphere will make this a locality to which the invalid will cast his longing eye for health, which he has endeavoured to obtain elsewhere."<sup>1</sup>

Enthusiasm for Calgary's future was by no means confined to the editor of the Herald for in a speech before the Royal Colonial Institute, in London, on April 8, 1884, Alexander Begg said: "In my opinion this place, owing to the vicinity of the great cattle ranches to the south and the fine agricultural land surrounding it, is destined to be one of the most important cities in the north-west. Altogether, I am inclined to place great faith in the future of Calgary."<sup>2</sup>

Building continued during the early summer. Mr. F.

Welsh, manager of the Winnipeg Telephone System, offered

1--Herald, March 12, 1884.

2--Morning Albertan, 1909. Anniversary p.8.





to establish telephone systems if he could obtain twenty<sup>1</sup> subscriptions at \$70.00 a year. Nothing came of this proposition. Fathers Lacombe and Doucet erected a church and priest's residence on the section of land which they had homesteaded south of Notre Dame Avenue (17th). The building was fifty by thirty feet and was of the best logs although it was boarded on the outside.

Because of the large quantities of pine shavings and the long dry grass, there was much danger of fire in the town. The Herald suggested that a two-inch pipe be laid from the Bow down Stephen Avenue and cisterns be dug at different places along the line of pipe. An engine would be necessary to pump the water.

The Herald had occasion to criticize the C.P.R. for being ten days late with lumber, necessary for the construction of the many buildings, which had to be completed before April 1, if their owners were to obtain the rebate on the purchase price of the lots. However, in April, it was able to write more favorably of the railway system.

"At last the C.P.R. seem to be awakening to the importance of Calgary, and are putting forth their best energies to supply ample passenger and freight accommodation for the number of travellers and large consignments of goods which will find their way to this growing metropolis. The passenger station, which is fast approaching completion, is a commodious, one storey building, twelve  
1--Herald, May 7, 1884.



by sixty feet; it is surrounded by a large platform. The freight and coal sheds, which will be in keeping with the requirements of the place are to be placed on the south side of the track."<sup>1</sup>

Even while the townsite fight was raging, it was felt that Calgary should have some sort of civic government and so on January 8, 1884, a meeting was held at which it was decided that the election of a civic committee or informal council of seven should take place on January 14. The following candidates were nominated: Messrs. Swan, Reilly, Lindsay, Armour, Breden, Murdoch, Tennant, Bowen, Butler, Hardisty, Thomas, Loughheed, Van Wart, King, Moulton, Stewart, Cushing, Ramsay, Oswald, Walker, Henderson, Clarke and Fraser. The voting took place in Wright & Latimer's Hall, and the following were elected: Major Walker, G. C. King, George Murdoch, Captain Stewart, Dr. Henderson, Thos. Swan and G. D. Moulton, Major Walker having headed the poll was appointed chairman.<sup>2</sup>

The first duty of the council was to welcome Mr. Dewdney, now Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories, to Calgary. When Mr. Dewdney arrived on Jan. 24, he was interviewed by the committee who drew his attention to the following matters: bridges, incorporation as a town, schools, and representation in the North-West Council. Mr. Dewdney told the committee that, if they wanted

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1--Herald, April 15, 1884.

2--Albertan 1909 Anniversary. Page 2



incorporation, it was only necessary to take a census, and if there were more than three hundred adult males in Calgary, incorporation would be granted on petition of two-thirds of the population. The school question rested with themselves; if they saw fit to engage a teacher at a salary not exceeding \$600.00, the North-West Council would pay half the salary, providing the average attendance was fifteen. Concerning representation, he explained that Calgary would soon be made an electoral division, but as the Dominion Government was likely to make some changes in the laws regarding the territories, he considered it wiser not to issue the proclamation at once.<sup>1</sup>

Soon after this, a committee was appointed to take the census, and it was found that the population of Calgary was four hundred and twenty-eight. The question of fire protection was fully discussed at a meeting held on March 12 and a man was engaged to plow furrows around all the buildings as a protection against fire.

The few expenses, which had been incurred to date, had been defrayed by public subscription, but when the Hudson's Bay Company presented a bill of \$17.40 for powder and flannel used in discharging the mid-day gun, the council decided to redouble its efforts to secure incorporation so that taxes could be levied in the usual way.<sup>2</sup>

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1--Herald, 1923      Anniversary.      Page 5.

2--Herald, 1933      "      "      21.





In due course the committee reported that the sum of \$100.00 would be required to defray the cost of a charter. This money was subscribed within a few minutes, and it was forwarded to Lieutenant-Governor Dewdney with all the necessary petitions, census returns and other documents. The committee expected to receive the order of incorporation by the return mail but when a letter was finally received from Ottawa, it was found that the town limits as outlined by the committee did not conform with the Dominion Government survey reports. This necessitated a new survey.

At a meeting on May 13, it was decided to adopt railway time, and the gunner was ordered to report to the C.P.R. station every day for the official time. It was at this meeting that a committee was appointed to survey sites for a town hall and a fire hall so that work could be begun with as soon as the letters of incorporation were received.<sup>1</sup>

As there were now quite a number of children in Calgary, the public-spirited Major Walker called a meeting to be held in Wright & Latimer's Hall for the purpose of discussing the establishment of a public school. At this meeting it was decided to appoint Messrs. Douglas, McNeil and Costello as a committee to canvas for contributions, to procure a suitable room and to engage a teacher. Within

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1--Herald, 1933. Anniversary. Page 22.



a short time \$125.00 was subscribed. A building near the barracks was obtained and on Monday, February 18, seventeen children were present to meet the new teacher, Mr. W. Costello. School was held regularly until the latter part of April when a public examination took place at which Mr. Armour presented prizes to : L. Mickle, H. Moulton, Kate Douglas, Mable Haney, M. Costello, Louis McNeill, Samuel McNeill, Thomas McNeill and W. Costello. School was then dismissed for the summer as all the money had been used and no more was forthcoming.<sup>1</sup>

Early in June news reached the town that it had been given representation in the North-West Council. This was the first electoral district to be established in the district of Alberta as at that time only six districts, all in Saskatchewan, sent representatives to the Council.

Mr. T. A. Braden was appointed returning officer, and he received the names of J. K. Oswald, J. D. Geddes and A. Begg as candidates. Their political platforms dealt with the problems of a pioneer district: restriction of prairie fires, many of which had been started by C.P.R. locomotives, proper railway crossings at all the principal settled points, a bridge across the Bow at Calgary, the opening-up of railway lands to settlement, the evils of the lease system, which sacrificed the interests of the potential settler to those of the large



cattleman, the limits of cattle and sheep grazing, the need for an alteration in the mining laws, the immediate sale of school lands, the permit system of obtaining liquor, representation in the House of Commons, and the placing of eastern office seekers in the Government positions which should have been given to westerners.<sup>1</sup>

The election was held on July, and as the friends of each candidate used every means to secure the return of their man, the contest was very spirited. Announcements regarding the voting were made from time to time as the poll was an open one. In Calgary Mr. Oswald headed the list throughout the entire day, and in the evening, out of the one hundred and thirty-two votes polled, he had a majority of twenty-eight. However, Mr. Geddes had received a sufficient majority at Fish, Pine and Sheep Creeks, and at High River to ensure his election.<sup>2</sup> The successful candidate received the congratulations of his supporters at Clarke & Beaudoin's Saloon. Speeches were made by Messrs. Geddes, Peterson and Loughheed, and a triumphant procession bearing burning brooms paraded the town. Thus ended the first election in Calgary.

The political campaign brought to a climax the bitter feud between the Herald and its rival the Nor-Wester, edited by G. B. Elliott. The Herald had supported Mr. Oswald, but Mr. Geddes had been given far more substantial

1--Herald, June 26, 1884.

2--Herald, July 3, 1884.





backing by Elliott, who could write much better than either Braden or Armour.<sup>1</sup> After the election the editors of the Herald had promised that they would pay no more attention to the Nor-Wester, but it was found necessary to attack the fighting Elliott again.

"Let us whisper a word in your ear, Mr. Nor-Wester. We conduct our business on business principles. We pay our hands every Saturday night. We do not get credit from the stores and compel the proprietors to take pay in printing. We do not make the boast that the government will see us through.

"Henceforth, it is our intention to allow the wailings and whinings of the Nor'-Wester to die upon the air. Our paper is needed in the community. We have no time for scanning the dictionary for spiteful epithets. We cannot take up space by inserting answers to the Nor'-Wester's remarks, nor soil our pen with the froth and scum of newspaper talk. Adieu, Nor'-Wester, Adieu."<sup>2</sup>

However, the feud did not end with this, but was continued for several years until the Nor'-Wester disappeared from the field.

Although the business of Calgary had grown to considerable proportions, it was handicapped by lack of banking facilities as the much-advertised Rancher's Bank had not materialized. As no bank seemed anxious to establish a branch in Calgary, the citizens sent a long letter to the Bank of Hamilton in which the following facts were set forth:

"There are about 2,000 residents in Calgary and district, Calgary is the shipping and supply point for the Edmonton and Red Deer districts on the north; the mining district to the west and the Fort Macleod district on the south. The finest agricultural, grazing and mineral lands in the northwest are near at hand. The town only commenced its existence in July of last year, and

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1--Herald, 1923 Anniversary. Page 10.

2--Ibid. Page 2.



during this time, its trade has been more than half a million dollars, and it presents every evidence of increasing every year in the future. A very desirable class of settlers are coming into this district; men with capital, who intend to go into mixed farming which has already proved a decided success here. There is a large business to be done in English exchange. The ranchers would do all their financing at this point if a bank were established here. The value of their cattle is about \$2,000,000.00 and is increasing rapidly each year as the ranches are only partly stocked. The sales this year will be about \$300,000; from one to two hundred thousand dollars is spent yearly in handling and caring for the cattle on the ranches. The expenses of the police at this point are about \$30,000 annually; the Indians Department's outlay is double that sum."<sup>1</sup>

The Bank of Hamilton failed to take advantage of the large and profitable business offered by Calgary, but two private banks were soon established; Le June, Smith & Company of Regina and Lafferty & Moore. Dr. Lafferty lived in Calgary, while Mr. Moore resided in Ireland. These banks were absorbed by the eastern banks when the latter opened branches in Calgary the next year.<sup>2</sup>

Although ranching was by far the more important industry, several farmers had settled in the district. In the issue of April 2, 1884, the Herald editor gave an account of a recent trip south to Sheep Creek, the present Okotoks.

"We passed through a lovely country dotted with settler's houses, and showing signs of spring improvements. Here and there we noticed men plowing and were informed that some had already begun seeding. We passed the farms

of Messrs. Glenn, Shaw, McInnes, Smith, Pratt, Robb,

1--Herald Anniversary, 1923 Page 1.

2--Ibid.



McDonald and Carroll."

Immediately to the west of Calgary at Shaganappi Point, Messrs. Lawrey and McAulay had farms where beans, sweet corn, pumpkins, squash, tomatoes, radish, lettuce, cress and cucumbers were grown.<sup>1</sup>

The C.P.R. was anxious that the agricultural possibilities of the district should be known in the east so in October, 1883, the railway company sent samples of wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, cabbage, parsnips, turnips, carrots, and beets from the farms of Messrs. Glenn, Vo-- tier and Livingstone, to the Boston Exposition.<sup>2</sup>

By the summer of 1884 the number of farmers around Calgary had grown to such an extent that a meeting was held in Boynton's Hall on August 16, for the purpose of organizing an agricultural society. Mr. Geddes stated that about \$200.00 of the agricultural grant from the North-West Council would be appropriated if the society were organized. A committee was named to take preliminary steps towards towards the formation of a society. At the meeting held on the following Friday, some fifty persons applied for membership, from whom the following officials were elected; President, Augustus Carney (who had a homestead on land which is now the Union Cemetery); Vice-Presidents, J.L. Bowen, John Glenn; Secretary, J. G. Fitzgerald; Treasurer, T. B. Braden; Directors, James

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1--Herald, July 9, 1884.  
2--Log of Old Timer, 1914.





Reilly, Chas. Geddes, Leo Gaetz, George Murdoch, Sam Livingstone, Jas. Votier and Joseph Butlin and Messrs. Ring and Robb.<sup>1</sup>

One of the first acts of the Society was to vote \$50.00 to be expended on a pamphlet for free distribution in the East. The first part of this bulleting dealt with the scenery of the country, "the eye is gladdened by hill and dale, by verdant slopes and grassy meadows, by tree and foliage, by the crystal waters of mountain rivers in their tortuous windings, and by the cloud pierced, snow-capped Rocky Mountains, as they girdle the western horizon."

An article on the minerals of Alberta, opened with the claim that "The district of Alberta is undoubtedly destined to rank as one of the richest mineral districts in the Dominion. It is already known to contain enormous beds of coal of the best quality, immense deposits of petroleum, and copper ore in abundance." After dilating on the coal resources, the writer told of the copper ore discovered near the Bow River, about a hundred miles west of Calgary, of which specimens assayed sixty per cent copper and \$29.00 per ton in gold. Galena, silver and iron were also mentioned.

The pamphlet went on to warn workers that the labor market was overstocked at present, and that those coming should be prepared to take up land, and go into farming.  
1--Calgary Agricultural Society's Bulletin, 1926.



There were included letters from Mr. McInnes of Pine Creek, from James Votier, S. W. Shaw, A. F. Lambert, A. Winterbottom, C. Russell, G. Boltall, all of Fish Creek, and from John Livingstone and J. D. Geddes of Calgary. Other items dealt with the various forms of stock raising and there was a short note from Rev. J. Dyke, testifying to the truth of the statements made by the settlers.<sup>1</sup> This pamphlet was circulated widely in the East, and perhaps influenced the stream of people which began to come into the district the next year.

The summer of 1884 was one of the wettest on record, and Calgary suffered much from high water. A great flood swept across the flats in the spring, doing considerable damage to the gardens and low-lying areas. The Bow River burst its banks and flowed down Notre Dame (17th) Avenue, entering the Elbow at about the point where that avenue now ends at the river bank. From early June until the middle of July heavy showers fell almost every day. On July 15 a steady downpour started and continued for forty-two hours. The ferry across the Bow was rendered useless. On the 17th the supports of the centre span of the railway bridge over the Elbow gave way, leaving the ties and rails hanging in mid-air. This was repaired as soon as possible. In the meantime the mail and passengers were transferred across the Stephen Avenue

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1--Calgary Daily Herald, 1922. Article No. 85.



traffic bridge until it was rendered useless by the battering of logs, which had been swept down from a pile on the banks of the Elbow. The Baker Company lost 1,500 logs, and the C.P.R. had ten or twelve bridges, to the west, washed out. Many cattle were drowned and numerous settlers and cowmen risked their lives in hazardous fords.<sup>1</sup>

Calgary entertained two distinguished visitors during the autumn of 1884. On August 27, Honorable Alexander MacKenzie, the leader of the Liberal Party and former prime minister of Canada, arrived. He was hurried off to view the farms of Messrs. Livingstone, Votier and Glenn; all of which had splendid crops. That evening a banquet was held, at which about fifty of Calgary's leading citizens were present. Mr. MacKenzie in his speech stated that he was sorry that the Territories had no representation in the Dominion Parliament. He was surprised to find in this country such crops as he had seen, after all the tales of excessive drough, summer frosts, and snows in the Territories, which had been told in Ontario. On the land question, he intended to work for the rights and liberties of the small settler in opposition to the domination exercised by the large ranchers. He again thanked those present, and said he could endeavor to secure representation for the Territories.

On September 10, Calgary was called upon once

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1--Herald, July 25, 1884.

2--Herald, Aug. 28, 1884.





again to extend its hospitality, this time to Sir Hector Langevin, Minister of Public Works in the cabinet of Sir John A. Macdonald. The citizens were not at all adverse to entertaining these influential Easterners as, upon every occasion, the need for some public improvement was impressed upon the visitor.

The special train, containing a deputation which had gone to Gleichen to meet the honorable gentlemen, steamed into the station about ten o'clock. Shortly after his arrival Sir Hector visited the police barracks. During the day a petition was presented, requesting that a bridge be built across the Bow and that public buildings be erected.

Owing to the almost incessant rain, the committee was unable to make the visit as interesting as it might have been, but the banquet in the evening convinced Sir Hector of the capabilities of the citizens to make his visit a most enjoyable one. At the head of the festive board sat Mayor Walker, on his right the guest of the evening, Rev. Father Lacombe, Chief Factor Hardisty and Sheriff Chapleau. On the chairman's left were Colonel Macleod, Mr. Geddes, Mr. King and the Protestant clergymen of the town.

Sir Hector told his audience that he had come in place of Sir John A. Macdonald, and he wished to do the





First Town Council - 1884.



best he could for the people of the West. He predicted a bright future for Calgary and the district of Alberta, and though the time would come when they must have representation in the Dominion house, the district was not ready to assume the cost of establishment as a province, and thus be entitled to representation. He concluded his speech by referring to the class of men who had settled in the Territories and said he expected they would help make Canada one of the greatest powers of the world.<sup>1</sup>

In November the news of incorporation reached Calgary. The town was to have an area of 1,660 acres in Sections 14, 15 and 16, which took in most of the territory between the Bow and railroad. The land south of the railway which Fathers Lacombe and Doucet had filed upon, remained apart from the town.

Calgary now required a mayor and official council so on November 26 nominations took place. The election was held a week later at which Geo. Murdoch defeated his rival, Mr. Redpath, for the position of mayor, and Messrs. Hogg, Lindsay, Millward and Clarke were elected to the Council. The announcement of the result of the voting was greeted with the firing of a small cannon on the lot adjoining Mr. Murdoch's house, followed by a fusilade of small arms from the neighboring lots. That night a torch-light procession was held in which the new mayor was

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1---Herald, Sept. 12, 1884.





carried about the town on the shoulders of his loyal supporters.

Mr. T. T. A. Boys was selected for town clerk, the deciding vote being cast by a councillor who said that he had just read Mr. Boy's latest poetic effort "The Riders of the Plains" and therefore he thought that Mr. Boys should make a first class town clerk.

The council soon became tired of meeting in saloons, hotel rooms and stores, and a committee was appointed to secure suitable quarters. After Christmas a room in the Far West Hotel was rented until a town hall could be built.

The first bylaw passed by the council was on December 17; it provided for the purchase of fire equipment and the erection of a fire hall when the finances of the town permitted.

At the meeting on New Year's Eve the following officers were appointed--Henry Bleeker, town solicitor; C. Sparrow, treasurer; Spencer Douglas, tax collector; Jack Campbell, bailiff and assessor; Jack Ingham, town constable.<sup>1</sup>

The citizens held several meetings during the winter at which the Dominion Government was asked for a fair and just representation of the North-West Territories in the Dominion House, for more stipendiary magistrates, 1--Herald, Anniversary, 1933. Page 6.



that all civil power should be taken from the police and that a court of appeal, a court house and jail, and a new bridge should be granted to Calgary.<sup>1</sup>

In December, Mr. H. S. Cayley became editor of the Herald. He had arrived in Alberta the previous spring, and had gone through to Silver City to start a legal practice. The slump in mining had caused him to come to Calgary where he returned to the profession he had followed in New York and Eastern Canada. He nobly took up the Herald's feud with the Nor -Wester.<sup>2</sup>

By the end of 1884, Calgary had a population of well over a thousand. Business was flourishing as the depression of 1885 had not set in. The district between McIntyre (7th) and Atlantic (9th) Avenues was well built up. The buildings were all of frame construction, none were painted but many had their weather-beaten sides covered with black tar paper.

The churches had been very active throughout the year. During the spring, Mr. Tims conducted Anglican services in the barracks. On Easter morning there were eighty persons present and after the service, the Anglicans chose a committee to obtain a building site and to solicit subscriptions for a church. The Rev. E. Paske Smith, who arrived from Oxford, England, became the first resident minister. He held his first service on May 27, in Boynton's Hall. The Methodist church had been moved from  
1--Albertan, 1909. Anniver. p.4. 2--Herald. 1923. Anniv. p.2



East Calgary to a location between the main part of the town and the barracks. Later in the year, a larger frame building was erected on McIntyre Avenue just east of McTavish Street. Mr. Turner was still the minister. Fathers Lacombe and Doucet held their services in the new church, situated about where the Sacred Heart Convent now stands. The Presbyterians had moved their church to the corner of McIntyre Avenue and McTavish Street. Mr. Robertson was still in charge. A Union Sunday school was held in the Methodist Church until fall when the Presbyterians started a Sunday School with Alexander Allen as superintendent.<sup>1</sup>

The members of the police force were required to attend church and as the police in Calgary now numbered sixty-three, they added very materially to the attendance of the various services. They made a fine sight as their dress uniforms consisted of white helmets, red tunics, tan breeches with gold stripes, white gauntlets, cavalry boots, cavalry cloaks and capes.

Calgary considered itself quite a civilized town but it was not so to Christopher Crayon of England who visited it in October:

"I am writing from Calgary, a little but growing collection of huts and wooden houses. It is a gay place, and just now is unusually so as there is a celebration with athletic events and a ball. We have a Chinese cook;  

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1--Herald Files, 1884.





our dining room is a very dark shed having a canvas on one side and unpainted boards on the other. Few houses are painted, Many of them have been brought all the way from Ontario which perhaps accounts for their smallness. They chiefly consist of two rooms, one a shop and the other a sitting or bed room. The larger number have been erected during the past few months. As to my companions, they are young and vigorous and usually use language that would not be tolerated in polite society. Their talk is chiefly of horses and bets. They ride recklessly up and down the streets, and it would not break their hearts if they knocked a fellow down; or they drive light wagons creating a most overwhelming dust as they rush by."<sup>1</sup>

In the last issue of the Herald for the year, the Editor, now that Calgary had become the greatest commercial centre west of Winnipeg, took a retrospective glance over the past two years, and peered into the future:

"Two years ago Calgary consisted of two stores, the old fort of the mounted police and a few log houses. The gay monotony of city life was unknown, and the refinements arising from the visits of the pale face ladies were few indeed. Two members of the police force were in charge of the barracks but their duties were light. The tum-tum of the medicine man's drum or the lively notes of the half-breed's fiddle were the only musical sounds to be heard.

"There is a change. With it have come joys and sorrows. The free and easy life of the old frontiersman has departed. Instead of the long procession of half-breed carts or of ox-teams dragging their weary feet amid a profusion of oaths and western slang, the polite demeanor



of the Pullman car porter and the lightning speed of the 'fire-wagons' is bequeathed to us. The musical talent of our city has increased both in quantity and quality.

"Our church was the one silent monitor, regarding the morals of the Protestant community. An occasional service was held in one of the stores, while the wants of the Roman Catholic portion of the population were supplied by the priests who lived at the mission near town. Our religious interests are now well attended to, and judging from the progressive spirit manifest by the clergy and laity belonging to the several denominations, there are bright hopes of abundant success. The medical and legal professions are well represented. Two years ago not a single member of either was to be found.

"Calgary is but in its infancy, only laying aside its swaddling clothes. The growth of the past year is full of encouragement. If taken hold of with a true spirit of enterprise, the development of the future will amply repay the devotion and energy expended on all the public interests of the town."<sup>1</sup>

1--Herald, Dec. 23, 1884.



## 1885--THE REBELLION YEAR

The Herald, always to the fore in matters that would advance the interests of the town, now began to work for a public school. In 1884, the Legislative Assembly of the Territories had passed an ordinance providing for the erection of school districts in those communities in which ten children, between the ages of five and twenty years, could be found. Calgary had many times that number and on January 8 the Herald informed the towns-people that "the school meeting called for to-night, to consider the advisability of petitioning the Lieutenant-Governor for the erection of a school district, should be largely attended. The Calgary school dismissed before Christmas has not yet assembled. For the eleven months of its existence the school has been supported by the private munificence of Messrs. Freeze, McNeill and Douglas. There is yet a sum of \$50.00 to be made up and it is hoped that the meeting will subscribe that sum on the spot. Mr. Spencer Douglas has had fifty pupils for the past year so it would be advisable to procure a second teacher."

This meeting voted in favor of petitioning the Lieutenant-Governor for a school district which resulted in the Calgary Protestant School District No. 19 being established on March 12, 1885. Stephen N. Jarrett, J. A.





Lougheed, and C. W. Peterson were elected trustees and on April 16 they held their first meeting. Mr. Spencer Douglas was hired at a salary of \$60.00 a month, and the building formerly used as the private school was rented at \$30.00 a month. The school assessment was fixed at four mills on the dollar.

The school continued until July 10 when it was dismissed for the summer vacation. As Mr. Douglas had at this time seventy pupils, Miss Greir was engaged at \$200.00 a year for the fall term, which began on August 10. By October 1, the school attendance had increased so greatly that a third teacher, Miss Rose Watson, was hired at \$25.00 a month.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to the public school, a Roman Catholic school had been operating since spring. In March, several Roman Catholic nuns had been driven from Prince Albert and St. Laurent by the rebellion. They came to Calgary, and, shortly after, started giving instruction in a small wooden building just east of the present site of the Sacred Heart Convent.

On March 18, news of the Second Riel or Saskatchewan Rebellion reached Calgary, and the Herald put out a special edition, giving the despatch in full:

"Prince Albert--Riel has openly defied the Queen's authority. He claims that the half-breeds and Indians are under his complete control, and that they will fight



for their rights. The white settlers are alarmed. A meeting was held at Prince Albert today, at which five hundred men were present. They state their willingness to enroll against Riel if the government will find them arms and ammunition."

This rising of the Indians and half-breeds along the North Saskatchewan was the result of many grievances. With the rapid disappearance of the buffalo, the half-breeds gave up their nomadic life and were content to settle down. Most of them lived along the valley of the broad, spreading Saskatchewan, and in laying out their farms, they placed themselves on pieces of land only a few chains wide at the water front, but stretching back some two miles. The new system of square sections, which was being introduced by the Dominion surveyors, would do away with the method they were accustomed to. It stirred up their bitter resentment which was increased when they saw white settlers coming in, selecting the finest sites, yet offering no explanations as to their place in the new order of things. The old order was about to change, and they had no assurance of what the new might mean.<sup>1</sup>

At that time Louis Riel, who had led the Red River Rebellion of 1870, was employed as a teacher in St. Peter's Mission of the Jesuit Fathers in Montana. In June, 1884, a delegation composed of Gabriel Dumont, T. Isbister, Moise Ouellette, and Mr. Dumas went to Montana to invite

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1--Herald, Anniversary, 1923. Page 7.



Riel to become their leader in their efforts to secure what they considered their rights. After due deliberation, Riel decided to return with them. He drew up a Bill of Rights and forwarded it to Ottawa, but it received no attention. To treat this people with contempt, placed in the hands of Riel a weapon, which he used with deadly effect among his excitable compatriots.<sup>1</sup>

After December he no longer spoke of constitutional methods, but began to stir up his followers to armed action. On March 28, the first skirmish took place at Duck Lake, south of Prince Albert. The police were then the only armed force in the west and as it would take some time to bring troops from the East, all the available policemen were ordered to the scene of trouble.

Fifty-five were sent from Calgary to Regina, leaving only seven men under Inspector Dowling to man the post. This alarmed the citizens of Calgary as there were about 2,000 Blackfeet, 400 Sarcees and 600 Stonies in the district and it was known that these tribes were receiving emissaries from Riel.

A meeting of the citizens was held in the Masonic Hall on March 27 to consider precautionary steps for mutual protection throughout the district. Ranchers had been particularly requested to attend. General Strange, a retired British army officer, at that time manager of





of the Military Colonization Ranch at Gleichen, addressed the meeting. He spoke of the present emergency and of the necessity of forming a volunteer corps. He was in favor of mounted infantry with cavalry equipment. He referred to his own service in the British Army for twenty-five years, and said that he was still ready with his services if they were required. The meeting decided to form a mounted corps, but it was also arranged that those, who wished to form a company of infantry, could do so.<sup>1</sup>

The Canadian Government looked to General Strange to take charge of the forces raised in the Calgary district, and in April, Major-General Middleton authorized him to assume command of all the troops between Macleod, Calgary and Edmonton.<sup>2</sup>

Strange made Calgary his headquarters where he started recruiting. At first, the mayor and others tried to prevent the enrolment of men, telling them that they would be forced to march away while the town, left unprotected, would be plundered and burned by the Indians. Strange held a public meeting, explained the situation and the western men began to enrol freely. The majority were cowboys out of work, many of whom had been compelled to sell their horses and saddles during the winter. Strange was implored by some of the citizens not to enlist these

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1--Herald, March 30, 1885.

2--Gunner Jingo's Jubilee, Gen. T. Bland Strange, John MacQueen, London, 1896. p.414.



men as they would never submit to discipline.<sup>1</sup>

Father Lacombe had been busy among the Blackfeet and his efforts were crowned with success for on April 11, Chief Crowfoot wired Sir John A. Macdonald, Premier of Canada:

"We are determined to remain loyal to the Queen. Our young men will work on their reserve and will raise all the crops we can; we hope that the government will help us sell what we cannot use.

"Continued reports are brought to us, and we do not know what to believe, but now that we have seen the Governor and heard him speak, we will close our ears, and only listen to and believe what is told us by him.

"Should any Indians come to our reserves and ask us to join them in war, we will send them away. I have sent messengers to the Bloods and Piegans, who belong to our treaty, and have told them what we intend to do about the trouble."<sup>2</sup>

Because of this expression of loyalty, the Herald assured its readers that there was little danger:

"It may be said that Calgary is not especially excited over the half-breed trouble. It is true that the Edmonton insurgents might make a raid south and plunder the Hudson's Bay store here, but the country is too open about this point for safety; there is not enough bush or timber

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1--Ibid p.408.

2--Macinnes, op cit Page 168.



to hide in, and a chase over the foothills is not exactly what Riel may be supposed to calculate on."<sup>1</sup>

Nevertheless, precautions were taken and the mayor instructed Chief Constable Ingraham to warn the shopkeepers against selling ammunition to the Indians. Some Blackfeet subsequently came to town and tried to secure cartridges, but were in every case refused. A home guard was enrolled under Major Walker to protect the town. He divided his one hundred and six men into a company of infantry and one of mounted troops, and put them through military drills and parades.

At this time, a hoax was played upon the citizens-- a cowboy rode in from Langdon with the news that the Blackfeet were headed toward Calgary. In ten minutes the home guard was lined up in front of Boynton Hall ready for action. The mounted troops were sent out as a skirmishing party, and the foot soldiers were placed at strategic positions along the Bow. Every light in town was put out and the women folk gathered in Boynton Hall, which was to be used as a temporary hospital. For hours the Calgary men lay in narrow, damp, surface trenches along the river. When dawn came the troops straggled back to town to learn the cause of their night of discomfort and uneasiness.<sup>2</sup>

The real danger from the Indians was along the North Saskatchewan where the Crees were in a rebellious

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1--Herald, April 14, 1885.

2--Smart's Reminiscences, Pub. in Calgary D. Herald, 1931-4





mood. On April 7, Strange received the following telegram from the Edmonton Committee of Defence: "Have wired Sir John. Indians on the war path. Send us men and arms immediately. Can you help us at once."<sup>1</sup> Strange now busied himself with getting together a force which he could take to Edmonton, and then down the Saksatchewan to the scene of trouble.

A troop of Scout Cavalry, the nucleus of which was twenty Mounted Police drawn from the mountains, was rapidly whipped into shape by Inspector Steele. They were armed with short Winchester magazine rifles and six-shot revolvers. On April 15, fifteen of these men were sent north under Lieutenant Corryell.

Strange had to wait for two regiments of militia from the east. On April 15 the 65th Regiment of Montreal, under Lieutenant Colonel Ouimet and consisting of twenty-seven officers and two hundred and ninety-eight men, arrived by special train. Lieutenant-Colonel Ouimet soon returned east, and Major Hughes assumed command. He drilled his men incessantly; musketry instruction, target practice, skirmishing, and out post practice were carried on.<sup>2</sup>

On the 18th, the Ninth, a French-Canadian Battalion from Winnipeg, arrived. It consisted of seven companies of forty-two men and three officers each. They had joined solely because they thought they would have a brush

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1--Strange, Ibid p.410. 2--Herald, April 20, 1885.



with the Indians. It was consequently somewhat against their will when one of the companies, under command of Major Lewis, was sent to Gleichen to watch the Blackfoot reserve. Company Six, under Captain Callacey, was similarly detailed for duty at Macleod.<sup>1</sup>

By April 20, sufficient supplies, ammunition and forage had been obtained for the trip north. The forage was necessary as the prairie had been burnt by the Indians for many miles along the line of travel. Teams were hired from the settlers, at from \$5.00 to \$8.00 a day, for transportation purposes.

On the 20th, Major-General Strange left Calgary with the right wing of the column consisting of Steele's Scouts and four companies of the 65th Battalion. Rev. John MacDougall had been sent ahead with four Stoney scouts to interview the Indians between Red Deer and Edmonton, and to bring news of relief to the northern settlement. The left wing, consisting of two hundred and forty-two men and a nine-pound cannon, left three days later under the command of Major Perry.<sup>2</sup>

The troops covered the 200 miles to Edmonton in ten days. The French-Canadians were experienced axe-men so were of great service in making a road through the brush. As the telegraph wires connecting Edmonton with the east had been cut by the Indians, courier service was established

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1--Herald, April 22, 1885.

2--Blue, op cit p.181.



between Edmonton and Calgary, each man covering a beat of from twenty-five to thirty miles. One of these messengers was Dan E. Riley, who later became the cowboy Senator from Alberta. Strange left detachments at Red Deer, Battle River and Peace Hills to keep the line of communication open.<sup>1</sup>

On May 6, the detachment under Major Steele left Edmonton for Fort Pitt, by trail along the north bank of the Saskatchewan. It was followed two days later by Lieutenant-Colonel Hughes, commanding the remainder of the 65th Battalion. On the 14th, General Strange's command took transport to Victoria on flat-bottomed boats. Here they disembarked and advanced by trail until a junction was made with Major Steele at Frog Lake. They met the Indians at Frenchman's Butte, but before a decisive action could take place, the Indians withdrew. On July 2, Big Bear was captured by a Mounted Police patrol at Fort Carleton and the rebellion was over.<sup>2</sup>

The Alberta Field Force then started its long march back to Calgary. A cross-country route was selected and as they had only one large river, the Red Deer, to cross the march back was made with little difficulty. The force reached the Bow on the afternoon of July 18 and was given a royal welcome by the citizens. The men looked well in their Montana broadcloth and cowboy hats after their seventeen hundred mile ride. Some of the coats were torn

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1--Blue, op cit, p.182.

2--Ibid, p.185.





and some of the horses looked thin, but most of the hats were blazoned with the words: "Stand-off Coulee", "Medicine Lodge" and "Loon Lake"; reminders of the dangers passed and the arduous labors accomplished by the gallant troops.

The procession started from the ferry in the following order: The carriage containing the mayor, council and municipal officers; the carriage containing the reception committee; the civic band under Mr. Millward; Steele's Scouts; the Alberta Rifles under Major Hatton and the concourse of citizens on foot, mounted and in carriages.

On the arrival of the procession at the arch on MacTavish Street, Mayor Murdoch read the following address:

"We, the citizens of Calgary, are proud of the present opportunity of welcoming you home again. You have brought to a successful termination an arduous and dangerous expedition to quell rebellion and lawlessness in our fair country.

"We have watched your movements from day to day with the utmost interest and while we know that you were imperilling your lives, we have felt that our country's honor was safe in the hands of our brave Alberta men.

"We are glad to be able to welcome you back again to your home and friends. This is a proud day for us and the memory of your noble acts and self-sacrifice in the campaign will long remain green in the minds of your friends who remained at home."

Major Steele thanked the mayor and the citizens. He said that the men, he had the honor to command, fully deserved every praise. For discipline, endurance of hardships, and pluck, they had no superiors and he never



wished to command a finer body of men.

On the evening of July 22, a reception and banquet was held in the Boynton Hall. Three hundred and fifty guests attended. At the main table were placed: Mr. Riley, the chairman, Major Steele, Major Walker, Captain Oswald, Major Hatton, Captain Hamilton, Major Dowling, Father Lacombe, Mr. McGibbon, Rev. Mr. McDougall, and the mayor. The many speakers referred to the recent rebellion, but true to the western spirit, they emphasized the glorious future which was in store for the west.<sup>1</sup>

After the disturbances of the rebellion had been settled, thousands of settlers from the East and the United States began to flock into Southern and Central Alberta. There agriculture was in a flourishing condition. Seeding had been completed before the Rebellion broke out and the crops were in a forward and entirely satisfactory state. The advent of the troops also had offered a market for all the surplus products of the settlers. Many of them, too had earned much money for their transportation services during the trouble, and they were able to get back to their farms in time for haying.<sup>2</sup> Calgary became the outfitting centre for the new-comers who were attracted by these prosperous conditions and during the summer months her growth was nearly as rapid as it had been in the fall of 1883.

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1--Herald, July 23, 1885.

2--Bulletin of Calgary Agricultural Society, page 2.



It was felt that an organization of the business men would be conducive to the welfare of the town, so on July 14, the first meeting of the Calgary Board of Trade was held in the Royal Hotel. About forty members were present, comprising almost every business man of standing in the town. The bylaws of the Winnipeg Board of Trade were adopted and Major Walker was elected president. This meeting petitioned the Dominion Government for a bridge over the Bow; and before winter a big steel bridge was erected at Dewdney Street (4th East).<sup>1</sup>

Despite the editorials of the Herald, Calgary was still without fire protection, although a fire which might have destroyed the entire town had taken place in January, 1885. J. L. Bowen's house on Atlantic Avenue had burned as the water carts of Messrs. Beaupre and Johnson had failed to check the blaze, while the citizens had recourse to throwing snowballs at the flames but not with much success. In twenty minutes the house was completely destroyed.<sup>2</sup> This gave the Herald an opportunity for increased agitation, but it was not until July that the Council took action. Then \$1,100.00 was appropriated for a hook and ladder apparatus and provision was made for the digging of wells and the formation of a fire brigade as soon as the necessary equipment should arrive.

This did not include a fire engine which was considered

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1--Herald Files, 1885.

2--Herald, January 23, 1885.





impracticable as it would have necessitated the building of tanks and a fire hall.<sup>1</sup> On August 25, however, the hook, ladder and bucket brigade was duly organized with Steve Jarrett as first captain. Mr. Donohue was made lieutenant; W. H. Cushing, treasurer; Joe Radway and James Smart, laddermen; Jack Summers, Walter Jarrett, A. Keman, S. J. Clarke and S. N. Jordan, hookmen. The fire-wells were equipped with large wooden pumps each having a long iron handle, which four men could operate at the same time. Rubber buckets were used. A Holloway chemical engine was later purchased.<sup>2</sup>

Calgary had grown so rapidly that it was given two seats in the North-West Council, and on September the citizens chose as their representatives, D. Lauder and H. S. Cayley. By this time the Edmonton, St. Albert and Macleod districts of Alberta were also represented.<sup>3</sup>

During the Rebellion the Herald had issued a daily telegraphic bulletin, but on July 2 it embarked upon the publication of a regular daily newspaper. On the day of its publication Mr. Cayley, the editor, wrote:

"Today marks the issue of the first daily paper in Calgary. Slight as are its proportions, they are not very much less than were those of Winnipeg's first daily.

"We are aware that it is not generally admitted that Calgary can support a daily paper. It is a pity that its citizens have so little faith in the future of the town, as

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1--Herald, July 23, 1885.

2--Smart's Reminiscences.

3--Albertan, 1909, Anniversary, Page 3.



to suppose it can undertake anything without carrying it through. Calgary has undertaken much bigger jobs than the issuing of a daily paper, and in spite of a good many pessimists, it is today in a better financial condition than any other town in the Territories.

"We have the utmost confidence that a daily will be a success and we have not the slightest doubt that the town will welcome its appearance."<sup>1</sup>

The new venture was successful, and the Washington hand press on which the first editions were printed, was soon superseded by a Prouty cylinder press which had a capacity of four hundred copies an hour.

About this time, George B. Elliott, the Herald's journalistic enemy, left for the east, to accept a position on the Toronto Mail. Mr. Bailey took over the Nor'-Wester and renamed it the Tribune. It carried on the feud with the Herald so effectively that its editor was soon charged with libel.

The year closed with a bitter fight between Mr. Jeremiah Travis, an Easterner, who had become stipendiary magistrate of Calgary, and many of the citizens. Prohibition had always been a troublesome question in Calgary yet the bitterness of feeling had been mitigated a good deal by the slack and spasmodic enforcement of the law by the Mounted Police. However, this easy-going and comfortable state of affairs was destined to a rude disturbance by Mr. Travis, who was a staunch prohibitionist. Within a



few months, one alderman had been sentenced to six months in prison while the rest of his colleagues, including Mayor Murdoch, had been disfranchised and declared incapable of holding office, despite the fact that they had recently been returned by a large majority. The defeated ticket, with James Reilly as mayor, had been declared by the court to be the only real and legal council in existence.

Mr. Cayley, editor of the Herald, had written regarding Mr. Travis: "He makes an elegant stipendiary but we would have preferred, if not a local, at least a Manitoba lawyer in good standing, whose acquaintance with the Territories might be considered on a par with Mr. Travis' acquaintance with Ottawa lobbies."<sup>1</sup> To make matters worse, John Innis, a local artist, had illustrated the front page of the Herald with cartoons of Mr. Travis.

For this article Mr. Cayley was condemned to a brief term of imprisonment but was allowed to deliver himself up at the police barracks at his own time. On the appointed day, he set out from the Herald office seated on a wagon hauled by the stalwarts of the anti-Travis faction, in a long procession headed by a brass band. After stops at each saloon along the way, he was finally handed over to the police by his reluctant admirers.<sup>2</sup>

There were now two mayors, two councils and two sets of officials in existence. Mayor Reilly kept pos-

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1--Herald, 1923, Anniversary, page 10

2--Herald, 1933, " " 3.





session of the city hall while Mayor Murdoch, who had retained the town books, held the meetings of his council in a saloon. Neither could collect any taxes nor pay its officials, and a most preposterous situation had to be overcome by an order from Ottawa, dissolving both councils and ordering a new election. Mr. G. C. King, postmaster, was returned as mayor, and the municipal tangle was thus straightened out.<sup>1</sup>

In the meantime, Mr. Murdoch, who had been sent to Ottawa by a number of the citizens, despatched a telegram to Calgary--"Calgary released, cemetery granted, Jerry must go."<sup>2</sup>

1--Albertan, 1909. Anniversary, Page 6.

2--MacRae, op cit. Page 617.





Stephen Avenue 1886 (Looking East)



A WESTERN COW-TOWN.

After the excitement of the rebellion and the municipal dispute, Calgary settled down to the quiet life of a western "cow-town." Occasional sports days, church suppers, and theatrical performances, together with political campaigns and civic elections helped to enliven an otherwise somewhat humdrum life.

The school, always a centre of interest in a small town, received frequent mention in both the Herald and Tribune. In 1886, J. Boag succeeded Mr. Douglas as principal, Miss Watson continued as assistant teacher. Inspector John McLean visited the school during the summer and reported very favorably on it.

"Both teachers have shown considerable enterprise in their work. There were sixty pupils present, all of whom evinced a deep interest in their studies. Their progress has been in general rapid. Grasping intelligently the subjects being taught, they are enabled to throw aside the drudgery consequent upon the old methods of task of memory.

"The order maintained is excellent. This has been secured by kindness and tact. A healthy tone pervades the school, the pupils trying eagerly to excel.

"The school building (a store building on Stephen Avenue East) is in poor condition, lacking proper arrangement, suitable location and necessary warmth. Pupils who





have not attended school for years, and many who are just commencing to study, have introduced an element that materially hinders rapid advancement."<sup>1</sup>

This defect was remedied the next year when a four-room brick veneer school was built near the location of the present Central school.

At this time there were only six schools in the country from Red Deer south to the Boundary and from Medicine Hat west to British Columbia. Mr. Maclean, missionary at the Blood Indian Reserve, supervised all the work done in the Protestant schools.<sup>2</sup> In January 1889, James Short became principal of the Calgary school. He had three assistants, Miss McIntyre, Miss Cowan and Miss Wheeler.

During the summer, a high school department was organized; the second in the Territories, the other one being at Regina.<sup>3</sup> At that time the following students were enrolled in the upper room; Louisa McNeill, Samuel McNeill, Forbes McNeill, Harry Watson, Florence Watson, Jane McIntyre, Frank Constantine, Thomas Bruce, Willie Collins, Lizzie Collins, Mary Dillabough, Helen Harris, Muriel Harris, Alex Duncan, George King, John Smart, Polly King, Benjamin Gouin, Maud Cushing, Louisa Cushing, Ernest Wood, William Curran, May James, Leta James, Sadie Carr, Laura Eshelman, Pearl Grant, Bellis Thorpe, Maud Ramsay, George Hunter, Herbert Bishop, George Chapman, Laura

O'Neill, May Marsh, Fred Algar, William Ellis, Emma Eshelman

1--Outline of Calgary Schools, p.2. // 2--Higinbotham op cit p.122. // 3--Herald, June 2, 1923 p.12. // 4--Herald, 1933p8.



During these years, the education of those pupils attending the Roman Catholic private school was well looked after by the sisters who had started the school.

That other agent of civilization, the Christian church, was very active. The Methodist, Roman Catholic and Presbyterian congregations grew rapidly and in 1888 the Methodists built a fine new church with a seating capacity of four hundred at the south-east corner of Angus Avenue (6th) and Hamilton Street (2nd West). This was the largest church in the town for some time. About the same time the Anglicans erected a place of worship costing \$3,200.00 at the corner of Angus (6th) Avenue and Osler Street (1st East) and the Catholics made additions to the convent and church, on Notre Dame Avenue (17th).

The first Baptist church in Calgary was organized on May 15, 1888, at the home of Mr. E. King; the charter members were Mr. and Mrs. Edward King, Mr. and Mrs. Eshelman, Mr. J. G. Van Wart, Mrs. George Constantine, and J. S. Povah. The first service was held in the Masonic Hall, but a warehouse, on McIntyre Avenue, was soon leased from G. C. King for church purposes. The first ordained minister was Rev. Geo. Cross who began his work in May, 1889. He was largely instrumental in having a church built the next year.<sup>1</sup>

There was little bitterness between the various congregations. As a rule the various churches went

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1--Herald, 1933 Anniversary.



together to stage Christmas concerts in the Knox Presbyterian Church and at a concert given by the Catholics on St. Patrick's Day, 1888, to secure funds to build a church, all the clergymen in the town were present and one half the audience was Protestant.<sup>1</sup>

Calgary was well served by the two daily newspapers, the Herald and the Tribune, neither of which had lost its old time bitterness for the other. In January, 1886, Mr. Cayley sold the Herald to Mr. A. Lucas, formerly of Winnipeg. At this time, Mr. Cayley was suing T. B. Braden, then with the Tribune, for libel. The case was dropped after an apology had been printed in the Tribune. <sup>The</sup> Herald's new editor, Mr. Ewer, continued the feud and the second issue of the paper under his charge denounced the Tribune as a venal sheet, and another article compared its movements to those of a bucking broncho. Later it was a "shameless libeler." The various political campaigns which were waged at this time augmented the bitterness of the quarrel.

In 1888, the Herald moved to a building on Stephen Avenue just west of MacTavish Street. At this time it took over the Alberta Live Stock Journal, a weekly which had been published by Major Hatton.

On August 31 the Herald celebrated its fifth birthday by a special edition printed in red ink. It looked back to the time when it started in a tent on the 1--Herald, 1923. Anniversary, page 6.





banks of the Elbow, to the worthy causes it had supported, to its quarrels with the Nor -Wester and the Tribune, and to the growth of Calgary during the five years. With a fine burst of Western optimism it made a forecast as to the future, when Calgary would rival Chicago, Denver and Winnipeg as key cities of the West.<sup>1</sup>

Ever since the establishment of the original post, athletic and sporting events had received much attention in Calgary. Impromptu horse races, bucking contests and foot races were very popular but it was not until 1887 that games were more formally organized. On April 15 of that year, at a meeting held in the Gerald House, it was decided to recruit a baseball club, the Pilots, under the captaincy of George Fozier. A diamond was mapped out south of the railway tracks, and many interesting games took place.

Lacrosse enthusiasts soon followed the lead of the baseballers, and Dave Patterson, who had starred on several Eastern Canadian teams, was elected captain and playing coach. Two teams were chosen and the game vied with baseball for popularity in the town. Despite the fact that lacrosse was originally an Indian game, the western tribesmen were too indifferent to take an active part, although many of them were interested spectators.<sup>2</sup>

The celebration held in honor of Queen Victoria's

1--Herald, 1923. Anniversary, page 6.

2--Smart's Reminiscences.



Jubilee, on July 8, 1887, was typical of all such events. Stephen Avenue was a mass of color, the store fronts were decorated with red, white and blue bunting, from every roof-top flew either the Union Jack or the Canadian ensign and every buttonhole was adorned with small rosettes of the national colors. The high-wheeled bicycle race, which was run over a half-mile course on the Mission property, was won by Jim Horner. The Indian pony races were held in the afternoon and then came the field and track competitions. The main event, the hundred-yard dash, was won by George Irvine, who lost the quarter-mile race to the great Blackfoot runner, Deerfoot. After supper, the sports were transferred to Stephen Avenue where the fire-reel races were run off. The tug-of-war between the firemen was won by E. R. Roger's team. For the best decorated store front, first prize was awarded to G. C. King, second to I. G. Baker Company and third to W. H. Kennistown. The programme was closed with a grand ball in the firehall.<sup>1</sup>

The year 1888 began with the first hockey game ever played in Calgary. There were ten men to a side; they used hockey sticks and old brooms, and the puck was a wooden block. This game, which lasted for one and a half hours, was played on the Elbow River where a space about one hundred yards long had been cleared off.

The most outstanding sport's event of the year was



the baseball match played in Calgary in September between Medicine Hat and Donald, British Columbia, for the championship of Western Canada. Practically the whole population of Calgary witnessed the game which was won by Donald by a score of twelve runs to four. Additional games were played at Medicine Hat on September 27 with Donald again the victor and Medicine Hat second, Lethbridge third and Calgary fourth.<sup>1</sup>

Many impromptu horse races were held during the summer as the Indians and cowboys were always ready to race their ponies for any distance from one hundred yards to a mile, provided that a bet was forthcoming. These races aroused so much enthusiasm that the newly-organized Alberta Turf Club held a meet on September 9 and 10, on their mile track, in Elbow Park. John Lineham was president and George Murdoch secretary.

On July 1, 1890, a race was held which attracted much interest, particularly among the Indians. A grey horse from the Battle River country (one hundred and forty miles north of Calgary) was matched against a local horse, Firefly, the property of Joe Spence, a half-breed. On the day of the race, half-breeds and Indians from all over the country began to pour into Calgary. Many wagers were made, and it was announced before the race, that Spence had bet three ponies, one cart, one set of harness, one grain  
1--Smart's Reminiscences.







CALGARY FAIR, 1885.  
#198  
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wagon, three green shirts, one stock saddle and \$4.00 in cash. Spence's horse won which resulted in many of the Indians from the north being forced to walk home.

On the night of July 10, the townspeople were invited to attend a sundance at the Sarcee Reserve, but when the cash contributions were not forthcoming, the old chief, Bull's Head, calmly announced that he couldn't make any braves at that price so the ceremony was indefinitely postponed.

The fall race meet which opened on August 13 was the big event of the late summer. Hotel accommodation was at a premium, and many visitors were required to pitch their tents at the race track. Instead of pari-mutuel betting machines, auction pools were sold, and the gentlemen in charge did a good business. The meet, which was very successful, continued for three days.<sup>1</sup>

The agricultural society, which had been formed in 1884, was re-organized in 1886, and a fair was held on the 19th and 20th of October in Claxton's Star Rink located on the south side of Angus (6th) Avenue, just east of McTavish (Centre) Street. Unfortunately, a snow storm which occurred on the 18th adversely affected both the number of exhibits and the attendance. Nevertheless, the occasion was a distinct success. There were twelve classes for roadsters, which included driving horses,  
1--Smart's Reminiscences.



trotters, pacers and horses driven to democrats. Five classes were listed for heavy draft horses while Durhams were the most popular breed of cattle. Prizes for the best exhibits of sheep, swine and poultry were offered. Grain and garden vegetable classes were plentiful, as were those for homecooking, fancy work, knitting, embroidery, dairy produce, plants and flowers. Prizes were also given for the best buggies, carriages, democrats, wagons and horse shoes. The entries of ladies work and vegetables were particularly good but the live stock exhibits, except for horses, were a disappointment. There were no sheep entered and the classes for cattle, pigs and poultry were poorly represented.

The first event of the second day was the baby show, and as there were only three entries, the money was taken from the sheep classes so that each baby could be given a first prize. In the band contest, the Police Band, under Sergeant Bagley, won over the city entry.

The annual fairs were continued, and in July, 1889, the present exhibition grounds, at that time ninety-four acres in extent, were purchased from the Dominion Government by the Agricultural Society.<sup>1</sup>

Despite the dry years following 1885, settlers continued to come into the surrounding districts, and the police authorities found it necessary to extend their work

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1--Agricultural Society's Bulletin.







accordingly. Outposts were established at Stimson's Ranch, fifty-five miles to the south-west, at Scarlett's, forty-eight miles north, at the Blackfoot Reserve, at Banff and at the Anthracite coal mines near Banff. E Division was increased to ninety-nine men. Most of the work, however, was routine in nature as shown by the report of November, 1887. "To Regina with horses, with horses to be left at Kerfoot's Ranche on herd, with supply of oats for the Stimson detachment; to Radnor with search warrant, no stolen goods found; five miles up the Elbow to arrest Davis, liquor; to Cochrane to seize liquor (500 gallons) reported as coming on the C.P.R. to that place, none found.<sup>1</sup>"

Whenever a serious crime did take place, it aroused much excitement in the town. In May 1886, two notorious characters, Gallagher and Crackerbox Jones, had escaped from Sergeant Gordon after shooting him. On August 14, two men (supposedly these two) robbed two brothers named de Rambouville, near Calgary, and on August 23, the Edmonton stage was held up and robbed. The stage, driven by Pete Campbell, with Mr. J. Burns, traveller for J. H. Ashdown, J. Clokey, traveller for the Massey & Company, and an old Frenchman as passengers, had arrived at Twin Buttes, two miles south of Dixon's when two men, masked with Union Jacks, sprang up from the long grass and covered the stage.



The passengers were robbed and three mail bags were opened but, fortunately, the registered mail was not found. In all, \$435.00 was taken.<sup>1</sup>

Seventeen police were sent out but the men could not be tracked for more than two miles because of the short grass and hard ground. After this, the mails between Calgary and Edmonton were constantly escorted by the police until cold weather made this unnecessary. Outposts were then placed at the stopping places along the road, and the next spring patrolling was resumed.<sup>2</sup> The two highway men were never discovered.

On February 28, 1888, a brutal murder took place, which together with the two subsequent trials, provided Calgary with news for several months. Rosalie, a Cree squaw, was found dead in a room over the Turf Club restaurant which stood on the west side of McTavish (Centre) Street between Stephen (8th) and Atlantic (9th) Avenues. Jumbo Fiske confessed the crime. He was committed to trial at a preliminary hearing, and on April 9, was tried before Mr. Justice Rouleau in the immigration shed on Pacific (10th) Avenue. J. R. Costigan represented the crown while Fiske was defended by E. P. Davis of Calgary and F. Tyrell, an eminent criminal lawyer of Morrisbourg, Ontario. Although Constable Dillabough testified that Fiske had confessed to him, the jury, after a trial of three days,

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1--Albertan, 1909 Anniversary page 2.  
2--N.W.M.P. Commissioner's Report for 1886.





After the Great Fire 1886







brought in a verdict of not guilty. The judge refused to accept this decision and ordered a new trial. This took place in July when Wiske was found guilty of manslaughter and was sentenced to fourteen years imprisonment in the Stony Plain Penitentiary.<sup>1</sup>

There were many cases of cattle stealing and of negligence in setting prairie fires but these occasioned little excitement.

On Sunday, November 4, 1886, Calgary's first great fire broke out in the flour and feed store of S. Parish & Company. The bell in the English Church aroused all the townspeople who quickly gathered. The fire spread with great rapidity and in a short time the whole block on the south-west corner of McTavish Street and Atlantic Avenue, as well as the Union Hotel across the street, was in flames.

The town council had some few months previously purchased a chemical engine and horse reel, but because of lack of money they had been unable to remove it from the customs building. However, in this time of necessity, the volunteer fire brigade re-inforced by a number of citizens, broke open the door of the office and wheeled out the equipment. It failed to check the flames, which fanned by a heavy wind, spread to the Grand Central Hotel, and then started to eat north, towards Stephen Avenue. An attempt was made to blow up Geo. Murdoch's store with

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1--Smart's Reminiscences.



dynamite but the charge failed, and the fire approached the Royal Hotel where everyone was working with a will. To save the building wet blankets were hung over the roof and out of the windows. The flames failed to jump the alley behind the hotel but it was not until late in the morning that they were extinguished. The following day a second fire broke out which was thought, at the time, to be the work of an Indian incendiary. The mayor requested the Mounted Police to take charge of the town for a few days to restore order.<sup>1</sup>

The buildings destroyed were: the Parish Store, the Union Hotel, the Grand Central Hotel, the Mountain View Hotel, the Athletic Hotel, Sherman House, the Massey Manufacturing Company's building, Dunn and Lineham's warehouse, I. G. Baker's store and warehouse, W. Hunter's Store and dwelling, I. Stirrett's bakeshop, John Ellis' store, George Murdoch's harness shop, S. Parrish and Co.'s store, H. Rodway's tinshop, and the Pullman saloon. The total loss was \$100,200.00 of which \$32,000.00 was covered with insurance.<sup>2</sup>

This fire stirred the Council to action and a fire engine was purchased from J. D. Ronald for \$4,000.00. Tanks were built and a fire hall, costing \$800.00 was put up by Mr. O'Keefe. The citizens contributed \$500.00 to furnish the fire hall, and it was opened by a concert and

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1--Albertan, 1909. Anniv. page 2.  
2--Herald, 1923. " " 7.





Calgary 1888 (looking South)





dance. So attractively was it fitted up that the town Council started holding its meetings there. This did not please the volunteer fire company so it resigned in a body. The Council then organized another brigade, consisting of the mayor and councillors under a high-salaried chief. However, they were so unsuccessful in their first fire that the old brigade was asked to come back.<sup>1</sup>

The next serious fire took place on February 5, 1889, when Boynton Hall, the scene of all the early balls, dinners, and dramatic shows, was burned to the ground. At that time the building was being used as a Salvation Army barracks. When the volunteer brigade arrived on the scene, flames were shooting out of the roof and although the Ronald engine was brought into play, and a bucket brigade was quickly formed, the building was soon destroyed. When it looked as though the flames were going to spread, storekeepers and business men came to the assistance of the brigade. The majority of the town's buildings were of frame construction, dried out by the sun, which made a fire a very serious matter. Soon after this a regular fire brigade of ten men was formed to take the place of the volunteer corps which had done splendid work.<sup>2</sup>

In 1886 Calgary had a population of about 1,200. The town with the exception of one or two dwellings, the convent and the mission, was situated north of the railway

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1--Smart's Reminiscences.

2--Ibid.



track. The wooden sidewalk on the north side of Stephen Avenue extended from Hardisty (3rd Street East) to a point about half way between McTavish Street and Scarth (First Street West); beyond this there was only the prairie sod. The principal avenues and streets had been graded but were almost impassable in wet weather. The Hudson's Bay store was a one-storey frame building on the present site of the Royal Bank and the space between it and McIntyre Avenue (7th) was usually filled with the carts of half-breeds from the north. The Bank of Montreal and the Imperial Bank established branches in Calgary in 1886. Both were lodged in a frame building on Stephen Avenue owned by John Lineham. A. D. Braithwaite was the first manager of the Bank of Montreal while Samuel Barber guarded the interests of the rival firm.<sup>1</sup>

In 1887 steps were taken to instal an electric light system and a contract was entered into with A. P. McMullen, president of the Electric Light Company, which called for ten, thirty-two candle power lights at the cost of \$6.00 per month apiece, the lights to be on all night. In 1890 this company was taken over by the Calgary Power Company, often called the Eau Claire Power Company because of its close association with the Eau Claire and Bow River Lumber Company. This company secured a franchise to supply electric current to the town for commercial

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1--Herald, 1923. Anniv. page 6.



and domestic purposes. The new plant, which was situated on the south-west corner of McTavish Street and McIntyre Avenue, represented an outlay of \$30,000. It could light five hundred Edison carbon-filament lamps of sixteen candle power. The plant was soon enlarged and on March 1, the streets were illuminated with forty lights of fifty candle power.<sup>1</sup> Many of the citizens spent hours walking up and down the streets in the evenings as at that time four other Canadian cities or towns could boast of electric lights.<sup>2</sup>

In 1887, Mr. Lucas was granted the exclusive right to lay water and gas mains in the town and the council assisted him in drilling for gas but the venture was not a success.

By this time the private telephone line, constructed by Major Walker between his saw-mill and residence when Calgary was in its infancy, had been taken over by the Bell Telephone Company. It had grown to a line of forty-five subscribers. James Walker was still the manager and as there were no numbers the subscriber simply announced the name of the person or firm desired. The directory of November, 1888, listed the following subscribers: Fire Hall, Electric Light Station, C.P.R. freight office, Dominion Express office, Mounted Police Barracks, J. Sharples, Bannerman & Co., Fitzgerald & Ellis, 2--Smart's Reminiscences. // 1--Albertan, 1909 Anniv p.4.





Royal Hotel, Palace Hotel, F. G. Topp & Company, Hull & Trounce, Bank of Montreal, Imperial Bank, Dr. Rouleau, Dr. Lafferty, S. W. Trott, chemist, E. R. Rogers, hardware, A. Grant, Hardware, G. C. King & Co., I. G. Baker & Co., Hudson's Bay Co., J. G. McCallum, Eau Claire Mills, Bow River Mills, Calgary Lumber Co., Calgary Planing Mills, F. Dick's Lumber Yard, W. H. Ford, Bam & Hamilton, S. McDonald, Bell & Riddell, Armstrong & McNaughton, the Calgary Tribune, the Calgary Herald, and the private residence of E. H. Hodder, H. A. Dundas, Dr. Lafferty, Dr. Rouleau, James Walker, S. G. McCallum, J. A. Walker, and J. H. Freehan.<sup>1</sup>

By 1889 all that part of the town between Atlantic and Stephen Avenues, which had been destroyed by the great fire of 1886, had been rebuilt. Some of the new buildings, notably the Alberta Hotel, the Bank of Montreal, and the Alexander Block, were constructed of native sand stone. Calgary was considered the best built town west of Winnipeg.<sup>2</sup>

Mr. W. S. Caine who visited Calgary in the fall of 1887 found it a typical western town just emerging from its pioneer days. He wrote: "Calgary is a thriving infant of two years. It is a place of much vigor and bustle with a population of nearly 2,000. Building is going on everywhere, and with two or three exceptions, everything is of wood. It is laid out in the usual fashion, in wide streets, covering an area of about two miles each way. The bulk of these streets are at present prairie but a brisk trade

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1--Herald, 1933. Anniv. page 34.

2--MacRae, op cit page 428.



goes on in town lots.

"The great feature of Calgary society is the overwhelming predominance of the male sex; hardly a woman is to be seen on the streets. Neither did I see any old men; the whole population appeared to be under thirty years of age, and almost entirely English.

"The hotel at which we stayed was full to overflowing; many sleeping two in a bed. If the Leland Hotel had possessed a liquor bar, it would have been impossible for a decent, quiet person to stay there, and a similar town to Calgary, in Idaho, Montana or Dakota, would have been one long avenue of liquor saloons and music halls. The same class of population frequent Calgary, cowboys, farmers, idlers, yet the town is as quiet as an English country village.

"The popular amusement is the Salvation Army (established in August, 1887). We went to their meeting in the evening. They marched around the town in their usual fashion, passing through crowds of cowboys and similar young fellows, without encountering a jeer or coarse word. When they entered their barracks, all the men in the place swarmed in after them, to the tune of five or six hundred. They took their places quietly, joined heartily in the hymns and evidently enjoyed themselves thoroughly."<sup>1</sup>

However, Calgary had not entirely outgrown its frontier days, and even as late as 1890, the council had to pass by-laws prohibiting the firing of revolvers on the main streets and the grazing of cattle on Stephen Avenue.

The ranks of Calgary business men were increased in 1890 by the advent of Patrick Burns, who was destined to head Calgary's greatest business firm, the P. Burns Meat Packing Company. Burns had started in the meat business by selling a team of oxen in his homesteading days at Minnedosa, Manitoba. He realized such a profit that he bought another pair and fattened them, then he tried hogs,

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1--A Trip Round the World, 1887-8. Caine, W.S. George  
Routledge and Son, London.







Calgary

1889

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(Looking South-West)





and was the first person to ship western live stock to the eastern market. In 1886, he secured contracts from Mackenzie and Mann, the railway contractors, to supply their construction crews with fresh meat. In 1890, he came west to look after the requirements of the construction gangs working on the Calgary and Edmonton line. At this time he established a small retail store on Atlantic Avenue just west of McTavish Street. His business grew rapidly and he soon entered the wholesale meat field.<sup>1</sup>

It was felt that the interests of Calgary would be furthered by a board of trade, and in July, 1890, an organization meeting took place. Alexander Lucas was elected president, and P. J. Nolan, who was soon to become one of Calgary's foremost lawyers, was the first secretary. The board interested itself in all matters that would increase the prosperity of the town. Its committees studied freight rates, mixed farming and ranching, and the entire board did its best to encourage settlement in the Calgary district.<sup>2</sup>

The interests of the town were also kept to the fore by the Calgary Retail Merchants' Association which consisted of: James Thomson, T. C. Power, Y. C. Kitley, A. Allan, J. F. Glanville, A. Grant, W. H. Ford, I. S. Freeze, F. G. Topp, B. J. Hutchings, James Bannerman, A. Carson, F. Gillespie, T. B. Linton, J. L. Bowen, G. C. King, A. L. Cameron, W. J. Riley, W. H. Kinnistown, J. A. Thomson,

1--Herald, 1933. Anniv. page 31.

2--Smart's Reminiscences.



J. H. Kerr, A. D. Rankin, A. E. Shelton, R. A. James, T.B. Braden, W. McLean, and the Herald Publishing Company.<sup>2</sup>

These two organizations advertised for settlers, and together with the C.P.R. were largely responsible for the Alberta fever which hit Eastern Canada and the middle United States at this time and which resulted in the steady influx of settlers to take up homesteads in the rich farm lands of the south-west.

A strange stream of humanity moved through Calgary during these eventful years, and not the least interesting of all were the remittance men, those sons of Old England who were sent to the new land because, when once there, they could not come before the people of the Old Land so prominently. To the ordinary western mind, a remittance man was a rich Englishman who had proven a failure in his own land and had been sent into the new land to work out his own regeneration, if possible. For years the doings of these men, their misfortunes, their characteristics, were the source of many a Western story. They, with their leggings, monocles, caps, accent, habits and frequent cheques from home, were the everlasting sources of enjoyment and personal gain to the hard headed settlers and cowboys.

The remittance men of Alberta were as vigorous and as busy as any in the land--busy and vigorous in pursuit

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2--Herald, 1923 Anniv. page 6.



of leisure, pastime, and mad excitement. Their money was the mainstay of the hotels, the proprietors of which boarded, gave sleeping rooms, and allowed the bar to trust them. They rode through the streets, they drank with every one and they made pitiful exhibitions of themselves. Sometimes when the disgusted folks at home learned of their incorrigibility they cut the remittances off. Then the pioneers saw sadder sights than just plain waste; they saw these scions of good families become ragged and shiftless, drink-beggars and hotel hangers-on. However, sometimes a brighter result was shown when the latent manhood came to the surface and they became upstanding men to whom the opprobrious word "remittance" was no longer given.<sup>1</sup>

Ever since the coming of the C.P.R. in 1883, there had been various plans for a railway connecting Calgary and Edmonton, but all these proposals had come to naught. Stage coaches continued to carry the mail and passengers while Red River carts and wagons transported the freight. Whenever a train arrived from the East, hundreds of these freight vehicles assembled at the east side of the town to await their turn to load up. Some of the freighting outfits owned more than 1,000 horses, and they numbered their drivers by the hundreds. However, such a slow and expensive method of transportation could  
1--Kelly, op cit, page 241.





not continue in a west that was rapidly being opened up, and to meet the need for a railroad to the north, the Calgary and Edmonton Railway Company was formed.

The Company received a charter from the Canadian Parliament and at the same time a grant of 1,900,000 acres of land. A bond sale in England provided sufficient money to build the road and an agreement was made with the C.P.R. by which that company would operate the C.&E. line until 1896, with the option of buying it. The contractors quickly gathered their equipment and men together, and by the latter part of July, 1890, everything was ready for the turning of the first sod which was to be done by the Honorable Edgar Dewdney, Minister of the Interior.

The ceremony took place on July 21. A town holiday had been declared and practically the only places that stayed open for business were the restaurants. There was a procession led by Mayor Lafferty and Mr. Dewdney in a carriage drawn by a fine team of horses. They were followed by Sir Donald Mann, representing the railway, Comptroller White and Colonel Herchmer, representing the police, members of the town council, officials of the C.P.R., members of the legislative assembly of the North-West, and other prominent citizens. There were fully one hundred and fifty carriages and scores of ranchers and cowboys on saddle horses. The guard of honor was provided



by a detachment of the Police.

Upon arriving at the site of the proposed railway, located just east of where the Elbow joins the Bow, the crowd formed a big circle. Mayor Lafferty mounted a small platform and extended a warm welcome to the visitors and then James Ross and Nicoll Kingsmill, representatives of the C. & E. Co., related the events which had led up to the financing of the project. Mr. Dewdney, after a short speech, discarded his high hat and Prince Albert coat, and taking the official spade, attacked the soft sod, and within a few minutes had filled the wheelbarrow provided for the purpose.

The big open barbecue had to be postponed for a short time as the huge ox, which had been provided by the W. R. Hull Co., had spoiled in the hot sun. The committee soon secured another beef which was cooked in the approved manner. Every person present was provided with a sandwich and a glass of lemonade, after which the procession moved<sup>1</sup> back to the city.

Shortly after this, actual construction work was started and by the end of 1890, ninety-three miles of track had been laid. The railway entered Strathcona in July, 1891, but it was some years before it was extended across the Saskatchewan into Edmonton.

This line opened up much new country. The country  
1--Herald, 1933. Anniv. page 35.



to the south and west had been fairly well filled up by this time, but few had settled to the north. Men from Eastern Canada and the middle states of the Union began to take up homesteads along the C. & E., and before the railway had reached Strathcona, small settlements had come into existence along the line, all of which added to the prosperity of Calgary.

The new-comers went into the brush country, cleared it, and began to send out carloads of Red Fife Wheat, Banner Oats, barley, hay, hogs, and dairy cattle. They gave a solid prosperity to Calgary, but until the end of the '90's Calgary was to remain a "cow-town". The ranching industry of the south and west, despite its ups and downs, had made the town in the early '80's and until the twentieth century ranching was to continue to be its chief source of prosperity. Let us glance next at the range country which thus formed the economic background of the little town, which had sprung up at the meeting of the Bow and Elbow.





## RANCHING

The ranching industry, of which cattle raising was the most important, was started by those pioneers, the McDougalls of Morley, when they took a band of fifty horses and cattle south from Edmonton to Morley, in November, 1871. The following year they brought in a hundred head of steers and breeding stock from Montana.

In the fall of 1874 a man, named Shaw, drove five hundred head of beef stock through the Kootenay Pass, from British Columbia; turned north and arrived at Morley where Rev. John McDougall persuaded him to winter. He stayed until 1876 as the police at Calgary afforded a good market for beef.

In 1876, George Emerson, a former employee of the Hudson's Bay Company, gathered up a small herd of cows in Edmonton and drove them south to a location near Calgary where he supplied the police with butter and milk. He formed a partnership with a Mr. Lynch, and they made a business of driving in cattle and selling them.<sup>1</sup>

These ranchers did not permit their cattle to range as the bulls would have been killed and the cows carried away by the buffalo herds. However, just as soon as the great buffalo herds disappeared in 1877, cattle were placed on the open range as the country south of Calgary was particularly well adapted for that industry. The

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1--Herald-1923-Old Times. An article written by  
F. W. Goodsall.



many streams running in deep valleys, provided both water and shelter for the range animals. The dry autumns permitted the prairie grass to dry and cure which made excellent pasture. The Chinook winds moderated the winters so that there was rarely more than a few inches of snow on the ground at any time. This enabled the cattle and horses to find feed on the range except in the severest weather. These natural advantages, which had made the country a favorite haunt of buffalo, elk, moose and deer also made it the centre of a great ranching industry.<sup>1</sup>

In 1877, Fred Kanouse the former whisky trader brought twenty-two head of cattle into the Macleod district and permitted them to run wild on the prairie. These were the first range stock in the south.<sup>2</sup>

The cattle which had been promised to the Indians by Treaty Number 7 did not arrive until late in the fall of 1878, since Colonel Macleod did not consider it wise to turn this breeding stock over to the Indians at once, as they were on the verge of starvation and they had not learned to settle down in one place. When this stock was eventually delivered, the Indians thought more of immediate consumption than of the future increase.<sup>3</sup>

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1--MacInnes, up cit. Page 4.

2--Kelly, up cit. Page 120.

3--Ibid. Page 124.



The herds of the early ranchers also suffered at the hands of the natives. At first they killed quite boldly, but as police punishment taught them the result of such evil doing, they resorted to other means. One clever method was to herd stock onto the smooth glare-ice sheets caused by the overflowing of springs, then, very frequently, one or more head would slip and go down with all four feet radiating in different directions. This would tear the ligaments and muscles so that the beast was only fit for death. The natives would then eagerly ride to the owner's ranch and report the unfortunate animal that they had just found. As a rule they would be permitted to kill and keep the beef.<sup>1</sup>

In 1879, the Dominion Government started leasing huge tracts of land for twenty-one years, at one cent an acre, per year. Many wealthy easterners took advantage of this: Senator Cochrane secured a lease west of Calgary, along the Bow; John R. Craig and associates obtained thousands of acres in the hills, west of Mosquito Creek, the Oxley Ranch, and Sir John Waldron and associates leased a huge tract in the southern part of the Porcupine Hills. The Allan or Bar U lease was taken on the Highwood by the Allans of Montreal.<sup>2</sup> These large companies secured the finest leases and the small

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1--Ibid. Page 48.

2--Ibid. Page 140







man was forced to content himself with what was left. Instead of the country filling up with small stockmen, it was monopolized by a few.

The ranches were stocked with cattle from Montana or the East as the leaseholders could bring in stock duty free. In the spring of 1881, A. P. Patrick, who had been doing survey work for the Dominion Government in the West since 1878, went east and purchased two hundred good stock in Ontario. He shipped the cattle to Winnipeg by the C.P.R. and then drove them overland. This band was the foundation of the Mount Royal herds, which ranged along the Ghost River on the edge of the hills.<sup>1</sup>

Major Walker, manager of the Cochrane Ranch, stocked the 100,000 acre lease, which extended from Morley to Calgary on both sides of the Bow, with cattle from Montana. In the spring of 1881, he bought over 6,000 cattle at \$16.00 a head, delivered at the boundary. The I. G. Baker Company contracted to deliver this stock at the Cochrane Ranch for \$2.50 a head. Frank Strong, the Baker foreman, had thirty cowboys and three hundred horses under him. He divided the herd into two sections; the first contained steers and the second cows and calves. The stock was shoved along at a merciless rate; the steers averaging fifteen to eighteen miles a day, while the cows often did fourteen. The animals

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1--Ibid. Page 144.



were kept on the move from daylight until dark, and at night they usually preferred resting to eating. Little calves dropped out and were piled in wagons, traded for whisky, or left behind. The worn and weary stock were jammed across the Bow at Calgary, and were turned over to Major Walker and his men. The counting took place near the present C.P.R. depot, and then the animals were sent west to get located on the new range. Winter came on before the stock could recuperate; hundreds died before they could find shelter and water. They were only hair-branded that fall (marks made by acid or scraping with a knife) and by spring these brands had entirely disappeared. Major Walker was ordered to round up every head of unbranded stock which included the cattle owned by the settlers of the district. These small ranchers, in self-defence, reaped a harvest of Cochrane stock which had been missed in the general round-up.<sup>1</sup>

In 1882, Major Walker went south again, and bought over four thousand head from Poindexter and Orr. This herd was driven hard and reached Fish Creek, in September, in a weary and exhausted condition. Despite a fierce snow storm which buried the trails, Walker pushed the herd on to the Big Hill, near the present village of Cochrane. This was done by driving lusty native steers through the snow drifts and then putting the trail-worn herds into the

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1--Ibid, p. 150.



path they had made. Acting on telegraphic orders from the East, the Cochrane hands held the herds to their snow-bound range although there was fine grazing at the Blackfoot Crossing. When the spring of 1883 finally came, it was seen how terrible the loss had been. Some of the long ravines were so filled with carcasses that a man could walk their entire length without having to step from a dead body. Out of the 12,000 Cochrane cattle, a scant 4,000 remained. The next spring the remaining cattle were taken south to a new lease near the Waterton Lakes.<sup>1</sup>

In 1883, Mr. Lynch of the Bar U bought 3,000 head of cattle at Lost River, Idaho. The stock left in May and arrived at the ranch west of High River early in September. While in Idaho, Lynch hired a negro cowhand, John Ware, who was to share with Johnny Franklin of Macleod, and Frank Ricks of Cochrane, the mythical rough-riding championship of Alberta. At this time the wages of cowboys ranged from \$40.00 to \$60.00 a month while foremen drew from \$100.00 to \$120.00.<sup>2</sup>

By this time, the valley of the High River was dotted with the herds of Emerson, Lynch, Quirk, and French. In 1883, the Chipman Ranch was started at the Elbow, and Malcolm McInnes put both horses and cattle on Fish Creek. Near Calgary Sproule and Walsh had a ranch. Patrick and Bayne had gone into partnership in the Ghost River country.

1--Ibid, p. 152.

2--Ibid, p. 150.







The Military Colonization Company, under the management of General Strange, had leased and stocked a large ranch east of Calgary, in the valley of the Bow. This ranch was a sort of educational school for young English gentlemen who wished to learn ranching. Before the close of 1883, there were 25,000 cattle between the Bow River and the Boundary.<sup>1</sup>

In 1884, new lease regulations, which favored the smaller ranchers, were passed. No lease could exceed 100,000 acres or run for longer than twenty-one years. Rental rates were \$10.00 for 1,000 acres yearly and within three years there must be at least one head of stock for every ten acres.<sup>2</sup>

In June and July of 1884, high water caused small streams to become raging torrents, many cattle were swept away, and men risked their lives in hazardous fords.

However, the winter of 1884-5 was the best for stock that had ever been experienced and the cattle required no hay at any time. The weather, until the thaws came in February, was a steady invigorating cold, staying in the vicinity of zero. In January, two hundred head of cattle were driven from Pincher Creek to Calgary, and in February one hundred and fifty cattle came the one hundred and thirty miles from the mouth of the little Bow to Calgary. Both herds arrived in fine condition.<sup>3</sup>

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1--Ibid, p.156.

2--Ibid, p.156.

3--Ibid, p.164.



The stockmen north of Mosquito and Willow Creeks met at Skrine's Ranch in September, 1885, and formed the North-West Stock Association with Alexander Hill, president, F. S. Stimson, vice-president, and G. Levinge, secretary. It was composed of the Oxley, Bar U, Sheep Creek, Mount Head, Little Bow, Military Colonization, Winder, Skrine, Emerson, Iken, and Quirk ranches.<sup>1</sup>

The winter of 1886-7 was one of the worst on record. From before Christmas to the end of February it was very cold and then it changed to wild floods and fierce snowstorms. The crusted snowdrifts caused heavy losses especially among the new stock. Hay was not to be had and great steers were found with their throats and stomachs punctured by sharp splinters from dried and frozen branches. Bodies lay in piles from six to eight feet deep in the ravines. West of Calgary the snow was not so deep but six weeks of very cold weather killed even the strongest cattle. The average loss in the Calgary district was from fifty to sixty per cent. On top of this, there came a drop in the price of beef. However, the cattlemen proceeded to stock up again, and huge quantities of hay were cut.<sup>2</sup>

Until the railway came in, the I. G. Baker Co. bought all the animals that the ranchers had to sell. Their market was the Indians, the Mounted Police posts,

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1--Ibid, page 185.

2--Ibid, pages 199-204.



and later the railway construction camps. They paid from \$35.00 to \$45.00 and they bought indiscriminately as old bulls were as toothsome to the Indians as the best-fed steers. The ranchers prospered during the Rebellion of 1885 as the government paid .14¢ a pound for the run of the herd. For the next few years, the ranchers suffered for lack of adequate markets but in 1887 they began to realize the possibilities of the British market. The first overseas exports netted \$45.00 a head but shipments a year later turned out a dead loss as they had not been selected with the same care. It was the realization that the Old Country would accept nothing but the best, which induced many ranchers to improve their herds.<sup>1</sup>

At this time, another large market was opened up when the Von Valkenburgs, a large retail organization on the Pacific Coast, purchased two trainloads of stock at High River.

Next to a hard winter, the ranchers feared prairie fires, which might sweep down upon their herds at a minute's notice and leave in their wake blackened ranges and cattle for which death was a merciful deliverance. One of the most devastating of these was described by an early traveller:

"Darkness had not settled over the prairie, before we saw long tongues of flame thrown up against the sky from a  
l--MacInnes, op cit page 229.





distant ridge; these disappeared and the bright glare only remained. A few minutes passed and a nearer ridge was reached and a long line of fire was seen to cross it and disappear. A few minutes more and the fire had passed the last ridge and with the speed of a fast horse it bore down upon us. As it came near, the whirling smoke and flames seemed to take the forms of living things that were in terrible agony. When it reached our oasis, it swept past on either side and a few gulps of smoke accompanied by a strong, hot wind were the only discomforts it caused us. When it was past, we saw that it kept an even front and wherever the grass was long and thick the flame continued for some time after the first rush had passed.<sup>1</sup>"

Horse raising was relatively much less important. Before 1874, with the exception of those belonging to whisky traders or occasional travellers, Indian cayuses were the only horses found in the south-west. The original stock had been obtained by the Piegans during the second or third decade of the eighteenth century, from the Snakes, who lived across the mountains. Their increase, despite the haphazard methods of the Indians, showed that the country was well adapted for horseraising.<sup>2</sup>

The coming of the police marked the real beginning

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1--Manitoba and the Great North-West. Macoun, J.

World Publ Co., Guelph, 1882. Page 652.

2--MacInnes, op cit page 6.



of the industry. A breeding farm was established near Pincher Creek in 1875 as the native Indian ponies were quite unsuited for police purposes.<sup>1</sup> In the following year, a man named Christie, brought from Montana the first herd of horses offered for sale in Southern Alberta. He found a ready market at \$100.00 a head among the white settlers, the Indians and the police.<sup>4</sup> When the Rev. John McDougall returned to Morley after the negotiation of Treaty Number 7 in 1877, he took with him a band of horses which he had purchased from an American at the Blackfoot Crossing.<sup>2</sup>

Early in the '80's, General Strange imported a number of stallions and mares. It was hoped that the British Army would provide a steady market but, mainly because of the transportation problem, this venture was not wholly successful. The completion of the C.P.R. gave an immediate stimulus to the horse industry, and by 1887, the Cochrane Crritchley, Rawlinson, and Barwis horse ranches had been established on the Bow, and the Stimson ranch on the Highwood. Clydesdales, Hackneys, Irish Hunters, and Thoroughbreds were placed on the range, and attempts were made to develop the industry on proper lines.<sup>3</sup>

The Bow River Horse Ranch, located on part of the old Cochrane range, employed only Englishmen to handle

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1--Blue, @p cit p.339.

2--Kelly, op cit p.126.

3--Report of NWMP Comm./90, p.14

4--Kelly, op cit p.115.



and break the animals in order that they would be better suited for the British market.<sup>1</sup> R. G. Robinson, who bought the Chipman Ranch, obtained a stock of brood mares from John Lineham and was very successful in raising good grade workhorses.<sup>2</sup>

The majority of the cattle ranches raised their own saddle ponies and as the demand for draft horses for agricultural purposes was only beginning by 1890, the number of horse ranches compared with those devoted to cattle was relatively small.

Sheep ranching in Alberta never attained the proportions that did either cattle raising or horse raising, although Dr. Hector, of the Palliser expedition, had been impressed with the possibilities of the country for that kind of stock, and Alexander Begg believed that Alberta was even better suited for the production of sheep than for that of cattle and horses. The foothills and river bottoms would, he thought, supply the necessary shelter, the country was well furnished with an abundance of water, and its dry climate and altitude, together with the rich natural grasses, would make it a shepherd's paradise.<sup>3</sup>

The first few sheep were driven into Southern Alberta in the late '70's but before the '80's no in-

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1--Kelly, op cit p.214.

2--Ibid, p.216.

3--Macoun op cit p.228.





dustry had been established as the wolves, coyotes and starving Indians would have rendered it unprofitable.<sup>1</sup> In 1884, W. D. Kerfoot, manager of the British-American Horse Ranch Company, which had taken over the old Cochrane Ranch, brought in 8,000 fat grade sheep from Montana. The herd crossed the Bow at Calgary, in a blinding September snowstorm. Two hundred Shropshire Down rams were imported. Alexander Begg, at the mouth of the High River, had been successfully breeding sheep in small numbers but Kerfoot's was the first great drove to be turned loose in the district.<sup>2</sup>

But sheep raising was not destined to experience as great a success as had attended cattle ranching. For one thing, the cattle men of the south, knowing that cattle could not live on the same range as sheep, petitioned the Government for protection, and in 1884, sheep raising was prohibited south of the High River and the north fork of the Bow.<sup>3</sup> Then the sheep experiment on the old Cochrane Ranch met with disaster; in March a prairie fire destroyed 1,000 head; over 300 were drowned in a deep slough during a snowstorm and hundreds of ewes died while lambing. As a result the British-American Co. soon returned to cattle raising. Other ranchers were not deterred by this Cochrane experience, and by 1886 there

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1--MacInnes, op cit page 237.

2--Kelly, op cit page 169.

3--Ibid, page 178.



were 25,000 sheep in the Calgary district. Pettapiece and Potter, Lafferty and Brown each had 4,000 head on Nose Creek and Frank White's Merino Ranch, west of Calgary, was soon to have 5,000 head.<sup>1</sup> However, by 1889, the sheep ranchers were beginning to reduce their herds, preparatory to withdrawing from the business because of the continued low price of wool and the possibilities of heavy winter losses.

By 1890, the business of breeding live stock on the range had developed from a haphazard system to a fairly careful and methodical business of which the most minute details were studied in order to achieve a maximum of efficiency in production. The first big herds were thrown on the open range and left to themselves, cowboys being engaged to see that they kept within reach of their own ranges, to assist weak stock in the springtime, to work on the roundups and to brand in the spring and fall. But after the first ten years, various lessons had been learned, sometimes in a very bitter form, and the ranching business now entailed much work. The best ranchers were weaning and feeding their calves; weak cows were being corralled for winter feeding; bulls were generally held at the home ranch, and the good stallions were usually kept up though scrubs were still allowed on the range.<sup>2</sup>

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1--Kelly, op cit page 194.

2--Ibid, page 251.



Shorthorns and Herefords were the prime favorites although Polled Angus were gaining in favour, and many were using Highland bulls to give a better rustling animal with better textured meat and finer robes.<sup>1</sup> The cayuse stock was gradually being replaced by Clydesdales.

The ranches were decreasing in size but increasing in numbers; the days of the 100,000 acre ranch with its thousands of cattle were over. The small rancher with little capital but with practical experience had ousted the large ranches, capitalized in and managed from the East.

The cattle and horse industry was to prosper until the turn of the twentieth century, when the small farmer who combined tillage with stock raising, with his deadly barbed-wire fences, completed the work of shutting off the water-holes, the choice ranges, and the well protected river valleys from the range stock. With the passing of the open range, the old ranching industry was doomed; a more solid but far less romantic, economic order, had come to take its place.

1--Kelly, op cit Page 211.





George and H.B.  
Alexander

Bow

SCHOOL / F

A. McPherson C.P.R.

James Walker

Calgary  
1891

1- Calgary Light Co. 2. Post Office 3. Baptist Church 4. Methodist Church 5. Anglican Church  
6- Public School 7. Fire Hall 8. Alberta Hotel 9. Royal Hotel 10. Bank of Montreal Imperial Bank

Roman Catholic Mission



## CONCLUSION

The gradual evolution of the economic life of Southern Alberta was reflected in the business, social and political life of Calgary as it was in all the towns of the south-west. Middle-aged men from Ontario and the Central States came in to take up free homesteads or to engage in the business life of the towns so that their sons might have those opportunities which the East did not provide. Most of these men had money and they gave the west a stability which it would not otherwise have had.

The dry years of 1890-94 gave a setback to the south-west as many of the settlers moved to the bush country along the Calgary-Edmonton line. However, the wet years following 1894 stopped this exodus with its accompanying auction sales and notices of bankruptcy. The completion of the Macleod branch of the C. & E. line hurt the Calgary retailer, but it started the influx of eastern wholesale houses into Calgary.

The increase of wealth and population resulted in well-defined social classes replacing the more democratic life of the frontier town. The relative proportion of women to men increased and more attention was paid to education and the other nic<sup>e</sup>ties of civilization.



The men from the East brought their political faiths with them and instead of campaigns being waged about the personalities of the respective candidates, the platform of the Conservative and Liberal parties now became the principal consideration. The position of the various political standard-bearers regarding tariffs and the Manitoba School Question received more attention than did their stand on ranch leases, homesteads, range laws, around which the earlier political campaigns had been waged. The newcomers from the East resented the position of Alberta as a territory and soon all united to obtain provincial autonomy for Alberta.

Calgary's position as the chief centre of the district of Alberta seemed to be assured. By 1894 its population had increased to 3,000 so on January 1 of that year the Lieutenant-Governor of the North-West Territories signed the charter which incorporated it as a city, the first centre in the Territories to be so honored. The following years were to be kind to Calgary and although it never equalled Denver and Chicago, as the men of 1884 had optimistically prophesied, it was to have a population of 80,000 just 60 years after the founding of Fort Calgary, an isolated police outpost in the country of the Blackfeet.







OPINION

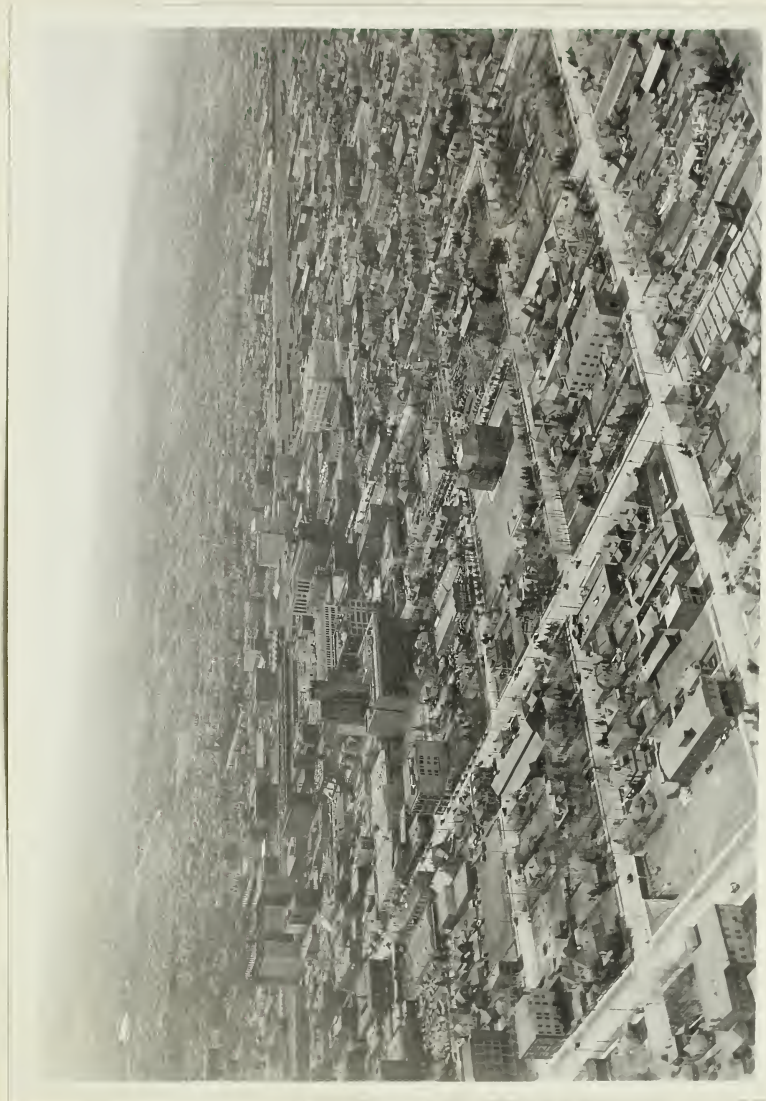
LEWIS & ROBERTS

100, 721, CALGARY, FROM THE EAST, APRIL 1892.

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EDMUND, N.Y. CAN.



Calgary 1935



Rankin & Allan, gents' furnishings; C.E. Jacques, jeweler; Thos. Burns, auctioneer; I.G. Baker & Company, general merchants; S. Parrish & Company, flour and feed; Thomson Bros., stationers; A. Ferland & Chas. Watson, sellers of bankrupt stock; S. W. Trott, druggist; McIntyre & Davidson, jewelers; Jas. C. Linton, stationery and tobacco; J. D. White & Company, painters; Ross & McNamara, shoemakers; J. H. Rodway & Company, tinsmiths; Geo. L. Fraser, confectioners; J. G. Van Wart, general merchants; A. Henderson, M.D. and druggist; Geo Squibb, baker; I.J. Claxton, baker; Mortimer & Company, baker; R. J. Ogburn, barber and bathhouse; Geo. Murdoch, harness; A. C. Sparrow, butcher; A.P. Samples, butcher; Cummings & Allen, livery; W. A. Mickle, livery; A. G. McDonald, livery and feed; Geo. A. Winton, mail driver; King & Company, Royal Mail Line, passenger and express; S. J. Hogg & Company, lumber; Frank Dick, lumber; Jas. Walker, lumber; Murphy & Martin, gents' furnishings; Penistan & Jarvis, real estate; J. K. Oswald, notary public; Chipman Bros., hardware; Thos. Watts, architect and builder; E. McCraskie & Company, architect; W. T. Ramsay, notary public; Jas. Martin, H. E. Smith, Jarrett, Cushing, carpenters; J. F. McGuire, J. B. Rivet, D. Hamilton, blacksmiths; Dr. Neville; Dr. J. Lindsay; Dr. A. Henderson; W. Wilson,







dentist; seven legal cards: Peterson & Peterson; Perry & Coleman; H. Bleecker; Jas. A. Loughheed; C. N. Campbell; Stewart, Chrysler & Gormelly of Ottawa; T. H. Gilmour, Winnipeg. Surveyors: C.W.H. Sansom; G. A. & L. B. Stewart; McVittie Bros.; Miles & Brown.



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SETTLERS IN CALGARY AND DISTRICT IN 1884

Mrs. Alex Matheson	Thomas N. Christie
Mrs. G. C. King	Clifford E. Clarke
Mrs. John McDougall	Dr. T. J. Costello
Mrs. Fred Graham	James Clark
Mrs. David McDougall	Duncan Clark
Mrs. Norman Luxton	Thomas Copeland
Mrs. George Ransome	W. N. Damon
Mrs. G. E. Jacques	Daniel Davis
Mrs. Malcolm Millar	J. S. Dennis
Mrs. E. P. McNeill	Thomas C. Douglas
Mrs. James Grant	Robert Dixon
Mrs. S. W. Shaw	Henry F. Dennehy
Mrs. R. C. Thomas	Alonzo E. Earl
Mrs. J. M. William	John J. Fidler
Lady Loughheed	I. S. Freeze
Mrs. Frank Collicut	Jas. Falconer
Mrs. William Cousins	G. L. Fraser
Mrs. H. E. Kelley	John Finnigan
Mrs. George Lane	Robert Fletcher
Mrs. J. J. McHugh	James S. Gibb
Mrs. L. A. Pierce	Emil Griesbach
Mrs. George Ross	Frederick W. Godsal
Mrs. B. E. Canniff	Samuel W. Graham
Mrs. C. E. Cope	Raymond L. Gaetz
Mrs. J. E. Eckersley	George Godlontow
Mrs. J. D. Holmes	James H. Galloway
Mrs. J. D. Lauder	Andrew Henderson, M. D.
Mrs. Edward Loder	Arthur H. Heney
Mrs. Alex McRae	John W. Hayes
Mrs. P. J. Nolan	Frank Hudson
Mrs. W. C. Pinkham	Charles J. Hudson
Mrs. William Renwick	Fred W. Ings
	William Thomas Jones
Louie Ahlenious	Charles Jackson
J. H. Brown	J. H. Johnston
Ralph A. G. Bell	George C. King
Harry W. Bright	Rufus A. Kimpton
A. P. Bremner	John E. Lethbridge
Harold Bannister	James C. Linton
P. Turner Bone	J. D. Lauder
Harry O. Bredin	Malcolm T. Millar
Robert Butler	H. F. Maunsell
Fred A. Bagley	Herbert Millar
J. W. Clarke	Norman T. Macleod
W. W. Carroll	Thos. N. Martin
W. H. Cushing	Peter MacArthur
Dr. M. C. Costello	Alfred S. McKay



R. B. McNabb  
 Morley McDougall  
 Malcolm McInnes  
 W. H. McCardell  
 John F. McGinnis  
 Hon. R. G. Brett  
 Sir James A. Loughheed  
 Wm. Roper Hull  
 A. E. Cross  
 Howard Douglas  
 Dr. N. J. Lindsay  
 David McDougall  
 Rev. Father Gaspard  
 John J. McHugh  
 Angus McDonald, Sr.  
 James N. Rankin  
 Rt. Rev. Cyprian Pinkham  
 Wm. Pearce  
 Chas. C. Short  
 George Skelding  
 Marston Sexsmith  
 John A. Nolan  
 Addison McPherson  
 John McKinnon  
 Malcolm P. McNeill  
 James McKevitt  
 James Mitchell  
 John G. Mitchell  
 E. H. Maunsell  
 Edward Larkin  
 Thomas Scott  
 Frank Sibbald  
 Wm. A. Thompson  
 Francis White  
 Wm. R. Wright  
 Samuel Wigmore  
 George B. Hall  
 Daniel G. Gillies  
 Archie Grant  
 Alfred D. Fidler  
 Adam Dalglish  
 A.B.A. Cunningham  
 O. G. Colquhoun  
 John Clark  
 James Brogden  
 Jos. Bannerman  
 Frank Beattie  
 Dr. R. H. Brett  
 Thos. S. Burns

James McKernan  
 Alex S. McTavish  
 David P. McNab  
 Robert Newbolt  
 Wm. N. Parslow  
 Frederick Peel  
 George C. S. Patterson  
 Robert Patterson  
 Henry Pitkin  
 Harry J. Richards  
 Wm. Robertson  
 Andrew Sibbald  
 Arthur F. Scheer  
 Lt.-Col. G. E. Sanders  
 T. J. S. Skinner  
 James Smart  
 J. A. Shields  
 Solomon Spafford  
 Ven. Archdeacon J.W. Tims  
 R. C. Thomas  
 Wm. Wilson  
 R. A. Wallace  
 Col. James Walker  
 William J. Walker  
 Milton Williams  
 George T. Young  
 Alexander Allan  
 Tom Wilson





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RANCHERS IN CALGARY DISTRICT - 1890 - FROM  
MOSQUITO CREEK NORTH TO THE BOW.

McHugh Bros.	D. Lynch
C. P. Cattle Company	J. Robinson
Johnson Bros.	Hull Bros.
High River Horse Ranch	D. McDougall
W. Iken	J. McDougall
C. F. I. Knox	Leeson & Scott
C. C. Ranch	Mount Royal Ranch
W. Skrine	W. D. Kerfoot
E. A. Cross	W. Bell-Irving
H. B. Alexander	J. McKinnell
N. W. Cattle Company or Bar U	Brealey Bros.
Sanson & Harford	Shea & Madden
Ross & Podgers	W. Cowan.
F. Brown	Merino Ranch Company
J. J. Sullivan	Quorn Ranch
Ings Bros.	Heald & Eustace
G. Emerson	J. Fisher
Bow River Horse Ranch	J. Guirk
Scarlett Bros.	

The Range Men. Kelly, L.W. Pages 250-251.



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