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A HISTORY OF THE COCHRANE AREA

by

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A HISTORY OF THE COCHRANE AREA

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The undersigned hereby certify that they have read and recommend to the School of Graduate Studies for acceptance, a thesis entitled "A History of the Cochrane Area" submitted by Donald Edward Brown, B.Ed., in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER	PAGE
I A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA	1
II INDIANS AND THE ADVENT OF THE WHITE MAN	8
III THE COCHRANE RANCHE	18
IV THE TOWN OF MITFORD	37
V RURAL SETTLEMENT - TO 1900	59
VI THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF COCHRANE - TO 1914	77
VII GLENBOW	101
VIII RURAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1900	112
IX COCHRANE SINCE 1914	133
X CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, SPORTS, AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	147
XI CONCLUSION	161
APPENDIX	
A	166
B	168
C	173
D	180
E	181
F	184
BIBLIOGRAPHY	186

ABSTRACT

"A History of the Cochrane Area" is concerned with the history of the settlement and development of the region adjacent to, and including, the village of Cochrane, Alberta, to 1950. An account is given of the settlers to 1900 by name, and the establishment of the Morleyville Mission and the founding of the former hamlet of Mitford are examined in detail. The history of the village of Cochrane is included, with maps of the village and the rural area tributary to it at various stages of development. The social and economic development of the region is examined and an account of the former hamlet of Glenbow is included.

CHAPTER I

A GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE AREA

The area discussed in the early parts of this thesis and shown on the accompanying map (1) is situated within the

(1) Appendix A, map (1)

foothill belt of Alberta between $114^{\circ}18'$ and $114^{\circ}52'$ west longitude. It includes all of townships 25 and 26, ranges 4, 5 and 6, west of the 5th Meridian; township 27, ranges 4 and 5; township 26, range 6; that part of township 27, range 6, south of the Reserve (#142B); and those parts of township 24, ranges 2 and 3 and township 23, range 2, north of the Elbow river. The Stoney Indian Reserve projects slightly into the western extremity of this area south of the Bow river.

This extensive region had a unity of its own during the early 1880's. All the land east of a line north and south through the centre of townships 25 and 26, range 5, was held in leasehold by the Cochrane Ranch Company, whose headquarters were a mile west of the present town of Cochrane. The land west of the Cochrane ranch, within the boundaries of the area indicated above, was sparsely settled by pioneer ranchers. The southern half of township 26, range 6, contained the Morleyville settlement which was the first nucleus of white settlement for the whole area. In time, as will be shown, the region lost its earlier unity. Settlers in the eastern section made Calgary their business

centre. Those west of the Ghost river remained loyal to Morley and the rest of the area developed into a thriving community with the town of Cochrane as its centre.

The Rocky Mountains dominate the western horizon of this region. The mountain foothills extend eastward to a line drawn north and south from the Wildcat Hills to just west of Jumping Pound creek. (2) The Wildcat Hills reach -----
 (2) Appendix A, map (5)

 an elevation of 5,000 feet in some places.

The Bow river traverses the whole area. It is one of the major streams that rise in the mountains and flow eastward through the front ranges of the Rocky Mountains and then across the foothills. It has eroded a broad valley across the area and this valley is the most prominent topographical feature. To the east of the mountain foothills, the prairie foothills are intersected by broad, generally deep, valleys that run inward towards the Bow valley. (3)

 (3) The whole area lies within the foothills, but a distinction is made between the mountain foothills and those smaller hills lying between them and the prairie. These smaller, less rugged, hills are sometimes referred to as "prairie foothills".

Many of these drainage ways do not now contain streams.

The main tributary of the Bow river in this area is the Ghost river. It is a clear, rapid torrent that rises in the outer ranges of the Rocky Mountains and flows east and then south-east to meet the Bow. In preglacial times

the Ghost river was the outlet of the Bow river from Banff, by way of Lake Minnewanka. The Ghost river enters the Bow eleven miles west of Cochrane. The Ghost dam of the Calgary Power Company is situated on the Bow river immediately east of the confluence of the Ghost and the Bow. The tremendous reservoir of water created by this dam is known as the Ghost lake.

Five small streams join the Bow river from the north between the Ghost river and Cochrane. They are Spencer creek, Beaupré creek, Coal creek, Horse creek and Big Hill creek. The Jumping Pound creek drains the area south of the Bow river and meets it two miles west of Cochrane.

There are no large natural lakes in the area. There are two small ones, Cochrane lake and Glenbow lake, and numerous sloughs. The volume of surface water has decreased greatly in the last few decades for there are many dry basins that previously acted as reservoirs.

In the area around the Ghost river, the country is characterized by high ridges, partly timbered, running in a north westerly direction, separated by low, generally swampy valleys. There are several small creeks that flow into Spencer creek.

The area north of Cochrane, between Big Hill creek and Grand valley, is gently rolling and composed of fairly high ridges with long gentle slopes. It is nearly all fit

for cultivation and is good arable land. Coal creek flows down Grand valley - in fact, many maps refer to the creek as Grand Valley creek.

The Big Hill lies directly behind the town of Cochrane. It is a high rounded mass, largely of hard sandstone, rising 550 feet above the river. Its southern and western sides are covered with a thick growth of poplar. The area on top of the hill is gently rolling in topography and extends eastward to the "Nose" a few miles west of Calgary. Much of it is pasture land, with scattered clumps of trees and extensive stands of willow brush.

South of the Bow river the area is rolling in topography with low ridges and fairly wide valleys. The topography is more choppy near the river. The soil is heavy textured and black. The mountain foothills mark the western extremity of cultivable land.

In most of the Cochrane area there is a frost hazard and, as a result, coarse grain is grown extensively on cultivated lands. About 35% of the land is tilled. The remainder is hay and pasture land. Excellent crops of native hay are common.

The area has a rainfall of 18 inches or more per year on the average. Moisture is not as great a limiting factor as in districts to the east and north of Calgary. Soil drifting is not a serious problem since much of the

original fibre remains, as yet, in the soil. The area is generally rich in plant food and the necessity of growing coarse grains lessens the danger of one crop cultivation depleting the soil chemicals. Water erosion in cultivated sections has not been serious yet, but the favorable location with relation to market facilities tends to result in an ever more intensive type of farming and the utilization of marginal and sloping land. Judicious crop rotation satisfactorily controls the perennial and other weeds. This practice characterizes much of the mixed farming region in Alberta and weeds are not a serious problem to the successful farmer. There are extensive sections where the land is rough. A heavy native grass of high nutritive value is produced and, where the topography permits, extensive haying is done.

The Cochrane area lies within the northern chinook belt. These periodic winds are warm and of low humidity. During the winter they have a moderating effect on the temperature. During the summer, in a prolonged dry spell, they have a destructive influence on growing crops. The prevailing winds are, however, from the north-west. The area receives an average of 2,300 hours of bright sunshine per year out of a possible total of 4,450 hours. Edmonton receives about 100 hours less, on the average. Over a 21 year period, from 1916 to 1936, the area had an average of

100 frost free days per year. The first fall frost generally occurs in the second week in September, but the low lying districts, many of which contain cultivated land, receive frost much earlier.

The region is noted for its unique appearance. In the prairie and mountain foothills to the north there are extensive stands of timber that tend to shroud the contour of the land. In the south, the prairie foothills are quite narrow and also extensively wooded. In the Cochrane district, the prairie foothills occupy a broad belt of 35 miles, rising steadily in height until they meet the mountain foothills. Great reaches of the higher area are free of trees. The hilltops offer an unobstructed view of a magnificent landscape of ever rising hills gradually fading into a blue haze at the base of the snow capped Rockies. One spot in particular is worth mention. A mile east of the town of Cochrane, the Big Hill projects sharply outwards towards the Bow river on the south. From the western edge of this ridge the view of the broad Bow valley, the great depth of foothills and the towering mountains is superb.

Seventy-eight years ago, on a similar hill with a commanding view of this beautiful countryside, the McDougalls established the first white settlement. They came to bring Christianity to the Indians of the area. Ranchers followed them and then came farmers. It is with the lives of these

people and the community that they created that this history is concerned.

CHAPTER II

INDIANS AND THE ADVENT OF THE WHITE MAN

David Thompson appears to have been the first white man to cross this area. In his "Journey to Bow River and Rocky Mountains in November 18⁰0", he tells of a trip south from Rocky Mountain House. With five members in the party, he proceeded a little east of south until he struck the Bow river on November 21, at or near the present site of Calgary. He then proceeded to the Highwood river and visited two Pikenow camps. On November 26 he began the return trip, proceeding northwest, and on the 28th he camped at a spring close to the Bow river at a point a little above the mouth of the Ghost river. He went up to the present Gap, traversing the present Morley reservation. This trip appears to be related to the establishment of Bow Fort. Coues says that the fort was begun in 1802. (1)

(1) Coues, E., "The Manuscript Journals of Alexander Henry and of David Thompson", Harper, N.Y.-1897. 704.

The Pikenow Indians referred to are the Piegan, a part of the Blackfoot Confederacy. This gives some idea of the Indians then inhabiting the area. Thompson's trip was the first white penetration of this area, unless the French actually built Fort Jonquiere on or near the present site of Calgary, which seems unlikely. (2) Fort Jonquiere was built

(2) Ibid., 484.

in 1752.

The Old Bow Fort (Piegan Post) at the junction of the Bow river and Bow Fort creek appears to have been built in 1833, not 1802, by the Hudson's Bay Company. (3) It was

(3) MacLeod, J.E.A., "Old Bow Fort", Canadian Historical Review, Volume XII, #1, University of Toronto Press - 1931. 407f.

abandoned in 1834 because the Piegan proved too hostile and the area was not rich enough in beaver.

The Stoney Indians were latecomers to the area.

They arrived about 1845. (4) It is suggested that the Moun-

(4) Dawson, G.M., "Report B", Geological Survey of Canada, Annual Report, Volume 1 - 1885. 12 and 13.

tain Cree preceded them by a few years, probably driving out the Piegan and possibly some elements of the Kootenay tribe. The Stoney attach definite names to very few of the features in the area. Many of the names are Cree or their equivalent in Stoney.(4)

"The Stoney Indians are a branch of the great Dakota or Siouan Confederacy. They are Assiniboines, of which Stoney is the English translation. The derivation of the name is said to come from the fact that the Assiniboines cooked their food on heated stones, and from this custom they received this name, which was translated by the white people into the Stone People, and finally into Stoney Indians". (5)

(5) MacLean, J., "Canadian Savage Folk", Briggs, Toronto-1896. 19.

The Athabaskan Assiniboine had separated from the main body of Assiniboine and settled the Athabasca region a decade or two before the end of the eighteenth century. During the 1840's many of the Athabasca Assiniboine were forced to move southward because of a scarcity of game. The group that settled in the valley of the Bow became known as the Mountain Stoney.

"The Stoneys are of medium height, well formed, of pleasing countenance and especially active in their movements. It is not too much to say that they are the most energetic of all the tribes of the North-West. They are excellent horsemen and had the reputation of being great horse thieves. They were famous as scouts and were used in that capacity during the Riel Rebellion of 1885. Many were used during the survey of the C. P. R." (6)

 (6) Ibid., 24.

Dr. Hector passed through the western extremities of the area in 1858. He mentions camping for the night at the foot of Dream Hill. (7) This would be one of the more sou-

 (7) "The Journals, Reports and Observations relative to the Exploration by Captain Palliser", G.E. Eyre and W. Spottiswoode, London - 1863. 98.

therly Wildcat Hills for he speaks of reaching the Ghost river early the following morning. He describes travelling down over a succession of rolling hills to the Bow river. Sections of shale and sandstone interspersed with seams of

coal occurred along the banks of the river. This would be somewhere around the mouth of Coal creek. From the camp at Dream Hill, the party looked out across a level plain that seemed to sweep up to the base of the mountains. The next morning Dr. Hector found that the level plain was the valley of the Deadman, or Ghost river. (7) Peter Erasmus, who accompanied Dr. Hector, says the Indians knew the river as "the river of ghosts". "They believed that they saw a ghost visiting the many Indian graves along the river, picking up the skulls of warriors killed by the Crees". (8) Palliser's

(8) Howay, F.W., "Builders of the West", Ryerson Press, Toronto - 1929. 120.

report had a considerable influence on the decision to build the railroad to the north of the arid stretches. Had this plan been followed, the development of the Cochrane area would have been retarded many years.

An event of great importance took place in 1873, when Reverend George and Reverend John McDougall came into the area west of the junction of the Bow and Ghost rivers and established a mission at Morleyville. (9) In November

(9) McDougall, J., "On Western Trails in the Early Seventies", Briggs, Toronto - 1911. 21.

Morleyville was named in honour of the Rev. Morley Punshon, the great Methodist pulpit orator.

they built a fort on a high hill north of the Bow river about three miles from the present McDougall church. (10)

(10) Ibid., 102 and 103.

The walls were eight feet high and there was only one small opening to the outside. Living quarters, sheds and a small yard were contained within the walls. In this structure, the families of the Rev. John and his brother David lived in comparative safety from the marauding Blackfeet during the long period that the brothers were absent. (11)

 (11) Interview - Mrs. A.V. Mathieson, Calgary, January 1951.

In 1875 a small community sprang up on the flats north of the Bow river. A church, a day school, a mission house, a store and various stables were built. (12) Most of

 (12) Appendix B, diagram (1) - shows the disposition of the buildings in the early settlement.

the buildings were log structures covered with whip-sawn lumber. Only the church remains today. It is somewhat indifferently fenced off from the surrounding pastureland and is a rather dilapidated looking hulk. A fine stone cairn commemorating the services of the pioneering McDougall family stands out in front of it beside the trans-Canada highway.

Two services were held in the church on Sundays - one in the morning for the Indians and one in the afternoon for the little white community. An organ, the first in the far west, provided the music. (13) The day school offered

 (13) This organ was made in England for the Anglican Bishop of Rupert's Land. It was purchased by the Rev. George McDougall in 1871 and transported with much difficulty across the plains to the Sunday School in Edmonton. It was subsequently taken to the new mission at Morley. McLean, J., "McDougall of Alberta", Ryerson Press, Toronto - 1927. 118.

a rudimentary education for the children living in the neighbourhood. An orphanage was built in 1878 to provide living quarters, meals and education for those Indian children whose parents lived in the more remote areas or were dead. David McDougall operated the store, bringing his supplies from Fort Benton or from Fort Garry via Edmonton.

Frank Sibbald's reminiscences of the life of his father, Andrew Sibbald, offer an interesting picture of the difficulties experienced by the early settlers. In the spring of 1875, the latter was offered a position as teacher in a school about to be established by the Rev. George McDougall among the Blood Indians. He accepted and left Stroud, Ontario on June 10 with his wife, his sons Howard (9) and Frank (6) and daughter Elsie (3). He met David McDougall, the trader, at Fort Garry, secured a cart, an ox, a horse and a wagon, loaded the family possessions (including a sewing machine) and headed towards Edmonton. The ox developed sore feet and was traded for a partly broken steer at Fort Ellice. The steer proved to be very partially broken and, after upsetting the cart several times, was sold and David McDougall carried the Sibbald freight thereafter. (14) The journey

 (14) McCowan, D., "Hill-Top Tales", McMillan Company,
 Toronto - 1948. 124f.

 took 104 days. (15) The family prepared to spend the winter

 (15) Interview - Mr. C.E. Sibbald, Cochrane, January 1951.

in Morley. Unfortunately the Rev. George McDougall lost his life in a blizzard that winter and plans for the mission among the Blood Indians were delayed several years, but Mr. Sibbald remained and taught school in Morley. (16) In 1879

(16) McCowan, D., loc. cit.

Mr. Sibbald left the school and under his guidance a small sawmill was established by the McDougalls which supplied the first lumber for the buildings in Calgary. (17) Mr. Sibbald

(17) MacLean, J., op. cit. 86.

farmed for many years and then spent his late years in Banff. He died in 1934 at the age of one hundred and one and is buried in the little mission cemetery at Morley. His tombstone bears the inscription, "First School Teacher in the West - 1875". (18)

(18) Appendix B, note (1), further history of the Sibbalds.

The people mentioned above were the pioneers of this area. Most of them came to offer their services to the Indians and they established the first small nucleus for the larger settlement that followed. "The Morley mission was sustained by a splendid band of native Christians, true in their faith, loyal to the Government, honest in their dealings with the white race, and friendly toward all". (19)

(19) MacLean, J., op. cit., 87.

The task of maintaining peace among Blackfoot and Stoney and keeping order in the new settlement was greatly facilitated by the establishment of the Mounted Police Post in Calgary

in 1875 and the signing of Treaty #7 in 1877.

In his extensive travels in Eastern Canada, the Rev. John McDougall continually extolled the merits of this new land into which he had helped lead the way. (20) In the -----
 (20) Appendix B, note (2), further history of the McDougalls.

 1880's many followed in his footsteps. The extensive Cochrane Ranch was established twenty-five miles east of Morley and many smaller ranches sprang up between these two places. The railway was pushed through the region and it gave the final impetus to settlement on a large scale.

The construction of the first Canadian railway to the Pacific through the Bow valley and the Kicking Horse Pass was an event of major importance to the Cochrane district. Large scale settlement was not possible until the railway penetrated this region. Throughout the 1870's it seemed a foregone conclusion that the railway would be built through the Yellowhead Pass some two hundred miles north of the Bow valley. (21) After the project was handed

 (21) Roe, F.G., "An Unsolved Problem of Canadian History",
 The Canadian Historical Association Report - 1936. 68.

 over to the syndicate, the route through the Bow valley and Pass was decided on. (22) Several reasons for this change

 (22) The syndicate was composed of J.J. Hill, Lord Mount Stephen, Lord Strathcona and others. It was formed in 1878 and bought the St. Paul and Pacific Railway. Most of these associates were instrumental in building the C.P.R. In 1883, J.J. Hill sold his interests in the C. P.R. and retired from the directorate.
 Morgan, H.J., "Canadian Men and Women of the Time",
 Briggs, Toronto - 1898. 463.

were advanced at the time. Mr. F. G. Roe gives a number of these, such as the representations of wealthy cattle companies in the south, the fear that another company would build between the northern line and the International Boundary if the C. P. R. built through the Yellowhead Pass, the fact that the Kicking Horse route was shorter, and the ability of J. Macoun in championing the southern line at the syndicate's meeting in St. Paul in 1881. (23) Macoun makes an

 (23) Roe, F.G., op. cit., 68, 69, 70.

interesting statement with respect to this meeting. He had told Mr. J. J. Hill of his experiences on the prairie and the easy route to be found to the mountains. "Years after this, Mr. Fleming told me that for good or for evil, I had sent the road into the Bow River Pass". (24) Roe believes

 (24) Macoun, J., "Autobiography", Field Naturalists' Club, Ottawa - 1922. 185.

that none of these reasons for the change in plans is satisfactory. (25) He suggests that the railway was built

 (25) Roe, F.G., op. cit. 70.

through the Bow Pass because the northern sections were already largely inhabited and the railway was not favourable toward the idea of increasing the value of other people's townsite properties. They preferred to own and develop their own. (26) It is evident that the matter is still "An Unsolved

 (26) Ibid., 75.

Problem in Canadian History".

The coming of the railroad resulted in a new orientation. Mitford and Cochrane were established and the first of a series of disruptions in the earlier unity of the area occurred. As these new towns grew up, the centre of gravity shifted to them. Morley could no longer be regarded as an integral part of the Cochrane district. (27) However, af-

(27) Appendix A, map (2).

ter the establishment of Morley and before the construction of the railway, extensive settlement had taken place. One of the most interesting features of this early settlement was the establishment of the Cochrane ranch, the history of which will now be examined.

CHAPTER III

THE COCHRANE RANCH

In 1872, in an effort to encourage the settlement and development of western lands, the Dominion Government passed the first land act providing for the granting to settlers of the land adjacent to their farms for grazing purposes. This act was broadened in 1876 to allow for the granting of leases to anyone. Tracts of land, generally not in excess of one hundred thousand acres, could be leased by individuals or companies at the rate of one cent per acre per year. In order to assist the lessors in stocking their land, the Government removed the duty on cattle imported from the United States. (1) By 1880 op-

(1) R. W. Murchie, "Agricultural Progress on the Prairie Frontier", Volume V of Canadian Frontiers of Settlement, MacMillan Co., Toronto - 1936. 54.

tions had been taken on several huge tracts in southern Alberta but it was not until 1881 that the first large herds of cattle were brought in to stock them.

In the early history of ranching in southern Alberta the strongly organized and heavily capitalized ranching companies greatly overshadowed the individually owned ranches. Generally, English or Eastern Canadian capitalists formed a ranching company, subscribed the capital investment, took up an extensive lease, purchased a large herd of cattle in the United States to stock the lease and launched

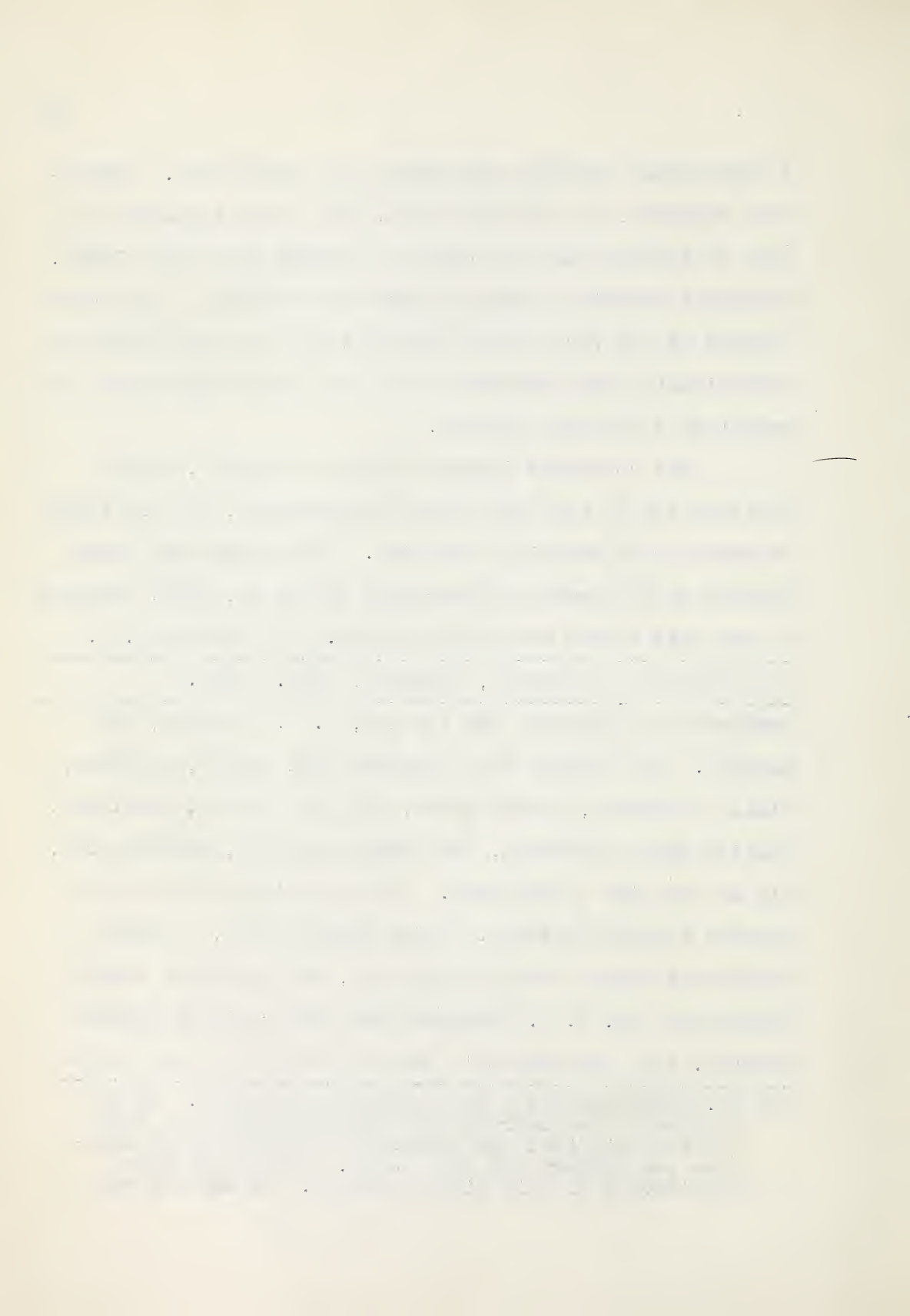
a large scale ranching enterprise in a short time. Individual ranchers, on the other hand, were often hampered by a lack of capital and were forced to expand much more slowly. The great ranching companies gave the industry a tremendous impetus at its very outset and had very soon established an economically sound foundation for the future development of ranching in southern Alberta.

The "Cochrane Ranche Company (limited)", whose holdings lay in the area under consideration, was the first of these great ranching companies. The Company was incorporated by the Dominion Government on May 14, 1881, although it had been formed some time earlier. (2) Senator M. H.

 (2) "Statutes of Canada", Volume 1, 1882. cxxv.

Cochrane was President and his son, W. F. Cochrane, was manager. The company also included Hugh MacKay, merchant, William Lawrence, manufacturer, William Cassils, Gentleman, William Ewing, seedsman, and Charles Cassils, manufacturer, all of the city of Montreal. It was capitalized at five hundred thousand dollars. Major James Walker, a former North West Mounted Police inspector, was appointed local manager and Dr. D. M. McEachren was made resident general manager. (3) The Company's lease consisted of those parts

 (3) Dr. McEachren had a very interesting career. He established the Montreal Veterinarian College in 1866 and was principal and professor of Veterinarian medicine and surgery for many years. It was the first institution of this kind in Canada. In 1890 he was



appointed dean of the new Faculty of Veterinarian Science at McGill. He was chief inspector of livestock in Canada from 1876 until his retirement in 1902. He was responsible for the very successful cattle quarantine system used in Canada. The importance of this achievement cannot be overestimated - particularly in a rapidly developing country like Canada in the last century, when great numbers of cattle were being imported to stock new ranches. Dr. McEachren was manager and vice-president of the Walrond Ranche Company for many years.

Morgan, "Canadian Men and Women of the Time", Briggs, Toronto-1912. 763.

His connection with the Cochrane Ranche Company was more tenuous. It may be assumed that he was appointed regional manager because of his qualifications as an authority on livestock although there is no evidence that he had had any practical experience in raising cattle on the range. It must be added that, although his influence on the Cochrane Ranche was not advantageous, the Walrond ranch was very successful.

of township 24 and 25, range 3, north of the Elbow river; townships 25 and 26, range 4; and the east half of townships 25 and 26, range 5, all west of the 5th meridian. It was subsequently found that the lease contained over one hundred and nine thousand acres. (4) The ranch headquarters

(4) Letter, EMM/IH 142709-3, dated November 28, 1950, Department of Resources and Development, Ottawa, G. E. B. Sinclair, Chief, Lands Division.

Although in excess of the maximum acreage allowed, no adjustment was made. Strangely enough a further lease, to be discussed later, was granted the Company.

were established one mile west of the present town of Cochrane.

Senator M. H. Cochrane, its founder, was the driving personality behind the Cochrane Ranche Company. Mathew Henry Cochrane was born at Hillhurst Farm, Compton, Quebec,

in 1823. He took an early interest in farming, but at the age of eighteen, he went to Boston and established a leather business. In 1854 he returned to Canada and, in partnership with Cassils and Company of Montreal, opened a boot and shoe factory. By 1898 this business had a gross yearly income of half a million dollars.

It was however as a successful breeder of improved grades of cattle that he was best known. In this respect his reputation was world wide. In 1864 he purchased Hillhurst Farm from his father and three years later obtained the services of Simon Beattie, an outstanding judge of cattle, as farm manager and adviser. With the help of Simon Beattie, Mr. Cochrane set out to secure the best Shorthorn cattle that could be bought. In 1867 he purchased two outstanding animals in Britain - the famous cow "Rosedale", who had no peer in the English show rings, and "Baron Booth of Lancaster", a bull calf. "Rosedale" attained a greater celebrity than has ever been achieved by any cow on this continent. She was the sensation of every show. "Baron Booth" subsequently passed into the hands of a cattle breeder in Illinois and his record as a show animal and a sire brought about a revolution in the Shorthorn industry of the United States mid-west.

In 1868, Mr. Cochrane imported the first of the famous "Bates" cattle into Canada. There were eleven head,

and one of them, "Duchess 97th", cost a thousand guineas, the highest price that had ever been paid for a cow. "Duchess 97th" was later sold to a New York breeder for a record seventeen thousand nine hundred dollars. From then on Mr. Cochrane carried on a campaign of importing the best English Shorthorns and selling them on this continent. There seems to have been no shrewder dealer in Shorthorns during the history of this breed of cattle.

In 1882 Senator Cochrane abandoned the breeding of Shorthorns for a time and went into Aberdeen-Angus and Hereford cattle, importing some of the finest specimens of these breeds then available. He also imported choice lots of Southdown, Cotswold, Leicester and Lincoln sheep. A number of excellent Suffolk horses and Berkshire pigs were also brought to Canada.

Senator Cochrane's contribution to the improvement of Canadian, and United States, livestock cannot be over-estimated. He had the courage, and the money, to buy the best animals. He was a pioneer in this field and his purchases made available to this continent's livestock breeders the finest breeding stock of the period.

He was called to the Senate in October 1872. Besides his interests in livestock, the boot and shoe factory and the Cochrane ranch, he was a vice president of the Eastern Townships Bank, a governor of the Sherbrooke

Protestant Hospital, a trustee of Bishop's College, Lennoxville, and a member of the Council of Agriculture in Quebec.

Senator Cochrane died in 1903. (5)

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- (5) Morgan, H.J., "Canadian Men and Women of the Time", Briggs, Toronto - 1898.
 Marshall, D., "Shorthorn Cattle in Canada", Dominion Shorthorn Breeder's Association - 1932. 115f.
-

In the spring of 1881, plans were made to purchase the first herd of cattle for the Cochrane Rancho. Major Walker was sent to Montana, where he obtained six thousand eight hundred head at an average price of eighteen dollars per head with the understanding that the Montana ranchers from whom they were bought would deliver them to the boundary. (6) The I. G. Baker Company contracted to drive the

-
- (6) F. White's, "General Notes" - a small memorandum book in which general notes and copies of Cochrane ranch contracts were recorded. Mr. White records that 6,799 head of cattle were purchased, at a cost of \$124,780.05. Mr. White also kept a diary, which is being used as a source for much of this chapter. The diary and the "General Notes" are in the possession of Mr. A. R. McTavish, 508 - 5th Ave., W., Calgary.
-

cattle from the boundary to the Cochrane ranch for two dollars and fifty cents per head.

Frank Strong, foreman for the Baker Company, was in charge of the drive and was assisted by thirty cowboys with three hundred head of horses. In order to make as rapid a trip as possible, Strong divided the herd in two. The "dry" herd, consisting of steers, was sent ahead and was driven at the rate of fifteen or more miles per day. The second group

made up of cows and calves, was moved more slowly although it often covered fourteen miles in a day. Kelly says that "this drive has remained the criterion for hard driving, and no such great numbers of cattle have since been moved so rapidly by trail". (7) A number of wagons came along

 (7) Kelly, L.V., "The Rangemen", Briggs, Toronto - 1913.
 147.

 behind the herds to pick up the calves that had fallen from exhaustion. Hundreds of cattle were left to perish along the way.

The herds were pushed across the Bow river near the site of the present Mewata Park in Calgary and turned over to Major Walker and his men. Several of the Baker cowboys remained to work for Major Walker and quite a number of the saddle horses were sold to the Cochrane Ranche Company. The Baker Company had contracted to brand the cattle before turning them over to Major Walker but had been unable to do so because of the speed with which the drive was carried out. As a result, the cattle were accepted after a hair brand and a proper branding was to be given at the home ranch. It was late in the fall when the herd arrived however, and branding was postponed until the following spring.

Winter came on before the cattle had a chance to recover from the hard drive and, although it was not an unusually cold winter, many died. (8) The drive and the effect

 (8) Appendix C, note (1) - Cochrane ranch losses.

of the winter on the herd provided valuable information to the cattlemen of the west on the relative endurance of the various breeds of cattle. Black Polled Angus cattle proved most sturdy, Herefords rated second and Shorthorns were the least hardy.

In the spring of 1882 the hair brand that had been put on the cattle the previous fall disappeared with their winter coats. The Company directors ordered Major Walker to round up every unbranded animal on the Cochrane range and brand it with the Cochrane "C". Several settlers in the area assisted for a time but, when they found that their own unbranded animals that were on the Cochrane range were to be included in the round-up, they quit in a body. The settlers were incensed at the prospect of losing their own cattle and, in order to avoid financial ruin, they set to work searching for scattered groups of cattle that had been missed in coulees and ravines during the general round-up. Any that were found were taken home and branded with the settler's own brand. Quite a number of cattle ended up with the wrong brand and it is not unlikely that the settlers came out with somewhat augmented herds.

Major Walker had been hampered in his management of the ranch on several occasions by the necessity of obeying orders from the company's office in the east or from Dr. McEachren, who was his immediate superior and also manager of the Walrond

ranch further south. These orders were often ill advised, since they were not based on sound ranching experience nor in accord with the conditions existing on the ranch itself at the time. During a trip to Montana in the summer of 1882, Major Walker was forced to follow a course of action that he found entirely against his better judgement and as a result, he tendered his resignation.

Major Walker had arranged for the purchase of four thousand three hundred head of cattle from the Poindexter and Orr ranch in Montana. (9) The deal was temporarily sus-

(9) F. White's Diary (F.W.D. hereafter), October 21, 1882.

pended when Dr. McEachren arranged for the purchase of the new herd by the I. G. Baker Company. This Company was planning to stock an Alberta ranch for itself and Dr. McEachren felt that the Cochrane herd could be more profitably purchased in conjunction with the Baker herd. The arrangements were tentative and opposed by Major Walker. The Baker Company finally abandoned the idea and Major Walker returned to the Poindexter and Orr ranch to find that the price of cattle had risen in his absence. The herd cost twenty-five thousand dollars more than it would have if the deal had been completed earlier and valuable time had been lost. (10) Major Walker

(10) Appendix C, note (2), for a copy of the contract between Poindexter and Orr and Major Walker.

was so incensed that he sent in his resignation, to take effect when a successor could be found.

Poindexter and Orr undertook to deliver the new herd to the Cochrane ranch at a cost of two dollars and seventy-five cents per head. Deliveries were to begin July 1, but several delays occurred and the herd did not arrive until October. Poindexter was in charge of the drive and found it necessary to move rapidly to avoid being caught by an early snowstorm. The plan failed. At Fish Creek, near the present Midnapore, the weary herd ran into a bitter snowstorm and could proceed no further. Poindexter wanted to hold the animals there for a month until they had recovered from the long drive and the snow cleared, but Major Walker, acting on orders from the east, insisted that delivery be carried out as soon as possible. Poindexter obtained a number of hardy steers from nearby settlers and sent them ahead to break a trail through the snowdrifts. The exhausted Cochrane herd was forced along behind them. The cattle were turned over to Major Walker on October 20. (11)

Poindexter was an experienced rancher but had been forced to move the herd too fast owing to the delay in purchasing it and was later forced to continue the drive after the snow fall because of the orders from the Cochrane Rancho Company's directors. However, the Company had begun to learn a lesson. In a contract with the I. G. Baker Company signed on September 5, 1882, the Cochrane Ranch Company agreed to pay forty dollars per head for some four hundred

and fifty to five hundred and fifty head of three year old steers, at the same time specifying that the herd was to be delivered to the Cochrane ranch and the drive was not to occupy less than three weeks. (12)

 (12) Appendix C, note (3), for a copy of this contract.

On September 7, 1882, Frank White, a former railroad man and bookkeeper, arrived at the Cochrane ranch to assume the duties of treasurer. On October 7, Mr. W. D. Kerfoot, a Virginian and an experienced rancher, arrived to take charge of the livestock and replace Major Walker. (13)

 (13) Appendix C, note (4), for a copy of the contract between W. D. Kerfoot and the Cochrane Rancho Company.

Major Walker subsequently established a very successful lumber business in Calgary.

The winter of 1882-83 was a disastrous one for the Cochrane ranch. The storm mentioned above lasted until October 15 and was followed by a slight thaw that softened the snow. This thaw was followed by a severe cold spell and a hard crust formed on the snow. The cattle found it impossible to reach the grass and drifted continually. The directors in the east were advised of the condition of the range and the lack of feed but insisted that the stock be held on the Cochrane lease. Camps of cowboys were established at the mouth of the Fish creek, at Calgary and along Nose creek to hold the herd. The whole winter was spent in holding the starving herd on the home range. This blundering

policy was followed in spite of the fact that there was excellent winter range at Blackfoot Crossing and the Little Bow where only a small amount of snow fell throughout the winter.

The winter of 1881-82 had been rather mild and the Cochrane herd had come through it without serious losses. As a result, no preparation had been made for the following winter. No hay had been put up and no one seems to have considered the possibility of a hard winter and the disastrous effect that such a winter would have on the cattle. The inability of the local manager to follow his own initiative compounded the disaster. The extent of the losses of Cochrane cattle was not fully appreciated until June, 1883, when the snow finally disappeared.

Kelly, describing the Cochrane losses, says, "Dead bodies were heaped in every coulee, thousands of head having perished. Some of the long ravines were so filled with carcasses that a man could go from the top to the bottom, throughout its entire length, and never have to step off a dead body. Indians made a very good wage for some time, skinning the animals for twenty-five cents each. Out of the twelve thousand head that had been purchased and placed on the Cochrane range, there remained now but a scant four thousand, counting natural increase." (14) Other ranches in

(14) Kelly, op. cit., 153.

southern Alberta suffered but a fraction of the losses of the Cochrane ranch chiefly because of a more practical policy of letting the cattle drift to areas where they could graze.

In 1882 the Cochrane Ranch Company started a butcher shop in Calgary as a retail outlet for their beef. A camp was established at Nose Creek to hold the cattle for this shop and also to supply the beef required to fill the North West Mounted Police contract. About twenty steers a month were sold from this camp. Another camp at the Sarcee reserve supplied the twenty-five head per month required to feed the Indians there. There were two other camps as well, one at Blackfoot Crossing, which supplied one hundred and thirty head per month to the Blackfoot Indians, and a second one at Morleyville, where twenty head of cattle were required each month for the Stoney. (15)

(15) A. R. McTavish's notes and comments on Frank White's Diary, Canadian Cattlemen, Vol. 9, No.1, June 1946. 8. See also Appendix C, below note (5), copy of contract between Cochrane Ranche Company and the N.W.M.P., and note (6), remarks on the contracts with the Dominion Government for the Indian Reserves.

In the spring of 1883, the directors of the Cochrane Ranche Company decided that the winters in the area west of Calgary were too rigorous and a new lease was taken up in the Waterton Lakes area, southwest of Macleod. This new ranch was made up of land taken over from the "Rocky Mountain Cattle Company" and the "Eastern Township Ranch Company",

who appear not to have stocked their ranches. It consisted of one hundred and six thousand five hundred acres. (16)

 (16) Letter, EMM/IH, previously quoted. (4)

The lease west of Calgary was retained and, in fact was extended by the addition of that part of townships 23 and 24 north of the Elbow river, and the south half of township 25, range 2. (16) By May arrangements had been completed for the transfer of the remaining cattle to the new range. Mr. White and a new local manager named Ca Sous were in charge of the move and of the new ranch. Mr. Kerfoot remained as manager of the ranch west of Calgary.

Mr. White remained with the Company until December, 1884, when he returned to the Cochrane area and established a sheep ranch of his own. (17) The Cochrane Ranche Company

 (17) F. W. D., December 19, 1884.

was more successful on the new range and, largely because of the success of Senator Cochrane in procuring fine breeding stock, it built up one of the finest herds of beef cattle in southern Alberta. This land was subsequently purchased outright by the Company and was held until 1906 when it was sold to the Mormon Church for six million dollars in the largest land deal in Alberta to that time.

The Cochrane Ranche Company pastured horses on the lease west of Calgary through the remainder of 1883. In June there were four hundred and ninety head of horses on

this range. (18) Most of these horses had been purchased

 (18) F. White's, "General Notes".

from the Montana ranchers that had sold the Company cattle.

In the course of the next few years the number was increased to nearly one thousand head through local purchases and importations. In this respect, it is interesting to notice that Senator Cochrane is credited with importing the first thoroughbred stallion into the present province of Alberta.

(19) In 1883 plans were made to import a flock of sheep to

 (19) J. Grant-MacEwen, "Horse History in the West", Canadian Cattlemen, Vol. 7, No. 4, March, 1945. 154.

further utilize the range.

In February, 1884, the original shareholders of the Cochrane Ranche Company formed a new Company known as the "British American Ranche Company (limited)". (20) The for-

 (20) Appendix C, note (7), for a copy of the Charter of the "British American Ranche Company".

mer Company retained the leases around Waterton lakes and sold the leases and improvements west of Calgary to the new Company for the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars. (21)

 (21) F. W. D., February 19, 1884.

This was a subterfuge to avoid losing one or the other of the leases should the Dominion Government decide to enforce the legislation that limited companies or individuals to one hundred thousand acrease of leasehold.

In July, 1884, Senator Cochrane came to the west,

and, accompanied by Mr. Kerfoot and some hired men, purchased eight thousand head of sheep in Montana. Mr. Kerfoot drove the flock to the home range, and arrived in a blinding September snowstorm. Two hundred head of pedigreed Shropshire Down rams, imported from England, were also driven in. (22)

 (22) Kelly, op. cit., 169.

Mr. A. E. Cross was hired as bookkeeper and veterinarian surgeon about this time.

The sheep did well the following winter. Some hay had been put up, but it was not required. The spring was a different matter however. A prairie fire, starting near the mouth of Beaupré creek, swept down over a portion of the flock and destroyed a thousand head. Misfortune struck again a short time later. The flock on the northern portion of the lease was held at night in a large corral near Cochran lake. The night of April 2nd was stormy and a driving snowstorm developed after dark. The swirling snow drifted inside the corral until, by morning, the corral was full. The sheep walked out over the top and wandered down wind until they reached the lake three miles away. Hundreds were drowned before the herder arrived. Three hundred dead sheep were pulled out of the lake after the remainder were driven back from the water. (23)

 (23) Ibid., 178.

when several hundred ewes died during lambing.

Mr. Kerfoot managed the ranch for another year. He seems not to have been happy, however, for he had the usual cattleman's antipathy for sheep. The increasing importance of the horse breeding enterprise offered some compensation but the continued practice of the Company directors of ignoring advice and then holding the local manager responsible for their misguided policy resulted in Mr. Kerfoot's resignation in 1887. He had signed a five year contract with the British American Rancho Company, however, and the Company withheld his salary. A lawsuit followed and was not finally ended until April, 1888. Mr. Kerfoot won the case. He went into the ranching business on his own in 1887 and will be heard of again in a subsequent chapter. (24)

(24) Interview, Mr. A. D. Kerfoot, a son, Cochrane, January, 1951.

E. B. H. Cochrane, a son of Senator Cochrane, took over the manager's position when Mr. Kerfoot left. The price of wool and mutton declined more each year and the Company decided to discontinue the sheep ranch. In 1887 a new set of buildings had been built on the south side of the Bow river slightly to the east of the present Glenbow station. The horse breeding enterprise was concentrated at this new headquarters and the sheep were kept on the north side of the Bow at the old ranch site.

On August 29, 1888, the Calgary Herald carried an advertisement advising its readers of the proposed sale of

seven thousand head of sheep and forty-one thousand acres of leasehold by the British American Rancho Company. The company had decided to concentrate on horse breeding. A new Company, known as the "Bow River Horse Ranch Company" was formed and received the British American Rancho Company leases south of the Bow river and east of Jumping Pound Creek, as well as the band of horses. The land north of the river and the sheep were sold in October. Frank White had established his sheep ranch by this time on the land south of the river and west of Jumping Pound creek that had previously been held by the Company. Most of the lease north of the river was taken over by new settlers, but the purchasers of the sheep are not recorded.

Mr. G. E. Goddard was bookkeeper on the new Bow River Horse Ranch for a time and then became manager. In 1894 in partnership with Messrs. E. H. Warner and W. P. Warner, he purchased the lease and the stock from the Company. (25)

 (25) Letter, EMM/IH 142709-3, dated January 31, 1951,
 Department of Resources and Development, C. K. Le
 Capelain, Acting Chief, Lands Division.

This marked the end of Senator Cochrane's interests in the area under consideration.

The present day town of Cochrane was named by the Canadian Pacific Railway in honour of Senator Cochrane. Cochrane lake was named in honour of W. F. Cochrane, a son of Senator Cochrane, who had been employed at the Cochrane

Ranch in 1883. W. F. Cochrane later became manager of the ranch near Waterton lakes and the success of this ranch was largely due to his ability as a stockman.

The original Cochrane ranch house still stands. It is situated one hundred yards west of the present Cochrane Creamery, about one mile west of the town. It is a log structure and, at one time, had a sod roof. It is still inhabited. The old barn has fallen into disrepair. These two buildings are the only tangible remains of this huge pioneer ranch.

The Cochrane ranch and the British American ranch retarded the early development of the town of Cochrane. The site had been granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway in 1885 but few people settled there because the ranch lay all around it and there was no nearby rural population. In fact, in the 1880's it seemed possible that there never would be much of a town there. A few miles to the west, the little town of Mitford had sprung up and was endangering the existence of Cochrane. The rivalry of these two towns and the subsequent decline of Mitford were important developments in the early history of the Cochrane area.

CHAPTER IV

THE TOWN OF MITFORD

The history of the short life of the town of Mitford is particularly interesting because of the way in which it is inextricably linked with the activities of the family that founded it. T. B. H. Cochrane, son of Admiral Sir Thomas Cochrane of England, and his wife Lady Adela Cochrane, daughter of the Earl of Stadbroke, were the founders of Mitford. The Cochranes were a remittance family who had come to Canada in 1883 and acquired a ranch consisting of some fifty-five thousand acres of leasehold centred on township 15, range 4, southwest of High River. In 1885 this lease was exchanged for one around township 17, range 6, west of the 4th Meridian. (1) Neither of the leases ap-

(1) Letter, EMM/IH 142709 - 3, dated November 28, 1950 and quoted in Chapter III. This second ranch, which consisted of fifty-one thousand acres, would be near the junction of the Little Bow and Belly rivers.

appears to have been stocked. In 1886 the Cochranes decided to enter the lumber business and constructed a sawmill on the subsequent site of the town of Mitford.

Prior to the arrival of the Cochrane family, efforts had been made to develop the coal beds in the area. In 1885 a Mr. Chaffey of Calgary purchased the "Big Hill location" and formed the "Bow River Mining Company." (2)

(2) Calgary Herald, January 29, 1885. The "Big Hill loca-

tion" was the name given to a particularly promising coal site on the south side of the Bow river opposite the mouth of Coal creek.

 A coal seam was struck a few feet below the surface. Mr. Chaffey became associated with a Mr. Merrill in 1886 and then dropped out of the Company a short time later. The mine was not a success. Late in 1886 it was flooded and, in January 1887, Merrill removed the machinery and abandoned the mine. (3) The location was then sold to Mr. J. (3) F. W. D., January 21, 1887.

 W. Vaughan.

Early in 1886, Tom Cochrane completed his sawmill. It was located three miles west of the present town of Cochrane, on the north side of the Bow river a short distance from the point where the Canadian Pacific Railway crosses to the south bank. The mill was capable of turning out thirty thousand board feet of lumber per day. It was proposed to run a narrow gauge railway from the mill to the timber stands in Grand Valley. Tom Cochrane was associated with Hugh Graham, Francis White and Archibald McVittie of the "Calgary Lumber Company" and contracted to supply them with lumber.

The sawmill went into operation that summer. (4)

 (4) F. W. D., July 29, 1886. Mr. White records that he procured lumber from the mill on this date.

 The logs were hauled from Grand valley by teamsters until the next year. In the meantime a small steam locomotive

was purchased and work began on the track. A steel track was laid northward up Horse creek valley for one mile and then westward to Grand valley. The track was then extended nine miles up Grand valley, where a turnabout for the engine was built. The remainder of the track was made of wooden rails and extended northward to the Dogpound creek. Small horse-drawn cars were used to haul the logs along the wooden railway to the turnabout. (5)

(5) Calgary Herald, June 30, 1887. A short article mentioning the trial run of the steam engine and Tom Cochrane's intention to have the railway completed in July.

The steam engine was a small single-drive-wheel type. The pistons were mounted vertically and the boiler was surmounted by an extremely high smokestack. The engine was affectionately known as "Betsy", and the railway track as "Betsy's track".

See Appendix A, map (5), for the route of "Betsy's track".

There were several small stands of fir on the west side of Grand valley about five miles north of the Bow river. However, the ties required for the steel track and the ties and rails required for the wooden track very nearly used them up. Further north, on the Dogpound, the timber was wholly spruce and pine. The result was that the best timber was used in constructing the enterprise and there was little fir left for lumber.

The timber limits lay in townships 27, 28 and 29, range 5, and part of townships 28 and 27, range 6. (6) The

 (6) Letter, EMM/IH 142709 - 3, dated November 28, 1950,
 previously quoted.

logs were hauled down the wooden track by local settlers who worked at a daily wage. The men were poorly supervised and the enterprise as a whole was poorly organized. The cars were continually jumping off the track and, since the men were paid regardless of the amount of work done, no one helped the teamster whose car became derailed. The result was that hours were spent in idleness waiting for the track to be cleared. "Betsy" would be kept waiting at the turnout and the mill would be idle. Then too, "Betsy" showed an alarming tendency to jump the rails and often required several hours of work before being ready for operation again. The grade from Mitford up the Horse creek valley was quite steep and the engine often ran away when returning to the sawmill with a load of logs.

In 1887 the Cochrane's house was finished. Lady Cochrane appears to have moved to Mitford about July of that year. (7) J. W. Vaughan was trying without much success to

 (7) F. W. D., July 19, 1887. First mention of Lady Cochrane.

 operate the coal mine. The shaft had been pumped out and some coal removed. (8) It was in this year too that the

 (8) Calgary Herald, June 24, 1887. Report that a miner named Judd had been crushed to death in the workings.

 town received its name. It was named in honour of Mrs. Percy Mitford, a sister of the first Earl of Egerton. Mrs.

Mitford was a great friend of Lady Cochrane's and appears to have had a financial interest in some of the Cochrane enterprises. It was not until 1889 that a post office was established there.

The site that Tom Cochrane chose for the little town he was about to build is a striking example of his impracticality. It was at the confluence of the Bow river and Horse creek, on a low bench some two hundred yards wide and one-half mile long. The steep hill to the north of the river and the town site abutted on the river at the west end of the bench and made entrance from the north or west very difficult. Horse creek valley was narrow, and it required considerable labor to build the grade for "Betsy's track". On the east, the Canadian Pacific Railway occupied the only good approach to the town, and it too was on a sharp incline. At Mitford the railway and the river came together on a long angle and as a result, the flat between the river and the railway was very narrow. It was on this narrow flat that Tom Cochrane later built the store, the hotel and the saloon. The only ford across the river was rather treacherous and, of course, teams could not be taken across the railway bridge. On the south side of the river the hills rose sharply and there were no satisfactory building sites. There is a certain picturesque beauty about the location but as a site for a town, particularly a town that

it was hoped would expand, it was quite impossible.

Late in 1887, Mr. Vaughan abandoned the mine. He began to prospect the north side of the river around the mouth of Coal creek and soon found a promising seam just east of the creek about three-quarters of a mile above its mouth. A shaft was sunk but Mr. Vaughan was immediately faced with the problem of transporting the coal from the mine to the railway. The sawmill track passed up Grand valley a short distance north of the mine and seemed the obvious solution. In June 1888, Tom Cochrane and Mr. Algernon St. Maur, who with Mrs. St. Maur was visiting the Cochranes at that time, purchased a two-thirds interest in the mine and constructed a spur from the mine to the sawmill track. (9)

(9) F.W. D., June 15, 1888. Mr. White refers to Mr. St. Maur as Lord St. Maur but the title is not listed in Sir John Bernard Burke's "Peerage".

Several buildings were put up in 1888. The Cochranes built a store, a livery stable and a hotel. (10) The

(10) F. W. D., September 29. First mention of the hotel. October 18. First mention of the store. Interview, C. Pedepat, January 1951, Cochrane. The livery stable and the second group of bunkhouses were built the same year as the hotel.

number of bunkhouses was very materially increased to provide accommodation for the men in the mine. There were some private homes besides that of the Cochranes but the

names of their owners are not recorded. Dr. Hayden, the first doctor in the area, opened a small drug store and office that summer. (11) A man named Dejournal operated the

 (11) F. W. D., October 12, 1888. First mention of Dr. Hayden. Interview, C. Pedeprat - Mr. Pedeprat says that Dr. Hayden ran a small drug store and medical practice in Mitford for three years. Accidents in the mine and sawmill were numerous. Betsy, in particular, kept him busy, for she was always jumping the track and mangling the engineer or brakeman.

store and hotel for T. Cochrane.

Mrs. Algernon St. Maur, wife of Mr. St. Maur mentioned above, kept a detailed diary of her experiences while visiting in the North West Territories and that portion which deals with the visit at Mitford is the best source of information on this pioneer town. (12) A number of excerpts

 (12) Mrs. Algernon St. Maur, "Impressions of a Tenderfoot", John Murray, London - 1890.

that throw some light on the activities of the Cochranes and their neighbours and the nature of the country in which they lived are presented here, with comments where necessary.

"May 31st - We have a beautiful view of the Rocky Mountains here, and on a fine morning it is difficult to believe they are sixty miles distant; we are surrounded by fine undulating prairie. The cattle are fat and sleek, though they have had nothing but what they could find on the "range" all winter. The great drawback here is the frost at night; even in summer there is often enough to injure the potatoes and wheat.

"Adela and I amused ourselves planting the garden; we sowed cabbages, lettuces, cauliflowers, carrots, beets and beans.

"The soil is surprisingly rich; one digs nearly a yard deep, and still it is the same good brown loam everywhere.

"The sawmill and the house are close to the C. P. R.; at the former fifty men are at work. Their wages are from \$20 to \$30 a month, and they are boarded as well. A private railway brings the logs down from the forest, they are sawn up here and put in the cars for market.

"N-----, Tom C-----, and Algernon have been busy this morning making a garden fence. They are also building a new hen-house; the latter requires to be well put together, to keep out the cold in winter, and has double walls, with saw-dust filled up between. Dug-out hen-houses with turf roofs also make warm shelter; only a few have stoves, and often the claws of the poor birds get frost bitten. The cat here has had her ears frozen off; fortunately they both are gone just at the same place, and give her the appearance of having her ears cropped."

(Tom C----- was Tom Cochrane and Algernon was her husband, Mr. St. Maur. N----- remains unknown, although it is possible that he was the Earl of Norbury who lived for a time with the Cochranes.)

"June 1st - Mr. Kerfoot, a neighbour, and one of the best riders and drivers in the North-West, drove Adela's ponies in the buckboard. They have been on the prairies for six months; when "taken up" they often require re-breaking; one of them lay down twice, bucked, and made a great fuss. Mr. Kerfoot drove them patiently and well. The harness and buckboard, both of American make, were perfectly adapted to the rough roads and prairie work. These carriages, owing to the wide axle, are almost impossible to upset, and one can drive them where no English carriage could go. The harness enables the horses to go quite independently of each other; the pole-pieces, instead of being, as in England, fast to the head of the pole, are here attached to a short bar called the yoke, which works loosely on the end of it, and also gives the horses a straight pull in holding back.

"We all started on the private railway to see the timber limits, which are fifteen miles distant. A truck was arranged for us to sit on in front of the engine, the latter pushing us along. The men in charge drove too fast, and when we had gone about three miles, we felt several great jolts, the truck had left the rails and upset; most fortunately for us, one of the wheels got wedged in the sand, and the brakeman, having put on the brakes, stopped the engine. For a few moments there was an awful feeling of suspense; we all expected the engine would come crashing down

on the top of us; happily, however, this did not occur, else we might all have been killed. On regaining our feet, we found the only person badly injured was the brakeman; he, poor fellow, lay under the engine with three bad wounds in his head, and his ear almost severed from the scalp. With difficulty he was extricated from his perilous position, and while the C-----s and Algernon remained with him, N---- and I went for assistance.".....

(Mrs. St. Maur speaks of running back to Mitford for the doctor.)

"The doctor came quickly, a wagon followed, the poor fellow was soon in his little bed at the saw-mill, and, wonderful to relate, though so terribly injured, and with a badly fractured skull, he recovered. It is always much in favour of these men during illness that they have lived a hardy out-of-door life."

"June 2nd - Drove to the British American Co's sheep-ranche. The manager was away, but his housekeeper gave us luncheon; afterwards we went fishing."

(E. B. H. Cochrane would be the manager at that time. Mrs. St. Maur gives a detailed account of the fishing party.)

"June 3rd - The doctor who comes to see the man who was hurt in the engine, has travelled much, and was for a long time in the Hudson Bay Co's service."

(This would be Dr. Hayden. There follows a long passage on Esquimaux dogs, of which the doctor had a team while at Moose Factory. Mrs. St. Maur speaks of seeing a fine pair of these dogs in Calgary. The owner had been offered £100 for them but had refused to sell them.)

"June 4th - 10 degrees of frost last night.

"Algernon went for a ride with Mr. Kerfoot, and in the afternoon we all rode over to his horse-ranche. The horses are most clever in avoiding the gopher holes, and if given their heads they can go at any pace over them without making a mistake.....

"At the ranche we saw more than a hundred horses. The corrals are wonderfully well arranged, three opening into each other. When the band of horses has been driven into the first, which is the largest, the horses required for branding or breaking are separated from the rest, and, the gate being opened, are turned into the second corral. The entrance into the third corral is by a very high strong gate, so arranged as to swing round against the side of this corral, with just space for a horse to stand between. A single horse is now let through this gate, which is swung around, holding him against the side of the third corral, so that he is helpless and cannot fight or hurt himself being branded or bridled....."

(Mr. Kerfoot's ranch was on the west side of Grand valley

about six miles northwest of Mitford. Mrs. St. Maur notes that there was 10 degrees of frost the preceding night. It must be remembered that Mitford was on a bench a very few feet higher than the river. Low lying areas throughout the district are subject to these late frosts - as well as early frosts in the fall.)

"June 6th - On the other side of the Bow river is a cañon known as "the jumping pound", over the edge of which the hunters used to drive the buffalo, and in this cañon their bones still lie in places two or three feet deep; they are now being taken away and used for manure."

(The jumping pound is a precipitous bank several hundred yards long and over one hundred feet high on the west side of Jumping Pound creek about one mile from the mouth of the creek. This, of course, is the origin of the name of the creek.)

"A band of Blackfoot Indians passed to-day; the chief "Three Plumes" rode up to the house to show his permit, which is given by the Indian agent to enable them to leave their reservations for a stated time; this band had been on a visit to the Stony (sic.) Indians. We have since heard that the guests on leaving stole thirty ponies....."

"June 14th - Until this morning we have not seen the Rockies for nearly a week.

"Innumerable wild flowers grown on the prairie; last

month there were anemones of all colours, and in a few weeks there will be masses of dog-rose and wild honeysuckle; it is a kind provision of nature that this wild rose is so hardy, it stands even the extreme cold of winter and grows from the root each year. The doctor, who is a botanist, sent a collection of wild flowers which he had made on the prairie to Kew Gardens, to be classified.....

"We went to see the coal-mine which was discovered three years ago; the first traces of coal being seen at the mouth of a badger's hole. Adela and I only went in as far as the end of the first gallery, where we met a man and horse bringing up a truck of coal to the mouth; the others all departed along a similar gallery, each carrying a Davy lamp; as yet there is little danger of gas, the workings being quite near the surface."

"June 18th - Adela's sitting hens require a lot of running after; half wild, and fleet as hares, they appear to have a strange dislike to returning to their nest, so we have to get some of the men to help us to run them down.

"Two ranchers came to luncheon to-day - true types, I should think, of 'western men'. I hear that their father in England is a rich man, but he seems to do but little for his sons. They work hard, even washing all their own clothes and cooking, and it is not therefore to be wondered at that they look rough.

"The usual dress out here is a blue flannel shirt, with no collar, but a coloured handkerchief tied loosely round the neck, a buckskin shirt, a pair of leather 'shaps' with fringes down the seams, worn over trousers, boots, and a broad brimmed felt hat, with a leather band round it, which is generally stamped with patterns and ornamented in some way.

"'Shap' is an abbreviation of the Mexican word 'chaparajos', and are long leather leggings. A lariat coiled at the horn of the Mexican saddle, a plaited leather bridle with a severe Spanish bit, and a pair of smart spurs, often silver-mounted, complete the cowboy's outfit....."

"June 21st - To-day we visited the forest or timber limits, starting early. The ride was quite delightful, as we cantered up and down these limitless plains of grass, with the mountains stretching away into the dim distance as far as the eye could reach, and extending in Canada alone for 800 miles.....Tares of many shades, pea-vine, wild camomile, cyclamens, bugle-flowers, and many other wild flowers, we saw as we rode along; also myrtles, gooseberries, and dog-roses. Occasionally a few prairie hen rose in front of us, and flew away, wondering doubtless at having being (sic.) disturbed.

"As we came in view of the log-house where some of the lumbermen live, we saw the forest beneath us;.....We

rode four miles further, over somewhat marshy ground, then after descending a rather precipitous path, we found ourselves at a place which goes by the name of Dog Pound Creek; the horses were all picketed out, the harness and saddles having been removed."

(The party attempted to fish without success and then visited a nearby ranch.)

"Madame d'Artigue and her husband and sister (French people from the Basque Provinces) are in charge of this ranche for some one who lives in Calgary. It was quite a pleasure to see their beautifully managed poultry-yards. There were hundreds of chickens of all ages and sizes, rows of boxes for the sitting hens with one hen in each, all arranged the same and in the practical manner peculiar to French people. There is an excellent market for poultry in the North-West; they told me that for a capon they got \$1.75 cents in Calgary....."

(C. Pedepnat, previously mentioned in a footnote, was a nephew of Mr. d'Artigue. Mr. d'Artigue was a member of the original N. W. M. P. He left the service in 1880 and returned to France a short time later. He brought back two nephews, John and Charlie Pedepnat, with him and settled on the Dog Pound in 1884. John d'Artigue was a bachelor, and the Madame d'Artigue mentioned is a sister-in-law. A brother of John d'Artigue, with his wife and her sister,

came to Canada about 1884 also, and they are the family mentioned by Mrs. St. Maur. This family did not remain long).

(13)

 (13) Interview, C. Pedeprat, Cochrane. January 1951.

"Sunday, June 24th - In the evening we had a service from a travelling minister - about half the man came; the hymns selected by him were not at all cheerful nor bright, and his sermon was not suitable in any way to the requirements of his listeners, which one regretted."

"June 25th -Rather a tragic termination to our visit was caused by another accident on the railway. In the evening we heard the mill-whistle blowing violently, and found that the engine, returning with four trucks of lumber, had been thrown off the rails; the engineer got jammed between the engine and the logs, and had his leg broken in two places; but such is the toughness of these men that when being carried down we heard him joking with the others about not yet needing to be carried feet first, though he must have been suffering great pain....."

The mine and sawmill were kept in operation throughout 1889. The coal seam was only two feet thick and it was difficult to get the coal out. The seam "pinched off" at frequent intervals and was often found again several feet above or below the workings. This meant that the shaft had to be re-dug a considerable distance up towards the surface

in order to level the slope enough to permit the laying of a track to the new portion of the seam. Then too, there was a tremendous amount of stone and earth to remove at the face of the working in order to follow the narrow seam of coal. (14) The coal was poor in quality and could not be

 (14) Interview, J. Cooper, January 1951, Calgary. Mr. Cooper worked for the Cochranes from 1888 to 1892. He worked in the mine at first and later ran the brick yard about to be mentioned.

 sold at a high enough price to ensure a profit. The sawmill was becoming a liability as well. Both were abandoned in the spring of 1890.

In 1890 Dejournal left Mitford and was succeeded by R. Smith in the hotel and A. Martin in the store. A saloon was built early in this year, but does not appear to have been operated very long. (15) Mr. Smith had worked in the

 (15) F. W. D., February 18, 1890. First mention of the saloon.

 sawmill for three years before he started to run the hotel. His daughter Violet, now Mrs. Farley of Cranberry, B. C., was born at Mitford in 1887 and appears to have been the first white child born there. (16) Mr. J. McNeil lived in

 (16) Interview, Mrs. J. Cooper, January 1951, Calgary.

 Mitford around 1890 as well. He was a miner but does not appear to have worked for the Cochranes but rather to have been in the mines at Canmore and returning home on the weekends. His daughter, Sadie, later became Mrs. L. V. Kelly. Mr. Kelly is the author of "The Rangemen".

There were two rather important developments in 1891. Lady Cochrane procured the services of Miss Isabel Monilaws, of Bruce County, Ontario, as school teacher. A school was opened in the old saloon, the first school between Calgary and Morleyville. There were usually about ten children each year. Miss Monilaws remained until 1895, when she married Mr. J. Cooper, who was then running a small ranch some ten miles northwest of Mitford. (17)

(19) Interview, Mrs. J. Cooper. In 1894 the following children were at school in Mitford; Harry, Leslie, Walter and Vera Towers, whose father was a section man at Radnor and later a rancher south of Mitford, Harry Jones and George Skinner, sons of ranchers some twenty miles north, Birdie Radcliffe, whose father ran a creamery at Big Hill springs, and Mary, Everet and Joseph McNeil of J. McNeil's family.

The second development of interest was the establishment of a brick yard at Mitford. The Cochranes had lost money on the coal mine and the sawmill and believed that a brick yard would help to recoup their losses. The clay was hauled down from the flat a mile or two north of Mitford with the locomotive. The yard consisted of three kilns, of a primitive type, and a number of drying sheds. Mr. Cooper ran the yard. The bricks were poor in quality and expensive to make. This enterprise lasted two summers.

Dr. Hayden left in 1891 and a Mr. Cowley ran the drug store after that. Mr. Cowley later established the drug store of that name in Calgary. Joe Howard built a blacksmith shop a half mile east of Mitford on the north

side of the C. P. R. line. Tom Cochrane built a bridge across the Bow river during the summer. It was located one hundred yards east of the railway bridge and consisted of two spans abutting in the middle of the river on a small island. It was a toll bridge for a short time, the fees being five cents for an individual to walk across and ten cents for a team and wagon. (18)

 (18) Interview, Mrs. Cooper.

About 1892 the Cochranes opened a coal mine at Canmore. This venture proved unsuccessful and was abandoned in 1895, although the man who purchased it from them ran it very successfully - and it is operated to this day. (19)

 (19) Interview, C. Pedepat. The mine is owned by the "Canmore Coal Company" at the present time. A Mr. McNeil purchased it from Tom Cochrane and later formed the Company. The mine employs about three hundred men and produces over one thousand tons of coal per day. The face is under the mountain group known as "The Three Sisters". The coal is excellent steam coal and the C. P. R. is the largest customer.

In the fall of 1892, an Anglican church was built on the hill northeast of the town. (20) Lady Cochrane in-

 (20) Appendix D, plan of the town of Mitford.

terested friends in England in the project and contributed to its construction herself. Many of the furnishings in the church were presented by Lady Cochrane. A. W. F. Cooper, later Archdeacon Cooper, was the first incumbent and the first ceremony was the baptism of James W. Jones, a brother of Harry Jones mentioned above, in October 1892.

The first recorded service was held on January 1, 1893. The names of W. F. Webb, S. C. C. Smith, C. W. Nain, F. W. Goodman and E. Perrin appear in the church record as officiating clergymen in the course of the next five years. (21)

(21) All Saints Anglican Church Records, Cochrane.

The brick yard was the last business venture of the Cochrane family in this area. It was abandoned in 1893. "Betsy" was sold to a lumber mill near Golden, B. C. The track was taken up and the industrial life of Mitford came to an end. The Canadian Pacific Railway, which had been loathe to stop in Mitford at any time, finally cancelled regular stops there that summer. As previously mentioned, there was a considerable incline down towards the town from the east. Trains proceeding east and stopping at Mitford were forced to back up half-a-mile in order to make the grade out of town. Westbound trains came to a halt with the engine on the bridge and there was danger of a fire. The local children soon discovered that a small amount of grease applied to the track created consternation among the train crew, particularly on the westbound train, which slid right through the town before it could be stopped. (22)

(22) Interview, Messrs. H. Jones and G. Skinner, January 1951, Cochrane. As schoolboys in Mitford, Mr. Jones and Mr. Skinner participated in these pranks. They also report that they used to lie between the rails when the train approached and let it pass over them, a practice that caused a satisfactory amount of terror in the breasts of the local citizens and the train crews.

The next three years saw the final abandonment of Mitford. A. Martin and J. Howard both moved to Cochrane and established businesses there. Tom Cochrane ran against Frank Oliver in the elections for the House of Commons in 1896 and was defeated. (23) Shortly afterwards, the Coch-

(23) Sessional Papers #20, Volume XXXI - 1897. 305.

ranes returned to England. Tom Cochrane's sister was a lady-in-waiting to Princess Beatrice of Battenburg, who was governor of the Isle of Wight. She managed to procure an appointment for her brother as Deputy Governor. (24)

(24) Interview, Miss M. Pinkham, O. B. E., January 1951, Calgary. Miss Pinkham visited the Cochranes on the Isle of Wight in the early 1900's and says that they were living in considerable elegance in a very beautiful old castle.

No one seems to know just why the Cochrane family came to Canada. Miss Pinkham suggests that they came out to retrench. Another, and more interesting suggestion, is that Lady Cochrane in some manner incurred the displeasure of Queen Victoria and found it expedient to leave England for a time.

The town appears to have been deserted by 1898. Some of the buildings were moved to Cochrane and one or two to nearby farms. The rest were burned by transients in the course of the next few years. Lady Cochrane's house was burned in 1905. The Anglican church was moved to Cochrane in April, 1899, an event that caused considerable indignation among those in England who had helped to finance it. They did not believe that a town could die. The church cemetery, a few remnants of foundations, and a suggestion

of a grade on the west bank of Horse creek, are all that remain to mark the old site of the town of Mitford.

The unfavorable site of the town of Mitford was one of the most important factors leading to its failure to become the centre of the growing rural district. The fact that the Canadian Pacific Railway owned no property there, and found it a difficult place for its trains to stop, combined with the consistent failures of the Cochrane enterprises, further discouraged its development. Tom and Lady Cochrane, the only people with a vested interest in the town, administered the coup de grace when they departed. The steadily expanding rural community quite naturally turned to the town of Cochrane as its local commercial centre.

CHAPTER V

RURAL SETTLEMENT TO 1900

The settlement and development of the rural area was slow, though steady, in the last quarter of the century. The first settlement of any kind was of course that of Morleyville previously mentioned. The McDougalls brought the first live-stock into the region in 1873 and added more in the following years. (1)

(1) Rev. J. McDougall, op. cit., 90. McDougall mentions the stock brought from Edmonton but does not give the number. On page 146 he refers to the livestock purchased the following year in Montana.

Kelly, op. cit., 111, states that fifty head of cattle and horses were brought to Morleyville by the McDougalls in 1871. He is wrong about the year but may be right with respect to the number of animals. The McDougalls did not establish Morleyville until 1873. See Chapter I above.

A Mr. Spencer appears to have been the first settler in the area to the east of the Ghost river. He came to Morleyville in 1874 and established himself along the creek that now bears his name sometime in the fall of that year. Mr. Spencer was an Easterner who had travelled to the Pacific via the United States. He worked in the mines in British Columbia for a time and had then gone to Edmonton through the Yellow-head Pass. In Edmonton he met Rev. George McDougall who recommended the area around Morleyville as a place in which to settle. Following this advice, Mr. Spencer joined a party travelling to Fort Benton early in 1874. He suffered severely

from the cold and was finally abandoned by the rest of the party in an Indian camp near Calgary when he became incapacitated by snowblindness. A kind Blackfoot undertook to deliver him to Morleyville. (2)

(2) Rev. J. McDougall, op. cit., 132 and 152.

Mr. Spencer went to Montana with the McDougalls in the summer of 1874 and purchased twenty-five head of Texan steers. (2) He does not appear to have remained at Spencer creek many years. Before he left, he attempted to build a sawmill run by water power and the remains of the expertly hewn water wheel still lie beside the creek a few miles north of the Banff highway. (3)

(3) Interview, C. Pedepat, Cochrane, January 1951.

The number of livestock in the area increased greatly in the late fall of 1874 when Mr. Shaw arrived at Morleyville with five hundred head of cattle. He had driven them through the Kootenay pass from British Columbia and intended to reach Edmonton before winter. When he arrived at Morleyville, Rev. John McDougall persuaded him to winter there. Mr. Shaw found the pasture so satisfactory that he remained until the early fall of 1876 and, after selling some of the stock to Rev. J. McDougall, he then went on to Edmonton. (4)

(4) Kelly, op. cit., 113 and 117.

In 1876 a Frenchman named Louis Beaupré arrived

with his half-breed wife and settled near the lake that now bears his name. (5) Mr. Beaupré remained until 1883, when

 (5) Ibid., 116.

 he sold his farm and improvements to Frank White for one thousand dollars. Mr. White also bought his cattle paying thirty-five dollars a head for them, but the number of cattle is not recorded. (6)

 (6) F. W. D., May 29, 1883.

 There does not appear to have been any further settlement in the 1870's. Kelly records that there were fourteen settlers in the area west of Calgary in 1879, but those not already accounted for may have been in the area east of the one under consideration. (7)

 (7) Kelly, op. cit., 136.

 About 1880 John d'Artigue settled on Spencer creek a short distance north of the Bow river. In 1883 he moved north to Dogpound creek. Mr. d'Artigue was a member of the original Mounted Police force of 1874. He returned to France in 1884 and brought his two nephews, John and Charles Pedeptrat, and his brother and his brother's wife back to Canada with him. The Mme d'Artigue mentioned in Mrs. St. Maur's diary of 1888 was this sister-in-law of John d'Artigue. The d'Artigue brother and his wife moved out of the area shortly after 1888. (8)

 (8) Interview, C. Pedeptrat, Cochrane, January 1951. Mr. Pedeptrat was only eleven years old when he came to Canada.

In 1881 A. P. Patrick, a Dominion Government surveyor, took out a lease of five thousand acres along the Ghost river about four miles north of the Bow river. He called his ranch the Mount Royal and it was the first large privately owned ranch in the area. Mr. Patrick went east and purchased two hundred and eight head of good stock from around Galt and Guelph. The cattle were shipped to Winnipeg and then traileed overland to the ranch. The drive from Winnipeg took six months. (9)

 (9) Kelly, op. cit., 144.

Angus McDonald arrived in the area the same year. He was a native of Invernesshire, Scotland and came to Canada with a Mr. McDonnell. They travelled across the American mid-west and then up the Missouri river by boat. It was on this boat trip that Mr. McDonald saw his first and only buffalo. At Fort Benton teams and wagons were purchased and the two men drove north to Morleyville. McDonnell took out a lease in the area to the east of Morleyville a short time after he arrived. Mr. McDonald spent some time looking the country over and found a spot south of the Mount Royal ranch that reminded him of his old home in Scotland. He bought a half section of this land in 1883 and called it the Glenfinnan ranch in honour of his wife's birthplace. (10)

 (10) Interview, Mrs. Joanne Phipps, Cochrane, January 1951.
 Mrs. Phipps is a daughter of A. McDonald.

In 1883 A. P. Patrick took a Mr. Behan into partnership with him on the Mount Royal ranch. In September, Frank Ricks arrived from Oregon with two hundred and fifty head of horses for the ranch. They had been purchased from D. E. Gilman and Company in Oregon. Frank Ricks started north with the herd in May and came through the Crow's Nest Pass and then along the foothills. The drive ended in September. Frank remained to work for the Mount Royal and became a well known figure in the area. He was one of the outstanding riders of southern Alberta. (11)

(11) Kelly, op. cit., 170.

In June 1883, Sandy McDonnell, a well-known half-breed of the area, shot a buffalo bull along the Horse creek. Shortly afterwards, he shot another in the Grand valley. These are the last two buffalo in the area of which there is any record. (12)

(12) R. Broderick, "The Great Buffalo Migration", Canadian Cattlemen, December 1939. 313.

W. Bell Irving established the first ranch in Grand valley sometime in 1883. His brother was one of the surveyors on the C. P. R. and appears to have recommended the area to W. Bell Irving. The Bell Irving ancestral home was in Dumfrieshire, Scotland. Mr. Bell Irving built his ranch headquarters on the western side of the valley just beyond the western boundary of the Cochrane Ranche Company's lease.

Mr. Kerfoot married one of the Bell Irving daughters and then went into partnership with his father-in-law after he left the Cochrane Ranche. (13)

 (13) Interview, A. D. Kerfoot, Cochrane, January 1951.

The number of livestock in the area declined sharply in 1883 with the removal of the Cochrane herds to the new lease in southern Alberta. It was not until after the turn of the century that the cattle population exceeded that of late 1882. The winter of 1882 - 83 that was so disastrous to the Cochrane herd did not particularly affect the other ranchers in the area. It is quite possible that the more rugged nature of the land where these small ranchers were located may account for this. The deep ravines of the Wildcat Hills would provide excellent shelter and the high hilltops would be blown bare enough to allow the cattle to pasture.

Early in 1884, Murdock McPherson settled on the north bank of the Bow about two miles east of Spencer creek. Mr. McPherson's father had been a factor in the Hudson's Bay Company but Murdock wanted to be a farmer. There were three children in the family - Billy, who later became an engineer on the C. P. R.; Joseph, later a cowhand on the Bow River Horse Ranch; and Maggie, who later married A. P. Patrick. (15)

 (15) Interview, Miss Mary Morrison, Calgary, January 1951.

Alexander Gillies, a brother-in-law of Angus McDonald,

arrived the same year and took up a homestead to the south of the Glenfinnan Ranch. (16) Frank White secured the

 (16) Interview, Miss Annie Gillies, Cochrane, January 1951.

 McDonnell lease west of the Ghost river in September, and severed his connection with the Cochrane Ranche Company in December. He began to lay plans for a sheep ranch. (17)

 (17) F. W. D., September 25 and December 22, 1884.

George Creighton established his first ranch in the area in 1884. It was located north of Beaupré lake, and was followed a short time later by another northwest along the Ghost river. The ranches were both quite extensive although most of the land was leased in the early years. Mr. Creighton was a horse rancher. E. Boney Thompson, another of the outstanding riders of southern Alberta, worked for him. (18)

 (18) Interview, Miss A. Gillies. Creighton's ranch near Beaupré lake was close to the Gillies homestead.

In May 1885, J. Robertson purchased an interest in the proposed sheep ranch of Mr. White. Mr. Robertson invested two thousand dollars. Mr. Hardisty of the Hudson's Bay Company invested five thousand dollars as well. (19)

 (19) F. W. D., May 23 and June 11, 1885.
 Mr. Hardisty was an Edmonton man - F. W. D. June 8, 1885.

Late in July, Mr. White went to Montana and obtained some twenty-five hundred sheep from a Mr. Graden, a sheep rancher near Fort Benton. Sixty-eight bucks were obtained from O.

G. Cooper, north of Fort Benton. The move got under way on August 5 and took six weeks. Fourteen sheep perished on the trail. (20)

 (20) F. W. D., August 5, September 26 and Memo section, 1885.

The McDougall family severely contested Mr. White's lease. The Dominion Government appears to have promised the land to the Rev. George McDougall for an orphanage. After his death, the Rev. John McDougall had the land fenced and placed the matter in the hands of the Methodist Conference. No one took steps to get title to the land. When McDonnell obtained the lease, Rev. John McDougall lodged a protest, but since McDonnell appeared to have no interest in stocking or improving the lease, the matter was dropped. The situation was more serious in 1884 however, for Mr. White had every intention of using the land. McDougall had apparently been promised that the land would not be leased again and was quite indignant at the "official injustice". (21) Mr.

 (21) F. W. D., memoranda, in diary of 1886. Records of the conversations, some of which were quite heated, between Mr. White and Rev. J. McDougall in connection with the land.

White promised to limit his improvements as much as possible if he was promised new leases elsewhere and compensation for moving. As a result, Mr. White received extensive leases on the south side of the Bow river, west of Jumping Pound creek. He moved to the new ranch in July 1886, and this became the famous "Merino Ranch". (22)

 (22) F. W. D., July 24, 1886.

In 1885 R. Wainwright settled along Spencer creek on the land previously occupied by John d'Artigue. Mr. Wainwright died a few years later and the land passed into the hands of a man named Lewis. (23)

 (23) Interview, G. Pedepat, Cochrane, January 1951.
 Lewis was called "Professor" Lewis. It is not known how he acquired the title.

James Quigley, a section foreman on the C. P. R., took up the first homestead adjoining the town site of Cochrane the same year. He must have received permission from the British American Ranche Company since this was still part of its lease at that time. However, several homesteaders established themselves on the lease during the next few years, particularly on that part of it that lay west of Jumping Pound creek. Major J. Butler arrived about the same time and took up a homestead at the junction of the Bow river and Jumping Pound creek. He was a former British army officer, who had served for many years in India. He returned to Ireland in 1902 but his son Robert remained on the farm. (24)

 (24) Interview, Miss A. Gillies, Cochrane, January 1951.

Mr. E. D. McKay settled near the Butlers. He remained there for five years working for Mr. White most of the time. In 1890 he moved to Grand valley and took up a homestead there. (24)

In 1886 A. P. Patrick and Mr. Behan sold the Mount

Royal Ranch to W. C. Wells and Nelson Brown. Mr. Wells owned a sawmill at Palliser, B. C., and did not spend much time at the ranch. Mr. Patrick had been concentrating on horse raising but Wells and Brown decided to change to cattle. Some five hundred head were added to the cattle herd that summer. Most of them were brought from British Columbia. The following winter was extremely cold and quite a number of the new cattle perished.

The same year, R. W. Cowan established himself north of the township line on Big Hill creek. Mr. Cowan and Walter Jones had ranched together in Manitoba earlier and came to the Cochrane area together. Mr. Cowan purchased nearly four thousand acres of land and stocked it with cattle from Manitoba. These cattle were shipped in trainload lots and were the first large movement of stock into the area since the Cochrane herds had been brought in. Mr. Jones remained with Cowan a few years and then managed the horse ranch of Ed. Bottrel near the present town of Bottrel. (25)

(25) Interviews, Mr. W. Hutchinson, who now owns the Cowan ranch, and Mr. H. Jones, son of W. Jones, Cochrane, January 1951.

Mr. Thomas Ellis settled along the Jumping Pound in the summer of 1886. He had come from Lenark county, Ontario, in the hope of finding a better living for his family than the hundred acre farm in Ontario offered. He had four sons, Robert, Thomas, Oliver and John, and one

daughter, Sara. The father and the four sons each took up a quarter section homestead with the usual quarter section pre-empted alongside. They went into sheep raising, purchasing most of the animals from the British American Ranche. (26)

 (26) Interview, Mrs. Sara Edge, daughter of T. Ellis, Cochrane, January 1951.

F. H. Towers was employed as trackman on the C. P. R. at the Radnor section house, a few miles west of Mitford, in 1886. Mr. Towers had come to Calgary with the railroad in 1883 and had worked at Langdon, a few miles east of Calgary. He raised stock as a sideline at Radnor and built up a small herd. When he left the C. P. R. some years later to take up a homestead on the Jumping Pound he owned about two hundred head of cattle. (27)

 (27) Interview, W. Towers, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1886 Angus McDonald brought his family out from Scotland. Mrs. McDonald and the children were passengers on one of the first C. P. R. trains to make the transcontinental run. Mr. McDonald had been slowly building up a herd, and owned about twenty-five head of cattle by this time. There were three sons in the family, Angus S., Donald Peter and Alexander J., and three daughters, Jessie, now Mrs. Perry of Edmonton; Margaret, who later married J. Robertson; and Joanne, later Mrs. J. A. Phipps. Angus J. later homesteaded on the Beaverdam creek some fifteen miles north of

Cochrane. D. P. McDonald went to work for the Mount Royal Ranch where Frank Sibbald, a son of Andrew Sibbald of Morleyville, was foreman at that time. In 1890 D. P. succeeded him as foreman and began to buy out Wells and Brown. By 1901, D. P. owned the ranch. Alexander was foreman on the Cowan ranch from 1896 to 1901 and then moved to Calgary. (28)

(28) Interview, Mrs. J. Phipps, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1887 W. H. Edge took up a homestead five miles south of Cochrane. The Edge family had crossed the United States to San Francisco and then travelled by boat to Vancouver, in 1876. W. Edge, one of the sons, came on alone to Alberta hoping to establish a ranch for himself. In 1894 he married Sara Ellis. He obtained ten head of milch cows about this time and shipped butter to Calgary for a few years. Butter then sold for twenty cents a pound, to be taken in trade. (29)

(29) Interview, Mrs. W. H. Edge, Cochrane, January 1951.

W. D. Kerfoot resigned as manager of the British American Ranche Company in 1887 and went into partnership with W. Bell Irving. They leased several thousand acres of land east of Grand valley and north of Cochrane lake and stocked it. Four years later the Government suddenly cancelled their lease and it was necessary to sell the stock. Unfortunately the market was weak at the time and the partners took a very heavy loss. Each managed to save more than

a section of land and a few head of livestock. They went into remounts after this. (30)

(30) Interview, A. D. Kerfoot, Cochrane, January 1951.

The Bow River Horse Ranch was raising horses for the English market at this time. Only Englishmen were employed to break and handle the horses. Thirty or forty were shipped in 1887 and found a good market. (31)

(31) Kelly, op. cit., 214.

C. Perrenoud settled on the Horse creek in 1887 or 1888. Mr. Perrenoud was the son of a jeweller in Besançon, France, who came to Canada because he wanted to raise horses. He was a student at the Winterbotham ranch near Pincher creek for a time. It was a common practice in the 1880's to spend some time on an established ranch in order to learn the business. Mr. Perrenoud, like many others, paid six hundred dollars for the course - which appears to have consisted of doing all the dirty work on the ranch. After graduation, he purchased twenty-five head of horses from Critchley, near Calgary, and established his horse ranch. (32)

(32) Interview, Mrs. C. Perrenoud, Cochrane, January 1951.

John Phipps settled near C. Perrenoud early in 1888. He had been working for Sir Lister-Kaye on his ranch near Blackfoot Crossing for some four years or more. Mr. Phipps took out a quarter section homestead and the usual quarter section pre-emption. There were six children in

the Phipps family, two of whom were born after 1888. Mrs. C. Perrenoud was a Phipps. Evelyn Phipps married J. Rayden, a later settler on the Horse creek. Victoria married Stewart Walker, a homesteader on Beaverdam creek. George Phipps married Joanne McDonald. (33)

 (33) Interview, Mrs. Joanne Phipps.

The Copithorne brothers, John and Richard, settled on the Jumping Pound and went into partnership on a mixed farm. A mixed farm in those days was one where a few cattle and horses, pigs, sheep and chickens were raised. John had come to Canada from county Cork in 1883 and had worked around Winnipeg for a time. During the rebellion he volunteered for the army and was sent to live among the Cree Indians and watch their movements. In 1886 he came as farm instructor to the Sarcee Indians. Dick came to Calgary in 1887 and worked on the Mission bridge in Calgary until he had enough money to buy a team. The two brothers then took up homesteads beside each other. John married a Miss Susan Tolle, who had just then come to Calgary. The Copithornes traded in Calgary the first few years, mainly in butter and eggs. In 1898 the brothers went into the beef raising business. (34)

 (34) Interview, C. Copithorne, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1889 J. Curran settled at the junction of Coal creek and the Bow river. D. C. Morrison took up a homestead

two and one-half miles north of him. Mr. Morrison was from the Hebrides and had arrived in the west in 1886. He had worked for three years on the large ranches of Sir Lister-Kaye and W. R. Hull east of Calgary before he came to the Cochrane area. C. Anson homesteaded beside Mr. Morrison but left in 1891 and Mr. Morrison bought his land. (35)

 (35) Interview, Miss M. Morrison, Cochrane 1951.

The Le Seurs settled three-quarters of a mile up Spencer creek in 1890. This family was from the Isle of Guernsey and had been in the coffee business in Brazil. They left around 1900. (36)

 (36) Ibid.

Mr. D. M. Radcliffe established the first creamery in southern Alberta that year. It was on Big Hill creek about six miles from Cochrane. Mr. Radcliffe had his own herd of milch cows to provide him with the raw materials and produced the butter in a small water-driven creamery. It was sold in both Cochrane and Calgary. (37)

 (37) Interview, Mrs. J. Cooper, Calgary, January 1951.

In the early 1890's Lesson and Scott, who operated the Agency store at Morleyville, established the "SL" ranch east of the reservation and south of the Bow river. Frank Ricks managed it for them and also ran a small place of his own nearby. (38)

 (38) Interview, L. Towers, Cochrane, January 1951.

G. E. Goddard was managing the Bow River Horse ranch by this time. In 1894, in partnership with the Warrens, he bought it. The long struggle with squatters, particularly just west of Calgary, ended that year, for Mr. Goddard allowed them to take up homesteads on the lease. (39) In 1897

 (39) Kelly, op. cit., 280.

there were twelve hundred head of horses on the ranch including some famous thoroughbreds of that time.

By 1900 there were a number of new settlers in the area around Cochrane. Near J. Phipps, on Horse creek, the Johnsons and Mallottes had taken up homesteads. The Elliots had settled south of Phipps and the Bassetts were south again of Elliots.

In the area between Horse creek and Coal creek, the Bostons, F. Bloomfield and Joe Jump had taken up homesteads. Joe Jump lived in a stone dugout and worked for the neighbours. Fred Bloomfield was a curious individual. He was a recluse and spent his time writing a bible that was to contain the true elements of all the religions of history. One of his most interesting tenets was that "no woman ever went to heaven".

On the west side of Grand valley, a few miles above the Bow river, the McEacherns, the Coopers and the Perrys had settled. A. Baptie had taken up a homestead northeast of Kerfoots. (40)

 (40) Interview, Miss Mary Morrison, Calgary, January 1951.

The winter of 1898, that was so difficult for ranchers further south, did little damage to the ranchers and homesteaders around Cochrane. The number of livestock in the area was increasing rapidly and the quality was being maintained through the importation of purebred bulls. Low wool prices were discouraging the sheep raisers and Frank White in particular was cutting down his flocks. Wolves were always a menace to the livestock, but they were particularly bad in Grand valley in 1898. Horse prices rose sharply due to the Boer war and gave the horse ranchers a much needed period of prosperity. Two thousand head of beef cattle were shipped out of the area in 1899, indicating a brisk demand for local livestock. (41)

 (41) Annual Report of Department of Agriculture, North West Territories. 1899.

In 1900 the Cochrane area was still rather sparsely settled. Great stretches had no settlers at all, this being particularly true of the burnt ground area northeast of Cochrane. Homesteaders tended to cluster in the valleys of the small creeks. There were only a few ranches of any consequence although some large ranches were later to develop on foundations that were laid at this time. Generally speaking the settlers had made their local purchases at Mitford during the time that town was in its heyday. After

it was abandoned, they turned to Cochrane. The foundations of this bustling little community centre were firmly established by 1900. The tremendous influx of settlers in the early years of the new century resulted in a corresponding expansion of Cochrane and the town had reached a position of considerable importance in a prosperous rural area by 1914.

CHAPTER VI

THE HISTORY OF THE VILLAGE OF COCHRANE - TO 1914

Cochrane came into being with the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The town site was granted to the C. P. R. in the early 1880's and turned over to its subsidiary, the North West Land Company, to parcel out in lots. The site has a mixture of advantages and disadvantages that have become manifest at different times in the history of the village. The most striking advantage, and one that does not change, is the beauty of the location. The village lies at the foot of Big Hill, which rises sharply to a height of six hundred feet immediately behind it. The Bow valley stretching out to the south is some three miles wide at this point and the river bed lies along the southern edge of the valley. To the east of the town, the Big Hill, which normally runs east and west parallel to the river, has a sharp projection to the south that marks the eastern boundary of this wide valley. Cochrane lies in the angle made by these two hills. To the west, the valley tends to narrow until it is little wider than the river bed at the junction of the Ghost and Bow river eleven miles away. The view of the foothills and the Rockies from the town is superb.

A second and more practical advantage is Cochrane's

situation in the heart of a prosperous mixed farming area. In the early years of its history, this advantage was not apparent. The town was located within the boundaries of the British American Ranche and rural settlement took place some distance away. The ranch gave up the lease on the north side of the Bow river in the late 1880's but the town of Mitford had been established in the meantime. When Mitford was abandoned in the 1890's, Cochrane became the centre of the rural area and began to grow.

In the early years of the present century, the village showed promise of developing an industrial self-sufficiency that would make it less dependent on the farm population. However, the first World War, changing techniques in building, and a certain conservatism in the inhabitants doomed the local industries. It is only in very recent years that Cochrane has again achieved any measure of independence from the rural area. The first World War had an extremely detrimental effect on the town; the second World War has renewed the earlier promise and vigor. This chapter is concerned with the earliest period of development.

The first building in Cochrane was the C. P. R. station. It was a frame building some thirty feet long, sixteen feet wide and seven feet high, situated on the south side of the tracks a short distance west of the present grain elevator. It served as an office, a freight

shed and living quarters for the telegraph operator. A section house was built soon afterward. The first private home appears to have been constructed early in 1886 by J. Bruce, section foreman on the track west of town. (1) In those

 (1) F. W. D., July 27, 1886.

 days, track maintenance depended on two crews working out of Cochrane - one to the east and one to the west. J. Quigley was foreman on the line east and he established himself on a homestead immediately east of the town site.

A small store was built some time in 1886. It is a matter of much controversy as to who operated this enterprise. Frank White speaks of the purchases he made at the Frenchman's store in 1886, 1887 and 1888. This would be Joe Limoge's store, although many believe that J. Johnson owned the first one in Cochrane. However Johnson is not mentioned by Frank White until 1888, and then in connection with the post office. (2) It seems probable that Limoge ran

 (2) F. W. D., June 21, 1888 and April 27, 1889.

 the store for two years at least and then sold to Johnson. Limoge later went to High River and operated the High River Trading Company for many years. The location of his store in Cochrane cannot be ascertained.

W. B. Elliot came to Cochrane in the summer of 1886 with his wife and two daughters. He built a small hotel on the present site of Webb and Milligan's garage early in

1887. (3) In 1892, John Pedeptrat enlarged it. The lower

 (3) Interview, C. Pedeptrat, Cochrane, January 1951.

floor was extended and a second storey added. The inside was then plastered and it was quite a pleasant place in which to stop. In 1895 Mrs. Elliot died and Mr. Elliot decided to get out of the hotel business. He rented the old headquarters of the British American Ranche and started a small farm. Mrs. Elliot was buried on the hill behind the ranch buildings. The hotel was placed in the charge of John Doyle. It burned down in 1896, a few hours before a big dance was to have been held in it. The next year, Mr. Elliot's daughter Agnes died and was buried beside her mother. Mr. Elliot took up a homestead on the Horse creek a short time later. In 1898 the hotel site was sold to the Murphy brothers. (4)

 (4) Interviews, C. Pedeptrat and Miss A. Gillies, Cochrane, January 1951.

Johnson's store was located in a "lean-to" on the side of his house. The house still stands. (5) Late in 1898

 (5) Appendix E, map (1), Cochrane in 1898.

a new store was built a block west of the house. It was a fair sized building and may be regarded as the first general store in Cochrane. It contained hardware and dry goods sections, a grocery department and a meat market. (6)

 (6) Interview, C. Pedeptrat.

Alex Martin, formerly of Mitford, built a small store on the northeast corner of the same block. It was a

combination store and living quarters. Mr. Martin sold out to C. W. Fisher in 1901. (7) He then went to Calgary and -----
 (7) Interview, A. Chapman, Cochrane, January 1951. -----
 established the well known Martin Sporting Goods Store on 7th Avenue west.

In 1890 an attempt was made to mine coal in Cochrane. It was necessary to sink a vertical shaft some eighty feet to the coal seam. Very little coal was taken out of the hole and it caved in a few years later. The circumstances regarding the cave-in were regarded with suspicion at the time. It was generally believed that a whiskey runner, upon being warned in Cochrane that the police were awaiting him in Calgary, threw a few barrels of whiskey out of the freight car in which he was transporting them and then rolled them into the mine shaft. The barrels wrecked the casing as they fell and caused the cave-in. (8)

 (8) Interview, C. Pedepat.

In 1898 Jim and Joe Murphy built a new hotel on the site of the earlier one owned by Elliot. The new building was a frame structure about the same size as its predecessor. It came to be called the "Murphy House" and was a famous landmark in Cochrane. (8)

The Murphy brothers were old-timers in the west. They had come from Wellington county, Ontario, in 1883 and operated a shoe store in Calgary for a few years. They then

held the contract for carrying the mail from Calgary to MacLeod for a time. When the railway was being built between those two points, the brothers did contract work for the C. P. R. They moved to Cochrane in 1898. Jim Murphy was killed in 1905 or 1906 on the road a short distance southwest of the British American Ranche buildings. The "horseless carriage" in which he was a passenger failed to make the corner and he was crushed when the vehicle turned over. The curve was known as "deadman's corner" after that.

(9)

 (9) Interview, Miss Mary Morrison, Calgary, January 1951.

A Mr. Little began work on a brick yard one mile west of town late in the 1890's. He died in 1900 and his widow married Peter Collins a year or two later. Mr. Collins owned a brick yard in Calgary at the time, but sold it and moved to Cochrane. (10)

 (10) Interviews, Mr. A. Chapman and Miss M. Morrison.

A small schoolhouse was built just before 1900 through the efforts of J. Quigley, J. Hewitt and the Bruce family. (11) Mr. George Bevan was an early teacher in this

(11) Calgary Herald, Saturday, July 8, 1950.

 school, although he may not have been the first. (12)

(12) Interview, C. Pedeptrat.

The Roman Catholic church was built in 1895. The Anglican church was moved to Cochrane from Mitford in 1899

and a Presbyterian church was established in 1900. More will be said about these churches in Chapter X.

C. W. Fisher arrived from London, Ontario, in 1910. He purchased the Martin and the Johnson stores and the Merino ranch that year. A short time later, he established an implement business in the town. In 1904, the Johnson store was extended and brick veneered. The Martin store was turned into a Liberal clubhouse and headquarters. Mr. Fisher was elected to the first government of Alberta and was appointed speaker, a position he held until his death in 1919. (13)

 (13) Interviews, Mr. W. Andison, Mr. E. Andison, Cochrane, January 1951.

R. Smith, the former manager of the hotel in Mitford, died in 1902 and his widow purchased the Sharp house. Mrs. Sharp was a sister of W. Jones of the Bottrel ranch and had lived in Cochrane since the 1890's. Mrs. Smith turned the house into a maternity hospital and a Dr. Toronto operated it for a time. He was the first doctor to reside in Cochrane. (14)

 (14) Interview, H. Jones, Cochrane, January 1951.

Until 1903 Cochrane was an unorganized hamlet. In that year it was erected a village. Since then it has never had a large enough population to become a town.

In 1903 Mr. A. Chapman came to Cochrane to open a branch store for Dave White of Banff. Mr. Chapman had come to Calgary in 1899 and had worked on C. P. R. construction.

He was made foreman of the Calgary yards in 1900 but left this position to go into business with Mr. White. In 1904, Dave White sold his interest in the Cochrane store to J. Howard, the former blacksmith at Mitford and Mr. Chapman followed suit in 1905. He then went into the construction business with his brother, R. Chapman. Howard ran the store for a year and then sold it to Dave White and his new partner Mr. Bain. In 1908, White and Bain sold the store to J. A. Campbell. (15)

 (15) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

Mr. E. Andison arrived in Cochrane in 1904. In the course of the next few years other members of the Andison family followed. R. Andison, clerk of the Legislature, is a brother. Ernie Andison had been an apprentice butcher in England, and he took over the butcher shop in the Fisher block. In 1907 he sold his interest in the shop to the Towers brothers, sons of F. H. Towers, the rancher on the Jumping Pound. Mr. Andison continued to work in the shop until 1916. In 1909 E. C. Johnson, an American, established a second butcher shop, in the Howard block. (16)

 (16) Interview, Mr. E. Andison.

Mr. E. C. Johnson was a rather interesting individual. He is reputed to have been the hero of Owen Wister's "The Virginian", published in 1902. (17) The novel is laid in the

 (17) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

vast regions of the American mid-west. The author asserts

the utility of the rude frontier code that prevailed in regions before regular law and order was established. The hero, a Wyoming cowpuncher, forces his idea of justice on a turbulent community, and prevents a lawless gang from taking control of local affairs.

The extensive settlement that was taking place in the surrounding rural area in the early 1900's started a small boom in Cochrane around 1905. A second hotel was built by a Mr. Alexander. It was called the Cochrane hotel, and still stands. The Murphys built a livery stable behind the Murphy House and the McEwen family established a Massey Harris implement business. Dr. Ritchie came to Cochrane but did not practice. He was soon followed by Dr. A. W. Park who did open a practice. (18)

(18) Ibid.

The expansion continued in 1906. A. Chapman was elected mayor. A brick schoolhouse was built a half block behind the earlier school. A council chamber was built. Pete Collins donated to the town the land for two cemeteries - one for the Catholics and one for the Protestants. They are located on top of the Big Hill north of Cochrane. An Orange Hall was built about this time and J. Howard established a dairy to supply the town with milk. The census of that year indicates that the population was one hundred and fifty eight. (19)

 (19) Interviews, Mr. A. Chapman and Miss M. Morrison.
 See Appendix E, map (2), Cochrane in 1906.

The town's finances took a serious blow in 1907. A smallpox epidemic broke out and it was necessary to establish a quarantine camp down near the river. Tents with lumber floors were set up to house the patients. Guards were hired to prevent well meaning relatives from visiting the sick. The disease was mild in form and only affected adults. Some twenty to twenty-five persons were stricken and it took the town two years to pay off the money borrowed to run the camp. (20)

 (20) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

In 1908 the Chapman brothers built a store for J. Howard. Next door to it a man named Bomgartner built a pool room and restaurant. The Shelley Quarry Company of Calgary opened up the first stone quarry in the Big Hill creek valley behind the town. A short time later, a man named Tesky, working for Joe Murphy and using sandstone from the quarry, began to build an imposing house. This relatively huge building is located in the north-east corner of town right at the foot of the hill. (21)

 (21) Interviews, Messrs. A. Chapman and A. Raby and Miss A. Gillies.

A small corporation, composed of C. W. Fisher, his half-brother, T. Fisher, J. Quigley, F. Sibbald and W. Hutchinson, bought the whole of the town site south of the

railway tracks. It included some one hundred and thirty acres of land, but there were no buildings on it. (22) There

 (22) Interview, Mr. W. Hutchinson, Cochrane, January 1951.

was a great deal of speculation at this time in connection with a railway that was to be built from Entwistle, west of Edmonton, to Pincher Creek, and it was believed that the divisional point might be situated in Cochrane. A charter for the railway was granted a few years later and, in 1913, the C. N. R. surveyed the proposed route. It was to cross the C. P. R. just west of Cochrane. In November 1912, the Wittichen Investment Company offered the little corporation fifty thousand dollars for the land but was refused. (23)

 (23) Cochrane Advocate, November 14, 1912, and April 24, 1913. The Cochrane Advocate began publication in March 1909 - see below. In subsequent footnotes it will be referred to as "C.A."

The railway bubble burst just before the war and the local corporation could not sell the land. It was turned over to the town for taxes many years later.

In March, 1909, the Cochrane Advocate began publication. J. Mewhort was the first editor and owner. In October, C. N. Austin, a homesteader in Jumping Pound, sold his farm and bought the Advocate. A. Stickland purchased it from Austin in 1911 and he sold it to W. A. McKenzie in 1913. (24) The Cochrane Advocate was in no way an outstan-

 (24) C.A., March 11, 1909; October 9, 1909; October 26, 1911; and May 15, 1913.

ding small town paper. In the course of its career of sixteen years it had fourteen editors. Nearly all of them owned the paper and nearly all of them went bankrupt. Until 1914 the Advocate consisted of eight pages, six of which were "boiler-plate" prepared and set up in print by outside concerns. The editor set up two pages of local news and advertisements. The local news occupied two or three columns and took the form of a series of short paragraphs each dealing with a separate topic. On occasion an editorial on a local matter was included. The remainder of the front page was devoted to the advertisements of the local merchants. The back page was filled with notices of animals astray, livestock for sale and general advertisements from the local ranchers and farmers. The paper was printed weekly, on Thursdays, and was sold by subscription at one dollar a year. The circulation is not recorded.

In 1909 Cochrane had a population of three hundred and fifty and a land assessment of two hundred thousand dollars. There were sixty-five children attending the school. Two brick plants were operation and two more were planned. The stone quarry was getting ready to go into full operation and a sawmill was planned. (25)

 (25) C. A., April 15, 1909.

In 1910 the Union Bank opened a branch office in Cochrane. (26) It was situated in the southeast corner of

General Merchants - Fisher and Simpson,
 J. A. Campbell,
 Stringer and Pfeifer.

Butchers - W. F. Towers,
 E. C. Johnson.

Hardware - C. W. Fisher.

Lumber Sales - T. Quigley,
 A. J. Murphy

Livery Stables - Tempany and Atkinson,
 Quigley Bros.

Brick Manufacturers - Quigley Brick Co.,
 Peter Collins,
 Gabriel Bruel.

Stone Quarries - Duncan Shelley."

A hospital was opened in the T. Davies home in 1910. Dr. Park was the house physician and five rooms were set aside for patients. The Davies family lived in quarters behind the hospital section. It closed in 1914. (28)

 (28) Interview, Mr. E. Davies, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1911 Joe Murphy sold the Murphy House to Wm. Dean. Mr. Dean rechristened it the Alberta Hotel but it was so well known by its earlier name that the new one was not accepted. The motor car age had definitely arrived in Cochrane and the Advocate of May 4, 1911, carried the report that "Chapman Brothers are about to build a Motor Car Garage for Messrs T. Quigley and T. Fisher on the lot between S. J. Peyto's house and Pope Avenue. The building will accommodate four cars, besides giving storage room for supplies of gasoline and other necessaries. It should be a great convenience to visitors from Calgary and other outside points as well as to our own car owners."

In May, 1911, the "Cochrane Creamery Association" was formed. It was locally owned by the holders of thirty shares of one hundred and fifty dollars each. The building was finished in 1912 and was situated near the present Texaco Service Station. A Mr. Pilon was the first butter maker. Thirteen thousand nine hundred and fifty pounds of butter were manufactured in 1912 and were sold for an average price of twenty-seven cents per pound. (29) The creamery was only

 (29) Interview, Mr. S. J. Reed, present butter-maker.

 kept open in the summer months during the early years that it was in operation.

In 1909 R. A. Webster, who had recently arrived in Cochrane, purchased the implement business of C. W. Fisher. He also established a flour and feed business in 1911. (30)

 (30) Interview, W. Andison.

The Dominion elections of 1911, resulting in the defeat of the Liberals, had repercussions in Cochrane in 1912. The post office, previously run by T. Fisher, was moved from the Fisher block to the Howard block and Mr. Chapman became postmaster, a position he held until 1949. Politics was a very important element in the life of the townpeople before the first World War. Mr. Chapman was a strong supporter of C. W. Fisher during the early 1900's but he changed his political affiliation and formed the first Conservative party in the Cochrane district around

1910. The post office was a patronage position in those days and naturally fell to Mr. Chapman when the Conservatives won the election. (31)

 (31) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

In February 1913, C. Pitter opened up a bakery shop in the Cochrane hotel. (32) In August Mrs. Campbell Roberts

 (32) C. A., February 20, 1913.

opened a new and up-to-date hospital in the east end of town. (33) The hospital remained open until the end of the

 (33) C. A., August 7, 1913.

war but it was not a profitable venture.

In October, 1914, a bill authorizing the town to raise fifty thousand dollars for the purpose of installing a water system was proposed in the Alberta Legislature. The new system had been surveyed and it was thought that the water would be obtained from Big Hill creek some two miles north of Cochrane or else from local wells. The improvement promised to make the local taxes considerably higher and C. W. Fisher, since he owned quite a lot of property in the town, opposed the bill and managed to have it killed. (34)

 (34) Interviews, Messrs A. Chapman and W. Andison.

The industrial expansion of Cochrane, based as it was on the brick yards, the coal mines, the stone quarries and the sawmill, had ended by 1914. The brick yards were the most promising development of the period before the war.

Underlying the valley in which the town is located is a silty, laminated, hard clay of a strongly calcareous character that requires little sand when used in brick making. The Cochranes of Mitford had taken advantage of this natural resource in 1891 but had failed to make a success of their brick yard. As previously mentioned, Little had begun the establishment of a brick yard before his death. Peter Collins carried on this work.

Collins built his first kiln in 1902. It had a capacity of one hundred thousand bricks. The early brick-maker was a horse driven affair. Additional kilns and drying sheds were added in the next few years and, in 1906, when a steam driven brick-maker was installed, there were four kilns and over thirty drying sheds. A spur was built from the C. P. R. In 1907 the plant was turning out twenty-five thousand bricks per day. The yard was only operated during the summer months and most of the help came from the homesteads near the town. Many homesteaders depended on the Collins yard for the summer employment that kept them eating through the winter. (35)

(35) Interview, Mr. A. Raby, Cochrane, January 1951.
Mr. Raby was one of these homesteaders.

E. Perrenoud and J. Boudreau established the "French Brick Yard" in 1904. Gabriel Bruel bought them out a short time later. This yard employed the "primitive" kiln system of firing the bricks. There were no permanent kilns, but

rather the kilns were built with the green bricks as they were made. After the bricks had been fired the kilns were torn down and the bricks composing them were sold. Extensive new brick making machinery was installed in 1911 and the yard then had a capacity of twenty-two thousand bricks per day. All the employees were Frenchmen. (36)

 (36) Interview, C. Pedepat.

T. Quigley established a brick yard in 1910. It had no regular kilns either although some excellent brick-making machinery was installed. Quarters and a cookhouse were built. The fourth yard was opened in 1911 by Joe Murphy and a Mr. Loder. Mr. C. Burnham bought them out shortly afterwards and the concern came to be known as "The Cochrane Brick Company". Both of these firms went bankrupt before the war. (37)

 (37) Ibid.

The depression of 1913 was the first serious blow to the brick business in Cochrane. Quigley and Burnham closed up and the other yards were forced to cut production. About this time yards for the manufacture of pressed brick at Brickburn, near Calgary, and at Redcliffe began to offer serious competition to the kiln-brick yards. This resulted in a further curtailment of production in Cochrane. The French Yard operated on a small margin and managed to remain solvent. Collins attempted to raise money to purchase the

machinery necessary for the manufacture of pressed brick. He was determined to retain complete control of the yard however, and no one was prepared to invest money on those terms. Collins carried on until the war on a small scale.

(38) The war was the final blow to the brick industry in

 (38) Interviews, A. Chapman and C. Pedepat.

Cochrane. In August 1914, Gabriel Bruel and most of his employees were called back to France to rejoin their regiments. (39) The yard was closed, never to reopen. The

 (39) C.A., August 20, 1914.

See Appendix E, map (3), for location of the brick yards.

Collins yard closed soon afterwards, but it was reopened for a time after the war ended.

The coal mines attracted a certain amount of attention at different times before the war. They were located on or near the site of the earlier Vaughan mine, on the south side of the river, west of Mitford. The miners generally lived in bunkhouses near the mines but Cochrane was the source of supplies and the mine offices were situated there.

The first mine was opened in 1908 by "The Western Canada Cement and Coal Company" of Exshaw. It was near the early Vaughan mine and the Company hoped that it would supply the coal required in the cement plant at Exshaw. The slope flooded the next year and the mine was abandoned. (40)

 (40) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

Mine number 169 has an interesting history. It lay abandoned from 1887, when Mr. Vaughan gave it up, until 1911 when it was taken over by th "Calgary Coal Syndicate". This syndicate was controlled by English capitalists and the head office was in the Temple Chambers, London. The mine was christened "Valerie Mine". The old slope was pumped out and extended some three hundred feet. A contract was let for the construction of a plant and tipple capable of handling five hundred tons per day. (41) The syndicate

 (41) Annual Report of the Department of Public Works,
 Alberta, 1911.

sold the mine to "Mitford (Calgary) Colliery Limited" in 1912. R. B. Bennett was President of this company. The main slope was extended to twelve hundred and eighty feet in the course of the next year. A plant and tipple were begun and several fine buildings for the miners were constructed. A second slope was begun and was sunk a distance of two hundred and forty feet. The main slope was pushed down to sixteen hundred and eighty feet before the mine was abandoned in 1915. (42)

 (42) Annual Reports of the Department of Public Works,
 1912, 1913, 1914 and 1915.

Mine number 305 was located up the hill to the south of the other two openings. Dr. Ritchie owned the

land and the "Bonnie Brae Coal and Quarries, Limited" of Calgary entered into an agreement with him to open the mine, in 1911. (43) A level four hundred feet long was driven on -----
 (43) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

 the strike of the seam. The contract for construction of a plant and tipple was let but they were never built. The coal seam varied in thickness from four feet six inches to five feet six inches. (44) The mine was abandoned in 1912.

 (44) Annual Reports of the Department of Public Works, 1911, 1912.

 In May 1915, the machinery was removed and in August Dr. Ritchie sued the company for thirty-three thousand dollars arrears in rent. The Company was bankrupt however, and most of the stockholders had lost their money. (45)

 (45) C. A., May 20 and August 12, 1915.

Various attempts have been made since to operate a mine in this area but all have failed. The coal is poor in quality and the seams are too thin. No figures are available on the amount of coal removed during the periods when the mines were operated but it appears that no company was able to show a profit. The mines have been completely abandoned for twenty-five years.

A previously mentioned the first quarry was opened at Cochrane in 1908. Sandstones are exposed at many points along the northwest side of the valley of Big Hill creek. Duncan Shelly of the "Shelley Quarry Company" of Calgary

tested a number of these outcroppings in the main valley and in adjoining coulees. The offices and cutting plant of the Company were located in Calgary, but local men were employed to take out the stone. In the summers of 1911, 1912 and 1913 three quarries were in operation employing as many as two hundred men. (46) The workings were about one and a

(46) C. A., April 17, 1913, quotes this number.

half miles north of Cochrane and at a considerable elevation above the creek. Desirable stone was only found in the upper zone and the blue hardhead, useless as a building stone because of its hardness, was encountered at very moderate depths. This factor, coupled with the considerable overburden that occurs in any quarry located in the side of a steep bank, limited the size of the workings. Development was therefore restricted to numerous small openings along the escarpment. Transportation of the stone from the quarries to the railway was another problem, especially when the workings were all located high on the hillside. (47)

(47) Interview, Mr. A. Raby

The stone is from the Paskapoo formation of Sandstone of the Eocene System and was formed when marine conditions ceased and great fresh water lakes occupied wide areas of the western plains. With the exception of the mottled limestone from Tyndall, Manitoba, this formation

yields the most important building stone found in the prairie provinces. The stone is buff in type, but there are variations in grain and color. (48) A number of buildings

(48) Parks, W. A., "Report on the Building and Ornamental Stones of Canada", Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa, 1916. 232.

in Calgary are made of this sandstone. In 1913, for example, the Examining Customs Warehouse, the General Electric Office and Warehouse, the Canada Foundry Office and Warehouse, and several elegant residences were constructed of stone from these quarries. Operations ended early in 1914, due to a lack of orders, and the war closed them completely.

(49) They have been reopened at different times since and

(49) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

will be mentioned again in a later chapter.

The Quigley sawmill went into operation around 1910. In the next two years, lumber mills were established on the old Cochrane timber limits on Dogpound creek, on the Mount Royal ranch and on Behan creek. The logs were sawn near the scene of cutting and the lumber was hauled to Cochrane. It was nearly all sold locally. A huge steam tractor hauling several wagons at a time was used in transporting the logs and the lumber. Like the Quigley brickyard, this enterprise ended in bankruptcy in the depression of 1913. (50)

(50) Interview, Mr. H. Jones. Mr. Jones ran the steam tractor for some time.

The war ended any industrial activity in Cochrane that had not already collapsed during the depression. The population of the town fell rapidly, partly through enlistments, but also through the movement of families to areas that offered employment. In 1911 the population had been three hundred and ninety-five and had increased steadily in the next two years. It had fallen to two hundred and eighty-four by 1916 and continued to fall for the next ten years. (51)

(51) Bureau of Statistics, "Facts and Figures on Alberta", King's Printer, Edmonton, 1950. 30.

The first stage of the development of the town ended in 1914. For the next twenty-five years, Cochrane's survival depended wholly on the agricultural community of which it was the centre. The importance of the rural area in this respect is graphically illustrated when the fate of the neighbouring town of Glenbow is considered. When its local industries collapsed, there was nothing left to support the town. Glenbow has vanished.

CHAPTER VII

GLENBOW

Glenbow, as its name suggests, is located in a glen on the Bow river. It is four miles east of Cochrane. The little valley lies in a wide "U" in the river and is blocked off from the north by Big Hill, which lies across the top of the "U". The Canadian Pacific Railway occupies the only practical roadway in and out of the glen. The semicircular valley floor, which lies seventy feet above the river, is about one and a half miles long and one half mile wide. It is a beautiful spot, but it is almost inaccessible except by train.

The history of the hamlet that was established in this little valley is similar in certain respects to that of Mitford. Both towns were the creations of a particular family and were built on more or less inaccessible sites. Both depended for survival on the wealth of their founders and the success of the industries established in them. In each case the industries were short-lived. Glenbow and Mitford were one-family towns and they were abandoned by their populations shortly after they were deserted by their founders.

There are, however, other ways in which their histories are different. Mitford served as the nucleus of the early rural development of an extensive district. Glenbow

had no connection with a rural area. It was important only to those who lived in the little valley or nearby on the hillside. A very few families established themselves in Mitford, but Glenbow at one time contained forty or fifty. Several of the beautiful homes built around Glenbow still stand; nothing more than a few ruined foundations mark the old site of Mitford.

The first twenty years of the history of Glenbow are of little importance. In the late 1880's, the C. P. R. constructed a section house there and employed two or three men to watch for rock slides in the deep cuts along the neighbouring right-of-way. Homesteaders were not interested in the district because of the difficult nature of the terrain. The area was otherwise ignored except for the occasional passenger on the trains who might have noticed this pleasant little valley. (1)

(1) Interview, Mr. T. Wearmouth, Cochrane, January 1951. Mr. Wearmouth was the main source of information on Glenbow. He worked there from 1907 to 1909 and then homesteaded nearby.

It was the geological formation of this particular area that first focused attention on it. Along the railway, thin layers of sandstone and shales are to be seen. The same formation appears on the hillside to the north and is topped by heavy layers of sandstone. In 1905, a Mr. Moore bought the land in the valley and on the hillside with

the intention of establishing a quarry there. In the next two years several test openings were made and a small amount of stone was taken out. In 1907 Mr. Moore turned the quarry over to a Mr. Hayden of the "British Columbia Construction Company". The stone was to be shipped to British Columbia but the project soon fell through when the Company found sources of supply closer to that market.

In 1908 Mr. C. de la Vergne became interested in the prospects Glenbow offered and purchased Mr. Moore's holdings. The period of extensive development then began. (2)

(2) Ibid.

Mr. de la Vergne came to Alberta late in 1907. He was the son of the president and founder of the "de la Vergne Refrigerator Company" of New York. It is suggested that the family business did not interest him and, after the death of his father, he came west in the hope of finding a more satisfactory enterprise in which to invest his considerable fortune. (3)

(3) Interview, Mr. S. Scott, Cochrane, January 1951. Mr. Scott lives in the house formerly owned by de la Vergne.

In 1908 Mr. de la Vergne had the townsite surveyed and constructed a store and post office. Mr. L. McDonald, a recent immigrant from the Maritimes, operated them for de la Vergne. The Chapman brothers of Cochrane were given the contract to construct a suitable home for the de la Vergne

family. A number of lots were sold to the men moving in to work in the quarry and small homes were built for them. A great deal of money was invested in machinery for the quarry and facilities were provided for turning out finished stone. (4)

 (4) Interviews, Messrs. A. Chapman and T. Wearmouth.

John Clarke came to Glenbow in 1908 and built a dairy farm about three-quarters of a mile west of the store. He bought a herd of pure-bred Holstein cows and shipped milk to Calgary. Mr. Clarke was also a wealthy American, from New York. His father is reputed to have owned a controlling interest in Madison Square Gardens. (5)

 (5) Interview, Mr. T. Wearmouth.

The Chapman brothers finished the de la Vergne house in 1909. It was a frame building and no expense was spared in making it one of the finest in the area. Barns and other out-buildings were constructed and Mr. de la Vergne stocked his holdings with cattle and thoroughbred horses. A school was built on the townsite as well as several houses for the workers and their families. (6)

 (6) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman. Mr. Scott reports that the de la Vergne house cost twenty-five thousand dollars to build.

The Parliament Buildings in Edmonton were under construction at this time and the steelwork and granite base had been finished. The contract for the sandstone

for the main portion of the building was let to the "Quinlan and Carter Quarry Company". This Company took over the operation of the Glenbow quarry and began to take out and finish the stone for the new building. John Quinlan was a Montreal man with considerable experience in sandstone quarrying and Mr. W. Carter was an Edmonton man. (7) A great deal of new -----
 (7) "Construction of the Parliament Buildings" - a brochure in the Library of the Alberta Legislature. -----
 equipment was installed including diamond cutting saws and gang saws for finishing the stone and derricks for moving the large blocks out of the quarry.

The problem of getting the stone from the quarry to the railroad tracks was always a serious one, since the quarry was situated a half mile up the steep hillside. Hayden had constructed a double track up the hill and used a long cable to lower a car on one track while a second one was pulled up the other track. The system worked by gravity, since the car going down was always loaded with stone and the other was empty. A wheel that could be braked located above the quarry, controlled the descent of the load of stone. The strain on this wheel was terrific and everyone feared that it would one day fail.

Mr. Quinlan decided to install a proper winch and drum mechanism. As a result, a machine of this nature weighing several tons was brought to Glenbow and, after a

prodigious amount of labour, was installed on the steep hillside above the quarry. Several tons of rock were piled in front of it to prevent it being pulled down the hill by the load of sandstone. One detail overlooked in the installation became strikingly apparent when the trial runs were made. The drum was mounted on long timbers and rotated on a horizontal axis. As the first car was lowered, the cable paid out from the bottom side of the drum and all went well. When the second car was being lowered however, the cable came off the top of the drum and, since no one had thought to pile stones on the timbers behind the drum, the whole mechanism somersaulted forward over the retaining pile of rock and fell into the quarry. The carload of stone ran wild and snapped the heavy winch out of the quarry and pulled it at express train speed through the sheds below that housed the machinery for finishing the sandstone. The cable finally broke and the car spilled off its load and vaulted the C. P. R. tracks. Winch and car, both badly wrecked, still lie where they came to rest. The earlier system for lowering the stone was reinstalled and functioned without mishap for the remainder of the time that the quarry was in operation. (8)

(8) Interview, Mr. T. Wearmouth. Mr. Wearmouth was operating the winch at the time and narrowly escaped serious injury.

In 1910 and 1911 a considerable amount of stone was removed. Besides the Parliament Buildings, Glenbow sandstone may also be seen in Athabaska Hall at the University of Alberta, as well as a number of buildings in Calgary. The stone is not of a high quality. There is a diversity of colouring and blue cores may be seen in some stones. This blue hardhead induces horizontal cracking. Blue hardhead was encountered at moderate depths in the workings and restricted the size of the quarry. It is now regarded as worked out. (9)

(9) Parks, W. A., "Report on the Building and Ornamental Stones of Canada", Government Printing Bureau, Ottawa, 1916. 228 and 232.

There were a number of developments in 1910. Mr. McDonald left the store and was succeeded by Mr. C. Edwards. In the electioneering of 1909, Hon. C. W. Fisher promised that efforts would be made to have a bridge put across the Bow river at Glenbow. On the strength of this promise and in the hope of being able to tap the expanding grain growing district south of the river, Mr. de la Vergne built a ten thousand dollar elevator on the townsite in 1910. C. E. Benell, of Brandon, was the contractor. The bridge never materialized, and the elevator, with a capacity of thirty thousand bushels, never held more than a few hundred. (10)

(10) Interview, T. Wearmouth. .
C. A., May 19, 1910.

In 1912 the quarry was nearly worked out. The men went on strike in May demanding higher pay and some guarantee of future employment. Mr. de la Vergne decided to establish a brick yard as there was still a fair market for kiln bricks and this new enterprise would provide employment for the men. The Parliament Buildings had been completed and new orders were hard to get. Quinlan and Carter discontinued operating the quarry.

The new brick yard was situated one hundred yards east of the store. (11) Some excellent equipment was installed but the method of firing the bricks was primitive, like that used by the French Brick Yard in Cochrane. A number of families left Glenbow but there were still plenty of men to operate the yard. In 1913 and early 1914, a production of fifty thousand bricks per day was maintained. The enterprise survived the depression of 1913 only because de la Vergne operated it at a loss. It was abandoned a short time before the war began. (12)

(11) See Appendix F, Map (1), Glenbow 1914.

(12) Interviews, Messrs. T. Wearmouth and A. Raby

In 1912 and 1913 a unique and interesting settlement took place at Glenbow. Three wealthy Americans from New York built themselves beautiful homes near the town. They were R. Stevenson, Dr. H. Morris and T. Drake. Drake was married to de la Vergne's sister. It is reasonable to

presume that the others were friends of de la Vergne who were persuaded by him to come and settle there. (13)

 (13) Ibid.

The houses built by Dr. Morris and Mr. Drake were frame buildings and each contained over thirty rooms. Mr. Stevenson's house was built of sandstone with a second storey of frame construction. It cost over thirty-five thousand dollars and contained forty rooms. (14) Exten-

 (14) Interview, Mr. S. Scott.

sive barns were built around the houses and each owner imported a number of thoroughbred horses. A racetrack and a small polo field was laid out south of the railroad. Glenbow became noted for its elegant social life and sporting elite. Polo was played extensively. (15)

 (15) Interviews, Messrs. A. Raby and T. Wearmouth. A picture of Mr. de la Vergne in one of the polo teams in Calgary may be seen in the "Canadian Cattlemen", Vol. XII, No. 1, June 1949. His name is spelled "de la Verne" in the caption.

Mr. Stevenson was not in good health and he found it expedient to return to New York to be near the specialized medical care that his condition demanded. His house was not completed when he left. It was sold to a Mrs. van der Hoff, also of New York, who finished it and lived in it until 1915 or 1916. (16)

 (16) There is some uncertainty about the spelling of this lady's name. Mr. Wearmouth believed that "it was spelled like it sounded". No one else would venture an opinion. There is also some uncertainty about the

initials of Drake, Morris and Stevenson. It was impossible to find anyone who had moved in their social circle and knew them intimately.

 Dr. Morris found himself in grave financial difficulties by the time his home was completed and he left in 1914 to return to New York. The Drakes and Mrs. van der Hoff left during the war. The houses remained deserted for many years. In the 1930's, R. C. Burns, K.C., of Calgary, purchased the Morris buildings and maintains a summer home there. In 1950, the Stevenson, or van der Hoff, house was sold for seven hundred and fifty dollars. It was torn down for the material it contained and nothing remains now but the stone walls. (17)

 (17) interviews, Messrs. S. Scott and T. Wearmouth. There was an elaborate hot water heating system in this house. Mr. Scott reports that the Calgary man who purchased the house and tore it down got over seven hundred and fifty dollars for the furnace itself.

 In 1915 the elevator burned to the ground. (18)

 (18) C. A., November 18, 1915.

 The town itself was deserted except for the C. P. R. section men. In 1919 Mr. de la Vergne sold his stock and moved to Calgary. He had lost most of his money by this time and went into the business of selling cars in an effort to recoup his fortune. The land at Glenbow was rented for farming purposes. The car sales did not prosper and Mr. de la Vergne returned to the United States. E. L. Harvie, K.C., Calgary, bought the Glenbow holdings in 1936. Mr. de

la Vergne died in Seattle in the early 1940's. (19)

(19) Interview, Mr. S. Scott. Mr. Scott has managed the property of E. L. Harvie at Glenbow since 1936.

In 1925 Mr. Clarke also returned to the United States. (20) Mr. C. Copithorne now owns his land.

(20) Interview, Mr. T. Weamouth.

In the years since the first World War, all the buildings on the townsite except the store, the post office and those maintained by the C. P. R. have either been burned down or torn down. The store and the post office are now used by Mr. Scott as granaries.

The history of Glenbow is rather unique in some respects. The considerable population that the town once boasted is gone and has only left three beautiful old homes and a hole in the hillside as evidences that people once lived there. The settlers in the Cochrane district were hardly aware of Glenbow when it was in full bloom, and most of them do not now remember that it ever existed.

CHAPTER VIII

RURAL DEVELOPMENT SINCE 1900

The new century began rather auspiciously for the Cochrane district. The whole area was devoted to the raising of livestock. Cattle were selling for fifty dollars each and there was a brisk demand. The British Government had recently curtailed its beef purchases in Argentina owing to disease among the cattle there and the Canadian stock-growing community was enjoying a boom. Over thirteen hundred head of beef were shipped from Cochrane in 1900 and again in 1901. The Boer War kept the horse market healthy. (1) The sheep industry was a much less

(1) Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture, North West Territories, 1900 (53 and 58) and 1901, 87.

profitable one, but the only sheep rancher of any consequence, Frank White, sold out in 1901.

Mr. White had found it impossible to raise sheep profitably. The Merino ranch lost money steadily in the 1890's and Mr. White disposed of his stock in 1900 and 1901. He then sold the ranch to C. W. Fisher, who imported a herd of Shorthorn cattle with which to stock it. (2)

(2) Interview, Mr. L. Towers, Cochrane, January 1951.

John and Richard Copithorne went into beef cattle in 1898. They steadily built up a fine herd of Herefords,

although they found it difficult to obtain good sires in those days. Sam Copithorne came from Ireland in 1904 and settled beside his brothers on the Jumping Pound. (3)

 (3) Interview, Mr. C. Copithorne, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1904 a Mr. McNaughton bought the land owned by the Cochranes, at Mitford, and stocked it with a trainload of cattle from eastern Canada. The cattle were not used to the climate, however, and most of them perished the following winter. Therefore Mr. McNaughton decided to discontinue ranching. (4)

 (4) Interview, Mr. H. Jones, Cochrane, January 1951

The early years of 1900 saw a steadily increasing flow of homesteaders to the rural area around Cochrane. This influx reached its maximum in 1905 and 1906. Many of the ranchers already established found their leases either being diminished by the Government or cut up by squatters. All the good land was taken up by 1910. Like many other rural areas in Alberta, the Cochrane district gained as large a population as it could comfortably support, and the number of landowners has not since been as large. Many of the homesteaders could not make a success of it and they sold out to their neighbours and moved away. Today there are few holdings as small as the half section with which a homesteader was expected to make a living.

The new settlement resulted in a reorientation of

the Cochrane area. Homesteaders and squatters had steadily alienated the eastern portions of the Bow River Horse Ranch since the 1890's, and they turned to Calgary as their commercial centre. The eastern boundary of the ranch thus moved steadily westwards, and the thriving farming community of Springbank grew up between the Bow and Elbow rivers. The ranch headquarters was closer to Cochrane than to Calgary however, and Mr. G. E. Goddard continued to deal in Cochrane. (5)

 (5) Appendix A, map (3), the Cochrane district around 1906.

Mr. Kerfoot and Mr. Bell Irving, who had been raising high quality remounts on their ranch in Grand Valley, dissolved their partnership in 1905 and Mr. Bell Irving sold out to J. Meiklejon, who had settled near him in the late 1890's. Mr. Meiklejon specialized in a heavier class of horses and on the prize lists of the stallion shows in Calgary in the early 1900's, his name invariably appeared. He was a member of the "Territorial Cattle Breeders' Association" as well as the "Territorial Horse Breeders' Association." (6)

 (6) Report of the Department of Agriculture, North West Territories, 1905. 54.

Interview, Mr. A. D. Kerfoot, Cochrane, January 1951.

Mr. O. Critchley, in partnership with H. A. Rhodes, bought out Mr. Meiklejon in 1906. Most of the heavy horses were sold soon afterwards and the partners concentrated on

light horses. Both were keen polo enthusiasts and figured prominently in the early polo teams around Cochrane and Calgary. Mr. Critchley also owned land in the Nose creek district northwest of Calgary. He had settled in that area some fifteen or twenty years earlier. Mr. Rhodes was a recent immigrant from England. (7)

 (7) Interview, Miss M. Morrison, Calgary, January 1951.

In 1906 R. Cowan, wishing to return to England, sold his large ranch northeast of Cochrane to Mr. W. Hutchinson. The Cowan ranch consisted of four thousand acres at that time and Mr. Hutchinson has extended it steadily and now owns ten thousand acres. The ranch headquarters is situated in the valley of Big Hill creek about eight miles northeast of Cochrane. Mr. Hutchinson raises Shorthorn cattle. (8)

 (8) Interview, Mr. W. Hutchinson, Cochrane, January 1951.

The dreadful winter of 1906-07 hardly affected the stock around Cochrane. The snow was less heavy and the hay more plentiful than elsewhere in the ranching area of southern Alberta. Many ranchers in other regions were ruined that winter. (9)

 (9) Ibid.

The Glendale district, northeast of Cochrane, on top of the Big Hill, was the last portion of the area to be settled. There were no settlers there in 1905. In

1883 an extremely thick stand of willow bush that covered the whole district, was destroyed by fire. The fire penetrated to the roots and continued to burn underground for several years. The area was known as "The Burnt Ground" until 1910. (10) In 1908 and 1909, J. Willis, A. Norris,

(10) Mr. R. Dixon, better known as Rattlesnake Pete, of Calgary, reports that the area was burned off the year before he came to work at the Cochrane Ranche. That was 1884. Mr. White, in an entry in his diary on September 26, 1883, records that he had heard that there was an extensive fire northeast of the Cochrane Ranche headquarters. He was on the ranch near Waterton Lakes at the time.

W. Bancroft, T. Wearmouth, a Mr. Dougall, and R. and J. Standing settled on "The Burnt Ground". The land was covered with a tall stand of grass at that time, and little bush had taken root again. The soil was full of hummocks and was extremely hard to break. A number of the settlers had families and they formed the "Glendale" school district in 1910. Strangely enough the bachelors of the district were much in favor of the school, for they wanted a place in which dances and socials could be held. (11)

(11) Interview, Mr. T. Wearmouth, Cochrane, January 1951. No one appears to know why the district came to be called Glendale.

In 1908 Dr. Ritchie purchased the Butler homestead, at the mouth of Jumping Pound creek, and on this land he grew the first wheat to be successfully ripened in the Cochrane district. It was shipped from Cochrane in the

fall of 1908 and was the first carload of wheat ever sent from a point west of Calgary. (12)

 (12) C. A., April 15, 1909.

Interview, Mr. A. Chapman, Cochrane, January 1951.

Mr. Kerfoot was accidently killed at the Spring Stock Show in Calgary in 1910. He was riding a spirited horse in the livestock parade in front of the grandstand and, when the band began to play, the horse darted sideways and fell over the neck of a Jersey cow. Mr. Kerfoot was crushed beneath it. At the time of his death, Mr. Kerfoot owned five sections of land in Grand valley, about five hundred head of horses and the same number of cattle. Some of his horses were well known. "Partan", "Dixieland" and "Smokey" were raised by him. "Partan" and "Dixieland" won a great number of prizes in light horse shows in the United States. "Smokey" did not become well known until after he was purchased by D. P. McDonald of the Mount Royal ranch. (13)

 (13) Interview, Mr. A. D. Kerfoot.

In 1910 "The Cochrane and District Agricultural Society" was formed with J. Cook, a local farmer, as president. This society held its first exhibition in the fall of that year. There was a great deal of enthusiasm in the early years. In 1911 prizes to the value of two thousand dollars were offered. (14) The first annual seed fair was

(14) Report of the Department of Agriculture, Alberta,
1911. 189.

held in 1913 and this was the first sign that an important grain growing industry had been established. The society survived the first World War but interest waned each year and it was discontinued in 1925. (15)

(15) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

The homesteaders were the first landowners in the Cochrane district to turn their attention to grain growing. Various ranchers had broken small acreages before this time, but had had little success. J. Hewitt is believed to have been the first to ripen barley and oats successfully. That was in 1907. Dr. Ritchie proved that wheat could be ripened there in 1908. As a result, grain growing gained in importance each year until, in 1913, as noted above, there were enough farmers to support a seed fair. The fair gave the industry new impetus. The Provincial Government sent judges to examine the grain and lecture to the farmers on approved techniques. About this time a movement developed to produce grain fit for seed and prevent the export of large sums of money from the district for seed grain. The farmers were only partially successful in this respect. Oats and barley of a sufficiently high quality to be used for seed are often grown, but this is not the case with wheat. In fact, wheat farming has never been very success-

ful, since the growing season is too short in the Cochrane district. (16)

 (16) Interviews, Messrs. A. Chapman, T. Wearmouth and L. Towers.

In 1911 Mr. Goddard decided that the day of large scale horse ranches had ended and he began to sell portions of the Bow River Horse Ranch. In April, H. Flint of Cardiff, Wales, the president of the "Channel Ranche Company", purchased thirty-two hundred acres immediately east of Jumping Pound creek. Two thousand acres on the eastern extremity of the ranch were bought by a Mr. Kennerley, who established a ranch of his own on it. Mr. Goddard was prepared to sell the remainder of the Bow River Horse Ranche too, but failed to find a buyer at that time. (17)

 (17) C. A., April 20 and August 24, 1911.

In 1912 the Canadian Pacific Railway purchased a half section of land on the hillside east of Cochrane and established an experimental farm on it. J. Cook was appointed director and a fine set of buildings was constructed. A number of purebred hogs and Ayreshire cows were imported and a study of the problems of mixed farming in the foothills was begun and carried out with great success in the course of the next six years. Mr. Cook was particularly successful in producing varieties of vegetables that were suitable for this area. He took most of the

prizes offered for vegetables at the fairs during the period that the experimental farm was in operation. (18)

(18) Interview, Mr. C. Copithorne.

About 1908 C. W. Fisher sold the Merino ranch to Mr. A. McPherson. Mr. McPherson went out of cattle raising in 1910 and began to breed horses. In 1912 he sold the ranch to Countess Bubna for thirty six thousand dollars. E. L. McBride was appointed manager of the ranch and the Countess imported a number of valuable English Shire horses. They were considered the best quality heavy horses ever brought into Alberta to that time. (19)

(19) C. A., November 14, 1912, and May 8, 1913.

Countess Bubna was an interesting individual. She came originally from London, England, and was a daughter of the Duchess of Sutherland. She married an Austrian Count in 1911. She came to Canada and bought the ranch to satisfy an early ambition. It was hoped that Count Bubna would be able to join her but the international situation deteriorated to such an extent that he was not allowed to enter Canada. The Countess was a well known figure around Cochrane. She generally spent the winters in the United States and the summers on her ranch. She was short in stature, with a paralytic condition that caused her to carry her head cocked sideways over her right shoulder. She operated the ranch until 1922 and then traded it to

Mr. M. McLennan for a small ranch near Kelowna, British Columbia. She remained there a very short time and then went to live in Egypt, in order to be nearer her husband. She devoted herself to writing a play, but died before it was completed. (20)

(2) Interview, Mrs. A. McKay, Cochrane, January 1951. Mr. and Mrs. McKay worked on the Merino ranch for a number of years, and were close personal friends of Countess Bubna. Mrs. McKay speaks very highly of her and found her a lady of great personal charm, which more than offset her unfortunate appearance.

Mr. George Creighton was still operating two large horse ranches west of Cochrane in 1914. Mr. Creighton was a very obstinate man, as many of the buyers of remounts could testify. He never sold a horse unless he got his price. On one occasion, after a protracted argument with the buyers, which they lost, he donated a carload of his finest horses to the Government. In 1914 Dave McDougall, a local rancher and a son of trader David McDougall, instituted proceedings against Mr. Creighton over the ownership of a horse. Paddy Nolan, the famous Calgary lawyer, was retained by Mr. Creighton, who vowed that he would spend ten thousand dollars, if necessary, to prove that Mr. McDougall was wrong. The case attracted wide attention. One of the more hilarious aspects concerned the evidence - two dead horses. Some one had shot the mare and colt that were involved and had taken the precaution of cutting out the brands. The animals were dragged to Cochrane to be

presented as evidence. Mr. Nolan threatened to have everyone involved thrown in jail if the carcasses were taken onto the town site. As a result, the jury was forced to go outside the town limits to view the evidence. The jury returned a verdict of not guilty but the strain of the trial resulted in the death of Mr. Creighton in March 1915. (21)

(21) Interview, Miss M. Morrison. Several people expressed the opinion that Kendall's "The Luck of the Mounted", Gundy, Toronto, 1920, was based on the Creighton-McDougall feud. The story is undoubtedly about the Cochrane area and some of the characters seem familiar. The murders are figments of Kendall's imagination. In the story "Cow Run" is Cochrane, "Davidburg" is Morley, and "Morley McDavid" is the old trader Dave McDougall.

T. Creighton, a brother, ran the ranches for two years after George died. He then sold them to P. and J. Bowlen for seventy-seven thousand dollars, including the stock. There were nine hundred and ninety head of horses on the land at the time of the sale. (22)

(22) Interview, Miss M. Morrison.

In 1915 another of the early settlers died. He was Frank Ricks, who had come into the area in 1883 driving a large band of horses from Oregon to the Mount Royal ranch. He established a ranch of his own southwest of the Merino ranch in the 1890's. Mr. Ricks took his own life, but no one is certain why he did this. Some believe that he was a fugitive from justice and was being blackmailed by someone in the district. These people believe that he was a cousin of the notorious James brothers. Others say that

he had always said that he would die with his boots on. He was beginning to fail in health and may have decided that suicide was the only way of avoiding his declining years in poor health. His son, who is blind, lives in the Institute for the Blind in Calgary. The fine old ranch headquarters has been deserted since 1915. (23)

(23) Interviews, Messrs. L. Towers, S. Cope and C. Copithorne, and Miss M. Morrison. Mr. Towers reports that an Indian would not ride by the Ricks' building after dark if he was offered one hundred dollars and a good saddle horse. The Indians believe that Frank Ricks still rides around his old ranch each night.

In 1914, "Smokey", a fine fifteen hand horse raised by the Kerfoots, began to make a name for himself. Some years previously, the Kerfoots had sold him to D. P. McDonald, not realizing his potentialities as a jumper. D. P. trained him and, at the Edmonton horse show in 1914, he jumped seven feet. He was defeated, however, by a horse from the Sifton stables, but he later went on to win many prizes. Notwithstanding this defeat, Mr. McDonald's horses won thirty-two ribbons at the show in Edmonton. (24)

(24) C. A., April 23, 1914.

"Smokey" was seventeen years old at the time, a great age for a horse. He broke his leg taking a jump at the Calgary show several years later and had to be destroyed.

The sale of remounts was very brisk in 1914 and 1915. French, Canadian and English buyers found the horses offered in the Cochrane district acceptable and large num-

bers were purchased. The average price was one hundred and fifty dollars. The business slackened off after 1915, partly because of the Dominion Government's restrictions on foreign buyers. (25)

(25) Interview, Mr. A. D. Kerfoot.

In 1916 the farming and ranching population of the Cochrane district was beginning to realize that dairying would be the salvation of the area. The horse business had begun to fall off and the day of extensive cattle ranching was over. Markets were available for milk in Calgary and the Cochrane creamery was prepared to remain open all the year around if it received enough cream. Many of the homesteaders who had survived the early years were seeking additional sources of income and dairying was the logical solution. This new industry made great strides in the late 'teens. (26)

(26) Interviews, Messrs. T. Wearmouth and C. Copithorne.

The most serious consequence of the first World War was the man power shortage that it caused. Over two hundred and fifty men from Cochrane and district enlisted in the services. As the war progressed more and more of these men left the farms and ranches and those that were left behind had to restrict the herds and acreage being tilled in order to be able to handle it themselves. Many of the men lost their lives and many others did not return to the land

after the war. As in numerous other areas in Alberta, the Cochrane district after the war contained a population that was predominately made up of older people. This is still the case today, but to a lesser degree. The big difference has been the improvement in techniques and machinery for farming and dairying that occurred between the wars. This enabled smaller numbers of farmers to maintain a high level of production after the second World War began even though manpower was in short supply. (27)

(27) C. A., November 9, 1922, quotes 258 as the number of men who enlisted from the Cochrane district in the first World War.

In 1918 Mr. J. M. Copithorne bought the C. P. R. experimental farm. Mr. C. Copithorne took it over in 1920 and added the Quigley homestead to it a short time later. Mr. C. Copithorne officiated as brand inspector at Cochrane from 1922 to 1939. He now operates an extensive dairy farm. (28)

(28) Interview, Mr. C. Copithorne.

The late 'teens and early 1920's witnessed the latest reorientation of the Cochrane area. (29) More and

(29) Appendix A, map (4).

more farmers were acquiring cars and with them were able to travel conveniently to the more populous commercial centre of Calgary. The residents of districts a few miles nearer Cochrane than Calgary began to go regularly to the

latter to do business. As cars improved, larger numbers followed. Today, when almost everyone owns a car, the whole rural population transacts a certain amount of its business in the city. The automobile has greatly retarded the development of the village of Cochrane.

The market for horses went to pieces completely in the early 1920's and two of the large horse ranchers sold out. H. A. Rhodes had lost his life in the war and his brothers came to Canada to take over his interest in the ranch in Grand valley. They bought out Mr. Critchley's interest and he moved out of the district. (30) Mr. God-

 (30) Interview, Miss M. Morrison.

dard had sold the remainder of the Bow River Horse Ranch to a Prince Dabro in 1916. The Prince had been unable to meet the payments and Mr. Goddard repossessed it. In 1924 he finally sold it to two brothers, Barons Joseph and Andre Csavossy.

They are Hungarian noblemen. Their father's estates lay in three different countries after the peace treaties divided up central Europe. The sons managed to sell those portions that remained in Hungary, and they left the country. They farmed and ranched the Bow River property for a time and then went into scientific pig production. It has been an extremely successful venture. (31)

 (31) Interview, Baron Andre Csavossy, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1921 E. "Boney" Thompson, who along with Frank Ricks had been one of the outstanding "bronc" riders of the west, succumbed to injuries received while riding a bucking horse. The whole community turned out to attend his funeral which was conducted in true "cowboy" fashion. His horse, saddled and with his riding boots reversed in the stirrups, was led behind his hearse. The ceremony is regarded by many as unique in western Canada. (32)

 (32) C. A., August 4, 1921.

In 1921 the first Cochrane School Fair was held. This has become an annual event and is the only institution of its kind that still survives in this area. Each fall the school children compete for prizes in classes that range all the way from livestock to home cooking. It is safe to say that, for the district as a whole, this is the one day to which the children most enthusiastically look forward. In the early 1920's, the annual Agricultural Fair was held about the same time, but it was discontinued in 1925.

In 1922 Mr. M. McLennan bought the Merino ranch from Countess Bubna and placed his son Malcolm in charge of it. Malcolm was accidentally killed three years later while attempting to rope a horse in the Cochrane stock-yards. He caught the animal by a hind leg, it kicked viciously, and spun the rope around Malcolm's neck. He

was jerked off his horse and strangled before help arrived. Soon after this tragic happening, Mr. McLennan sold the ranch to Mr. K. Coppock. (33)

 (33) Interview, Mr. C. Copithorne.

In the late 1930's Mr. Coppock in turn sold the ranch to the Dominion Government and, with the J. Potts' ranch to the west of it, which the government had recently bought, this land was incorporated into the Stoney reservation. The Indians operate a large ranch there at the present time. (34)

 (34) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

The dairy industry expanded steadily in the 1920's. The smaller farmers shipped cream to the Cochrane creamery and those who went in more extensively for milch cows shipped to the large dairies in Calgary. Each year the rural area became more healthily diversified in its farming activities. Few of the large ranches devoted exclusively to the raising of beef remained by 1930. Horse ranches were a thing of the past.

The depression of the 1930's made itself felt at a very early stage but it was less disastrous than in many farming regions in Alberta that were less diversified. Most of the farmers managed to remain reasonably solvent, largely because they could subsist with little else than that which they produced themselves. The dairy industry

suffered greatly of course, but there was always a market of some sort for milk to assure a small income. Grain and livestock were a much less reliable source of revenue.

In 1936 the area south of the Bow river was devastated by a prairie fire. It began on the night of November 18, in the eastern fringes of the forest reserve around Kananaskis, and spread eastward at an incredible speed in front of a fifty mile-an-hour wind. A tremendous area, reaching almost to Calgary, was burned off. A heavy down-pour the night of November 19 brought it to an end. The Calgary Herald established the Bow Valley Fire Fund and collected over four thousand dollars in cash and extensive donations of equipment. A great number of people volunteered their services in rebuilding homes and barns and the livestock that was saved was provided with free pasture for the winter by farmers as far away as Innisfail. The Alberta Government provided a great deal of feed and equipment. The loss is estimated at two hundred thousand dollars and over one hundred thousand acres of land were affected. No lives were lost, although the children at the Brushy Ridge school were in danger for a time. Many of the farmers and ranchers had no prairie fire clause in their insurance policies and received no recompense. The assistance of a sympathetic community was largely responsible for the early reestablishment of those who had been wiped out. (35)

(35) Calgary Herald, November 19 to December 5, 1936.

A number of the original settlers passed away in the 1920's and 30's. A. Gillies died in 1922; A. McDonald in 1927; G. Perrenoud in 1929; J. Phipps and R. Copithorne in 1935; J. Copithorne and F. H. Towers in 1936, and D. P. McDonald and W. H. Edge in 1940. Mrs. Perrenoud and her son George still operate the original ranch. Members of the Copithorne families own a large part of the land south of the Bow river. L. Towers has extended his father's holdings and now operates a large mixed farm along the Jumping Pound. Miss Helen McDonald, a daughter of D. P., runs the Mount Royal ranch and the Edge boys have several large ranches around their father's original one. The Gillies', A. McDonald's and Phipps' land has passed into other hands.

The second World War did not have such a detrimental effect on the Cochrane rural area as the first one had. Fewer men of military age enlisted and, although there was a manpower shortage, the farmers were able to maintain and even extend production through the use of modern machinery. Extensive areas were broken, much of which was marginal land. The use of caterpillars and huge brushbreakers and the favorable location with respect to markets continue to result in this practice of bringing under the plow land that is not well suited to cultivation.

A number of veterans have been established on farms since the war ended. They have found it difficult to stock their holdings because of the high price of livestock and many of them have turned to cultivation. It is unfortunate that this has been necessary, for the Cochrane district is much better suited to the raising of cattle.

During the 1940's the old established farms and ranches enjoyed a decade of unprecedented prosperity. Cattle prices rose steadily and the production of coarse grains became more and more profitable. Dairying, in particular, was a remunerative occupation. Most of the dairy farmers had land enough to produce their own feed and thus reduce their overhead costs. It is safe to estimate that the average dairy farmer in the Cochrane area had a gross income of twenty-five dollars a day. In the Glendale district, there are some whose monthly milk cheque is over one thousand dollars.

In recent years the whole region has been electrified. Good gravel and dirt roads intersect the country in every direction and the trans-Canada highway runs through the centre of it from east to west. Many of the farmers' homes have all the conveniences of city homes, and none of them are more than an hour from Calgary or two hours from Banff by car. It is not surprising that, with these advantages, the prosperity of their undertakings and the

remarkable natural beauty of the region, the farmers and ranchers of the Cochrane district are convinced that they live in one of the finest spots in Canada.

CHAPTER IX

COCHRANE SINCE 1914.

The history of the village of Cochrane since 1914 is not as interesting as that of its earlier years. The depression that preceded the first World War, and the war itself, brought the local industries to an end. The earlier vigor of the bustling and expanding village gave way to apathy and stagnation and it came to depend wholly on the rural area for survival. Its prosperity was directly proportional to the prosperity of the farmers and ranchers around it. It is only in very recent years that Cochrane has regained some of its earlier independence.

In 1914 the residents of Cochrane organized several committees to raise funds in support of nation-wide campaigns. By January, 1915, over eight thousand dollars were subscribed to the Patriotic, the Belgian and the Red Cross Funds. An overseas tobacco fund was started and loyally supported throughout the war. In August, 1915, the villagers decided to donate money for a machine gun. At a meeting called to elect a committee, the inhabitants oversubscribed the new fund before they had finished electing the members to control it. (1)

(1) C. A., January 29 and August 12, 1915.

In March, 1915, the village was finally connected to the Calgary Power Company's lines. Two years before,

in an effort to economize, a boiler and generator were installed and T. Quigley was hired to run the little plant. The power line from the Ghost dam had been built past Cochrane in 1912, but the village council had felt that the Company's rates were too high. The local power plant did not work satisfactorily, however, partly because the villagers persisted in using toasters as heaters, and the franchise was given to Calgary Power. The matter of the improvised electric heaters cleared up very soon after electric metres were installed in the villagers' homes. (2)

 (2) C. A., March 11, 1915.

In June, 1915, George Pitter, who had been running a bowling alley without much success, renovated the building and turned it into a hall for dances and socials. The community was not yet ready to support a privately owned hall however, and he sold it to the curling club. The curling rink has been located in it since that time. (3)

 (3) C. A., June 17, 1915.

Interview, Mr. W. Andison, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1915 the Howard block was purchased by F. W. Maggs, with the financial support of the Canadian Credit Mens' Association. He then bought out the grocery business of J. A. Campbell that was housed in the block and conducted the store himself until 1938. (4)

 (4) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1916 the Chapman brothers constructed a meat market for Mr. E. Andison on Main Street. Mr. Andison still operates his butcher shop there. (5)

 (5) Interview, Mr. E. Andison, Cochrane, January 1951.

The villagers were opposed to prohibition but the "drys" elsewhere in Alberta prevailed and the sale of liquor was prohibited. As a result, the Cochrane hotel went out of business. Mr. R. A. Webster, who had recently sold his flour and feed store, purchased the hotel building and opened the "Peoples Cash Store" in it. A short time later, the United Farmers of Alberta Cooperative Association bought the stock and good will but kept Mr. Webster as manager. The business went bankrupt in 1918 and Mr. Webster repossessed it. (6)

 (6) Interview, Mr. W. Andison.

The Cochrane creamery was moved from the west end of the village to the bank of Big Hill creek in 1918. Drainage and water supply had been a serious problem after the creamery went into year-around production. The new site was ideal, and the creamery, now owned by Mrs. J. Loughery, is still operated there. The original buildings of the Cochrane Ranch are located a short distance behind it. (7)

 (7) Interview, Mr. S. J. Reed, Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1918 the Chapman brothers built a large garage on Main street. They operated this business until 1935, when

they sold out to Mr. M. Baptie. (8)

(8) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

In May, 1919, the Hon. C. W. Fisher died while attending a session of the Alberta Legislature. He had represented Cochrane in the House since 1905 and had been speaker throughout that time. Mr. Fisher came to Cochrane in 1901, a comparatively wealthy man, and purchased a great deal of property in the village, as well as the Merino ranch. The Fisher block, that housed most of his enterprises, was a landmark. His general store was the largest in the village and was a great boon to the agricultural community, and many of the homesteaders received financial support and credit from Mr. Fisher. At the time of his death he owned quarter sections of land scattered all over the Cochrane district that had been turned over to him for grocery bills by homesteaders who had gone bankrupt. Land was of little value in 1919, and his widow suffered financial embarrassment because of her former husband's commendable but unpractical attitude towards those who owed him money.

T. Fisher, his half brother and a beneficiary, took over the general store in partnership with W. Andison. Mr. Andison, a brother of E. Andison, had been an employee in the store since 1907. In 1924, Mr. Fisher sold his interest

to R. A. Webster and the stock was moved into the Cochrane hotel. (9)

 (9) Interview, Mr. W. Andison.

In the by-election that followed the death of the Hon. C. W. Fisher, Mr. A. Moore was elected. He was a local farmer and a member of the United Farmers of Alberta. He was the first supporter of this organization to become a member of the Legislative Assembly. The village did not support him but the rural area voted heavily for him. (10)

 (10) Interview, Mr. W. Andison and Mr. A. Chapman.

In 1919 Dr. J. Waite set up a practice in Cochrane. Dr. Ritchie had been killed in an automobile accident on the Cochrane hill in 1915. Dr. Park had joined the medical corps in 1914 and did not return to Cochrane after discharge. His young assistant, Dr. W. S. Saunders remained for a time during the war, but left before Dr. Waite arrived. Dr. Waite established a regular drug store in the village. Drugs and medicines had previously been sold by the general store. (11)

 (11) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

The Cochrane Board of Trade was reorganized after the war. Several previous attempts had been made to maintain such a board but all had failed, as did this one. It is only in very recent years that it has been revived, and it appears to be more healthy this time. (12)

 (12) Interview, Mr. W. Andison.

Cochrane was still predominately "wet" in the prohibition referendum of 1920, but the vote was light. In 1923 the vote on clause "D" to end prohibition had one hundred and seventy-seven supporters, while clause "A", to continue it, had only fifty-five. A majority of Albertans also agreed with the inhabitants of Cochrane and the sale of liquor became legal. (13)

 (13) C. A., October 25, 1920, and November 5, 1923.

The end of prohibition resulted in several changes in Cochrane. Mr. Webster decided to reopen the hotel and the businesses housed there were forced to move. J. Bailey, who had operated a small bakery there for a time, gave up his business. This was the last bakery in Cochrane, that of C. Pitter having gone bankrupt in 1915. In June, 1924, the hotel beer parlor was opened for the first time in eight years. In March, 1925, the grocery store was moved back to the Fisher block and the hotel was completely renovated. Mr. Webster sold his interest in the store to Mr. W. Andison, who has operated it since that time. Soon afterwards, Mr. Webster sold the hotel to J. W. Dickenson, who rechristened it the "Russell Hotel", the name it carries today.

Miss Webster had opened a small confectionery be-

side the hotel in the late 'teens. In 1924, she sold it to J. Allan and Allan's confectionery gradually became an institution in the village. (14)

 (14) Interview, Mr. W. Andison.

In the early 1920's Cochrane was beginning to feel the benefit of its location on the main east-west highway. The growing tourist trade was given fresh impetus by the construction of the Banff-Windermere highway in 1923. In 1924 the road from Banff to Calgary was extensively improved and in May of that year over three hundred cars were registered at the Park gates each weekend. Several district roads were built about this time and, in 1925, a new bridge was completed across the Bow river south of Cochrane. (15)

 (15) C. A., August 23, 1923, May 23 and 29, 1924, and August 13, 1925.

R. Butler built the "Tourists' Rest", near the former site of the Cochrane creamery, in 1925. The building contained a dance floor and a dining room. Tourists were not yet numerous enough to support such a business however, and Mr. Butler sold the building to Mr. R. Hogarth, who used it as a residence for many years. Mr. Butler went to Peace River. (16)

 (16) Interview, Mr. W. Andison.

In 1925 the local farmers gave their support to plans for an elevator. They purchased over eight thousand dollars worth of shares in the United Grain Growers' Asso-

ciation and the building was constructed in 1926.

The Collins brick yard operated sporadically during the summers from 1921 to 1925. At times as many as twenty-five men were employed. The last big contract was for the C. P. R. hotel at Lake Louise, which was begun in 1925. It is largely constructed of Cochrane brick. The yard has been closed since that contract was filled. (17)

(17) C. A., January 22, 1925.
Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

The Royal Bank of Canada took over the branch of the Union Bank in Cochrane in 1925. (18)

(18) Interview, Mr. A. Allen, Cochrane, January 1951.

The Cochrane Advocate ceased publication on September 8, 1927. The paper had had ten editor-owners in the period from 1915 to 1927. They were H. Whitfield, from September 15 to November 15, 1915; F. C. Atkinson, to January 1, 1916; A. Taylor, to January 20, 1916; A. C. Hathway, to November 7, 1918; R. J. Hawkey, to August 21, 1919; H. B. Willis, to May 20, 1920; O. S. Love, to October 14, 1920; C. C. Stuart from March 17, 1921 to February 9, 1922; H. C. Farthing, to October 8, 1925; and finally, A. Gissing, from June 16 to September 8, 1927. The paper was not published from October 14, 1920, to March 17, 1921, nor from October 8, 1925, to June 16, 1927. All the editor-owners found it a poor business venture although only H. B. Willis and H. C. Farthing ever tried seriously to put the paper back on its feet.

When A. Gissing, a brother of the artist, R. Gissing, gave it up, no one else was prepared to continue with it.

In 1928 the Murphy House, or Alberta hotel, burned to the ground. It was the best known landmark in Cochrane to that time. Mr. W. Dean had found it difficult to remain solvent during the years of prohibition, but after repeal of the law in 1923, his business boomed. The Murphy House boasted a long hardwood bar with the characteristic brass foot-rail and was popular with tourists and residents alike. (20)

 (20) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

An Elks' Lodge was organized in the village in 1928. Funds were collected from the local people and a very fine hall was built. The new society tended to be a catch-all of members, many of whom were a disgrace to it. It fell into disrepute, it was disbanded, and the hall remained in the hands of those who had contributed to its construction. Mrs. J. Bailey had a considerable amount of money invested and she and her daughter, Mrs. Allan, looked after the building for many years. In 1947 the village bought it for five thousand dollars and now maintains it as a public meeting place. (21)

 (21) Interviews, Messrs. A. Chapman and A. Raby.

In September, 1929, a second spectacular fire destroyed the Fisher block. The fire started late in the

evening in some new electrical wiring in the hardware section. The local fire department was unable to deal with it, although it managed to prevent the fire spreading to nearby buildings. Mr. W. Andison bought the land from R. A. Webster and constructed a new block. It is somewhat smaller than the former block but contains W. Andison's general store, the Royal Bank of Canada and the post office, which was moved back to this location from the Howard block in 1930. (22)

 (22) Interview, Mr. W. Andison.

George Hope, who had been the local blacksmith for many years, sold his business to Mr. D. Murray in 1929. Mr. Murray has remained there ever since. In 1946, his son, David Murray, established a hardware store on the lot behind the blacksmith shop. (23)

 (23) Interview, Mr. D. Murray Sr., Cochrane, January 1951.

In 1929 the village had a land assessment of forty-one thousand four hundred dollars and an improvement assessment of ninety-three thousand dollars. The population was estimated at two hundred and eighty-five. (24) These

 (24) Reports of the Department of Municipal Affairs, 1930.

 figures are rather more impressive when compared with those of 1909; two hundred thousand dollars for land assessment, twenty thousand for buildings and three hundred and fifty for population. (25) The tremendous decrease in land as-

 (25) U. A., April 15, 1909.

assessment was due to two factors. The earlier enthusiasm for the prospects of the village had not been born out by events and the land had fallen greatly in value in twenty years. The earlier land owners, who had made no improvements, had long since let their property be taken over for taxes. The village itself owned a large part of the town-site in 1929 and this reduced the land assessment. However the buildings in the village had been greatly improved in the course of twenty years.

In 1930 the Texas Company of Canada established a service station in Cochrane. Evelyn Nelson was the first operator, then came Stan Skov and, in 1934, Graham Broatch, who still operates it. In 1939, Mr. Broatch built a number of cabins near the service station and has found them a most remunerative investment. (26)

 (26) Interview, Mr. G. Broatch, Cochrane, January 1951.

The Quigley garage was moved from the east end of town to Mountain Avenue in the late 1920's. Mr. C. E. Sibbald, a son of Andrew Sibbald, had married Elizabeth Quigley and gone into partnership with T. Quigley. The garage failed during the depression and was sold to C. Colgan. Mr. Colgan operated it until 1938, when he built a new and more modern building on the former site of the Murphy House. The other building was sold to C. V. Lind

and now contains a barber shop and pool room.

In 1934 a Mr. Polsky opened a small but modern flour mill in Cochrane. His product was of excellent quality but rather dark in color and did not sell well. He left in 1936 and the building has since been used as a granary.

Dr. Waite died in 1934 and was succeeded by Dr. H. Rivers. His thriving drug business was taken over by Mr. H. A. Hart, formerly of Gadsby, Alberta. Mr. Hart still runs it. Dr. Rivers left before the second World War and Cochrane has not since had a resident doctor. (27)

 (27) Interview, Mr. H. A. Hart, Cochrane, January 1951.

Mr. B. Klassen established a hardware store in the village in 1935. He had previously owned the "Builders' Hardware" in Didsbury. He has a thriving business and has recently renovated and modernized his premises. (28)

 (28) Interview, Mr. B. Klassen, Cochrane, January 1951.

The depression had a very detrimental effect on Cochrane. The village was entirely dependent on the rural community and the farmers and ranchers had very little money to spend. Many of the villagers were unable to pay their taxes and lost their property. In 1939 the land assessment had fallen to eighteen thousand five hundred dollars, less than half the figure for 1929. The assessment on improvements fell over ten thousand dollars, an

indication that some of the residents had lost their homes as well as their lots. (29)

 (29) Reports of the Department of Municipal Affairs, 1940.

The second World War had none of the ruinous consequences of the first one. The agricultural community began to enjoy a boom and this influenced the prosperity of the village. The population climbed steadily and by 1946 exceeded four hundred. Extensive oil exploration in the Jumping Pound area and the discovery of large reserves of natural gas gave new impetus to this expansion.

The influx of oil workers did not result from any recent discoveries of oil. In 1914 there were no less than ten oil companies drilling in the Jumping Pound area. (30) Natural gas had been leaking out of fissures

 (30) C. A., July 2, 1914.

in the ground in that district since earliest times but had attracted little attention until 1914. Some idea of the availability of the gas pockets may be gained when the experience of the Purity Gas Company in 1914 is considered. This Company drilled to a depth of eight hundred and ninety-three feet and discovered three large gas deposits in that distance. (31) Throughout 1914, 1915 and 1916, various

 (31) C. A., November 1, 1914.

small companies drilled wells. Some of them went to a depth of three thousand feet but, although great quantities

of gas were discovered, there was little crude oil. In 1927, the Imperial Oil Company drilled a well to five thousand two hundred feet and still did not find oil. (32)

(32) C. A., July 21, 1927.

Since the second World War, the Shell Oil Company has drilled two wells to a depth of ten thousand feet but has been unable to find oil in commercial quantities. This Company has turned its attention to the natural gas in the district and is constructing a large scrubbing plant to purify the gas for export. It contains large amounts of sulphur compounds and it is only in recent years that practicable methods for purifying it have made the development of this natural resource profitable. The two wells are expected to yield thirty million cubic feet of gas daily. A pipeline to Calgary was completed in December, 1950, and work then began on a line to Exshaw and Banff.

In 1949 the assessment on improvements had tripled that of 1939. New homes were being constructed all over the village. Several of the local businesses have been extended and the villagers are enjoying a greater prosperity than ever before. The new scrubbing plant and the small industries that it is attracting promise to maintain this prosperity. Cochrane has a promising future.

CHAPTER X

CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, SPORTS, AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Methodist and Roman Catholic missionaries occupied an important place in the ranks of the pioneers in the Bow valley west of Calgary. Something has been said in an earlier chapter of the activities of Rev. George and Rev. John McDougall and the mission that they established at Morleyville in 1873. Missionaries had travelled through the region on a number of occasions prior to that however. The Rev. Robert Terrill Rundle journeyed up the Bow valley to the present site of Banff in the early 1840's. The Rev. Father Pierre Jean DeSmet came into this area by way of the present Whiteman's Pass and spent some time among the Stoney Indians in 1845. Rev. George McDougall had visited the Stoney near the present Morley as early as 1871, and on that occasion resolved to establish a mission among them. Two years later he carried out this resolution and built the first church in this region.

The first Catholic mission in southern Alberta was located on the Elbow river, nine miles south of the present village of Cochrane. In 1873 Rev. Fathers Fourmond and Scollen came from St. Albert and took up residence in a log cabin on the north bank of the river. The parishioners were Blackfeet, Métis, and a few trappers and traders.

Father Fourmond returned to St. Albert the next spring, while Father Scollen visited the camps of the buffalo hunters that summer. He returned in the fall and was joined by Father Bonald. In the fall of 1875, it was decided to move the mission to the vicinity of the new N. W. M. P. post at Calgary. Today the site of the mission on the Elbow river is marked by a cairn erected in 1939.

Several of the pioneer ranchers in the Cochrane area were Catholics from the highlands of Scotland. Mr. Angus McDonald, Mr. A. Gillies, Mr. D. Morrison and Mr. D. McEachren formed a small parish. They were visited by missionaries from the Oblate residence in Calgary. Mass was said in private homes. In 1894 there were eighty Catholics settled in and around Cochrane and the Council of Oblates approved plans for the erection of a church. In September Father Comiré and Brother Patrick Bowes began work on it. In November the building was finished and the local Catholics had raised enough money to clear it of debt. It was blessed on November 24, 1894, and was named "St. Mary's Church".

Father Comiré remained for two years and was followed by Father Fouquet, who stayed until 1899. Father Seltman took charge then and, in 1901, built the small rectory beside the church. He was succeeded by Father

Hermes in 1907, who remained until 1921 and was perhaps the best known and best loved churchman ever to reside in the Cochrane district.

Diocesan priests took over the parish from 1921 to 1940. A priest visited in Cochrane and said mass two Sundays in each month. In 1940 the parish was returned to the Oblate Fathers and Father Lessard took residence in the village. The Franciscan Order was given the parish in 1949 and purchased the houses originally owned by J. Murphy and C. W. Fisher. These buildings are now used as a retreat for the Fathers. (1)

(1) Records of "St. Mary's Church", Cochrane.
Interview, Miss M. Morrison, Calgary, January 1951.

The second church to be established in the village was that of the Anglicans. It will be remembered that this building was constructed in 1892 at Mitford through the efforts and contributions of Lady Adela Cochrane and her friends in England. In 1899 it was moved to Cochrane.

In the early 1900's, a succession of clergymen were in charge of this church. Few of them resided in the village. They were also responsible for Exshaw, Bottrel and Springbank. Unfortunately the number of Anglicans has always been small and the church has not had enough supporters to merit a regular clergyman for many years. Services are held about every fourth Sunday. (2)

(2) Records of "All Saints, Cochrane."

"All Saints, Cochrane" is a remarkably picturesque building although it is not always maintained in the best of condition. The exterior has been in need of paint for many years. Many of the furnishings are antique and very beautiful. The altar cloth has been exquisitely woven by hand and the pews are a striking example of the ability of the early pioneers in constructing furniture.

The third church in Cochrane was that of the Presbyterians. It was built in 1900 by a Mr. Downey under the supervision of Rev. Mr. Simpson. A large manse was constructed beside it in 1904. As the population expanded in the early 1900's, the old church was found to be too small and was moved back on the lot to make room for a new one. The present "St. Andrew's" church was completed in 1910 and is much the largest church in Cochrane. In 1909 it was estimated that it would cost ten thousand dollars to build but so extensive were the local contributions of labor and material that the cost of construction was reduced to three thousand five hundred dollars. In 1925 it became "St. Andrew's United Church".

The following have been incumbents in this church -
Rev. Mr. Simpson, Rev. J. A. Claxton, Rev. A. W. Whiteman,
Rev. W. F. Burns, Rev. J. C. Herdman, Rev. W. A. Greer,

Rev. W. McRae, Rev. W. Brooker, Rev. P. Halstead, Rev. D. McKeen Reid, Rev. A. R. Aldridge, Rev. R. Erskine Pow, Rev. W. Little, Rev. C. W. McKay, and Rev. J. R. Brown. Generally the clergyman has resided in the manse and taken an active part in community affairs. At different times the district of Springbank has also been the incumbent's responsibility. (3)

 (3) Records of "St. Andrew's United Church", Cochrane.
 Interview, Mr. A. Chapman, Cochrane, January 1951.

The United Church has the largest congregation of any in Cochrane, although the parishioners of St. Mary's support their church more strongly. The various religious denominations in this area have an enviable record of tolerance and good will. There are few communities that can boast, as Cochrane can, that their Orange hall has been used by the Roman Catholics for church socials.

The first school in the Cochrane area was that established by the McDougalls at Morleyville in 1874. In 1891 Lady Adela Cochrane hired a teacher and opened a school in the former saloon at Mitford. Shortly before 1900, a small school was opened in Cochrane, and in 1906 a large brick building was constructed for this purpose. This latter structure forms part of the present school, although several additions have been made since 1906.

The influx of settlers in the early 1900's necessitated the construction of a number of rural schools.

Glenbow school was built in 1909, Glendale and Brushy Ridge in 1910. Grand Valley school was also constructed about this time and a few years later schools were built in the Cochrane Lake, Weedon and Inglis districts. In 1924 one was constructed near Beaupré lake. These schools were generally small one room buildings with accommodation for about twenty-five pupils. The teacher boarded in the home of a nearby farmer. Most of the children rode to school, some for a considerable distance, and a barn was a standard accessory at each school. The quality of the education the children received tended to be directly proportional to the ambition and capability of the teacher. The Provincial Government provided for periodic inspections by qualified men, and made an attempt to maintain a reasonable standard of education. In view of the difficulties that had to be overcome - the weather, the distance to school, arrears in taxes, poorly paid teachers, often obstructive trustees, and the proclivity of local bachelors to marry the lady teachers - the rural schools were remarkably satisfactory.

Since the second World War, the Weedon, Cochrane Lake and Grand Valley schools have been combined. The children are transported to Cochrane in buses. The village school has been extended from three to six rooms and the English school house, closed owing to a paucity of pupils, has been moved in as an annex. The whole area is

included in the Calgary school division.

In the realm of social and sporting activities, perhaps the most notable one participated in by the residents of the Cochrane area was that of horse racing. In the early days this district was famous for its racehorses and polo ponies. Enthusiasm for sports of this nature was often closely related to the current price of horses.

The first race was held in 1891 on a small graded track a half mile east of Mitford. The local ranchers organized a small association and took up a collection for prizes. The first meet was so successful that it was decided to hold one annually. Each year the competition became more keen, and although Mr. Kerfoot won every race in 1893, the competitors made certain that this did not happen again.

In the early years of this sport, the association sponsored an "owners up" event that soon became the most popular race of the meet. Each owner bent all his efforts to winning this race, not only because of the personal triumph that victory brought, but also because of the added prestige he gained for the horses he had for sale.

When Lady Adela Cochrane was at Mitford, the annual races were an especially important social event. Many of her friends came to Mitford and were entertained in an elegant manner. A large and gaily colored tent was erected at the track and her guests found it a pleasant

shelter from the hot sun while they consumed sandwiches and strong punch between the races.

Each year more and more racing enthusiasts took the opportunity of spending the day away from Calgary. An elliptical track was laid out and work was begun on a small grandstand in 1894. In the early 1900's, a special train was run from Calgary on the day of the meet. In 1910 the association was reorganized and the land on which the track was located was purchased. At that time, Cochrane had the reputation of having the finest mile turf track in western Canada.

The depression that preceded the first World War had a detrimental effect on the races of 1912 and 1913. The association suffered financial embarrassment and was completely ruined when on October 4, 1913, the grandstand burned to the ground. (4) A new one could not be financed

(4) C. A., October 9, 1913.

and the races attracted little attention for the next ten years.

Horse racing in the Cochrane area took a new lease on life in 1923. B. F. Rhodes had come to Grand Valley after the war to take over the ranching interests of his brother, H. A. Rhodes, who had lost his life in the war. He was an enthusiastic horseman and a wealthy man. He took over the racing grounds to prevent them being lost for

taxes. A fine new grandstand was built in 1924.

The biggest race meet in the history of the district was held on June 24 and 25, 1925. A special train ran from Calgary each day and hundreds were in attendance. This meet lacked some of the earlier enthusiasm that had characterized those held when the ranchers owned all the horses. Racing was largely commercialized by this time and although it was a great success from the financial point of view, the old timers could not help but regret the loss of the element of racing for the sake of the sport.

The races became less popular after the depression began. The last meet was held in the fall of 1931 and on the occasion a young apprentice jockey named Johnny Longden booted home most of the winners. The land was then sold and the grandstand torn down for lumber. A field of grain now grows on the former race track each summer. (5)

(5) Interviews, Messrs. A. Kerfoot, A. Chapman and L. Towers. Where not otherwise specified, these men have been the source of the information concerning the race track.

Polo was also a very popular sport in the Cochrane area in the early days. It appears to have been introduced to Alberta ranchers in the late 1880's or early 1890's and was first played in the district around Pincher Creek. The first club at Cochrane was not organized until 1909. Mr. W. Hutchinson and Mr. A. McPherson were appointed

captains, grounds were secured and a vigorous program of practices was set up. Mr. W. D. Kerfoot was an enthusiastic member until he lost his life at the Spring Stock Show in Calgary in 1910. His sons also were greatly interested and many of the early teams were predominantly Kerfoot. (6)

 (6) Interview, Messrs. A. Kerfoot and W. Hutchinson.

Polo was the favorite game of the ranching community in southern Alberta before the first World War. Alberta players gained a considerable reputation and in 1912 were invited to compete in the United States. A team composed of players from Cochrane, Cowley, High River and North Fork went to Spokane and defeated the best teams of the western United States. (7) Alberta teams competed for (7) "Canadian Cattlemen", June 1949, Vol. XII, No. 2. 22. the championship of western Canada in Cochrane in 1913. The Fish creek team won on that occasion. In September the Cochrane team won the Osler trophy in a tournament in Winnipeg. (8) The war brought the sport to an end and it has (8) C. A., July 24 and Sept. 25, 1913. not since been revived.

Cochrane has not participated in any other sports of note. Baseball, hockey and curling have been popular diversions for many years. The first curling rink was built in the early 1900's and one has been maintained ever

since. The skating rink was built in 1910 and keen but unspectacular hockey is played every year. Local leagues are formed for both hockey and baseball and the teams from Cochrane win a fair share of the titles.

Cochrane has always been a popular recruiting ground for fraternal organizations. An Orange Lodge was organized about 1903 and a fine Orange hall was built in 1905. The Order was very strong for fifteen years or more but was discontinued in 1925. The hall was turned over to the Provincial Order, who sold it to the local I.O.O.F. in 1933 for one hundred and fifty dollars. (9)

 (9) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

In June, 1909, King Solomon Lodge #41 of the Masonic Order was instituted. The members occupied the second floor of the Fisher block until that building was destroyed by fire in 1929. In recent years, the I.O.O.F. has appealed more to the younger men and membership in the Masons has declined. The Eastern Star, an associated organization, has a considerable following among the ladies of the village. This group meets in the original school building, which was moved to a location one block west of the present school many years ago. (10)

 (10) Interview, Mrs. S. J. Reed, Cochrane, January 1951.

Three other organizations have a considerable membership in the district. The Canadian Legion was formed

after the first World War and procured the former Quigley brick yard cook house as a meeting place. This body was greatly augmented by veterans from the second World War. The I.O.O.F. instituted a lodge in the 1930's and bought the Orange hall as a meeting place. This organization has been particularly successful among the young men and has a commendable record of participation in community affairs.

(11) The Elk's Lodge, now defunct, has already been men-

 (11) Interview, Mr. A. Chapman.

tioned in Chapter IX.

Of other social activities, dancing has been the most popular. The early dances were held in private homes or in haylofts. The settlers travelled miles to attend. After the Orange hall and the rural schools were built the dances took place in them. The purely local nature of the dances has changed in the last ten or fifteen years. It became the smart thing to attend country dances and numerous people drove out from Calgary. The earlier spirit gave way to spirits to some extent, a circumstance for which the local people are not entirely without responsibility.

The Cochrane area has been particularly unresponsive to a number of social and sporting activities. The bowling alley built by Eddie Moses in 1912 soon went out of business. A "Cheerio" club organized for the purpose

of holding small socials and dances was extremely short lived. A golf club was organized in 1925 and barely lasted one season. Young Peoples Clubs have been established on innumerable occasions but have generally expired before the first play was produced.

The annual "Christmas Concerts" are an interesting, and sometimes amusing, institution. The various schools prepare an evening of entertainment to be given shortly before the Christmas holidays begin. Short plays, instrumental and vocal numbers, and recitations are presented to a jammed house. A "Box Social" or dance held sometime before the concert usually nets enough to provide Santa with a present for each child in the district. The evening is much looked forward to by both young and old.

A local "Light Horse Association" was formed after the second World War. There are few good saddle horses left in the district and membership is therefore limited. A gymkhana is held each summer at the Mount Royal ranch and features some excellent amateur racing and jumping. The riders all participate in the annual Stampede Parade.

Political clubs have flourished at different times. The Hon. C. W. Fisher organized the first one about 1905 and provided a meeting place in the village equipped with a billiard table and a bar. The U. F. A. was strongly supported by the rural people for a time and numerous dances and pic-

nics were sponsored. Both organizations vanished in 1935 and do not show any signs of reviving.

The Womens' Institute has occupied an important place in the lives of farm women. Many commendable services have been performed by this body. It is occasionally shaken from top to bottom by a controversy among the members.

The Cochrane area has not been characterized by strong community activities, particularly since the first World War. The advent of the automobile and the proximity of Calgary and Banff have provided the residents with means of amusement and relaxation outside the district. Local picnics are now all but unknown, but many families drive to Banff for a Sunday outing. It is no problem to attend an evening movie in Calgary, a fact that has nearly ruined a number of individuals who tried to make a success of movies in the village. In spite of these shortcomings, it would be hard to convince the average resident of the Cochrane area that he does not live in the friendliest community in Alberta.

CHAPTER XI

CONCLUSION

The history of the Cochrane area, although in many respects similar to that of most other sections of Alberta, displays some characteristics that are unusual. Insofar as the Morleyville Settlement was a part of this district for a time, the region around Cochrane has been distinguished from others in southern Alberta by the fact that the first nucleus of settlement was a mission among the Indians. Then too, Cochrane was the site of the first of the great company cattle ranches that were to have such an important influence on the development of the southern half of the province.

The construction of the transcontinental railway through the district around Cochrane offers an interesting insight into the influences that the railroad had on a community primarily devoted to ranching. The railway established a better connection with the markets for livestock and it made the region easily accessible to new settlers. It resulted in a new orientation of the area from east to west and disrupted the earlier line of communication southward into the United States along the Macleod - Fort Benton Trail. New hamlets grew up along the right-of-way and the former unity of the region, based as it was upon the settlement at Morleyville, was lost.

Mitford and Cochrane became the nuclei about which rural development occurred and the district around Morleyville became a separate entity.

The histories of Mitford and Glenbow are interesting, not only because of the notable personages that participated in them, but also because they reveal something of the indomitable spirit of individual enterprise which made the economic foundation of Alberta more secure by making it more diversified. It is true, of course, that the industries in Mitford and Glenbow, and in Cochrane for that matter, were not ultimately successful, but they brought in new settlers and new wealth to help in developing the area and, what is more important, their failure showed the local people that it was only possible to broaden their economy by varying their agricultural activities.

This early process of trial and error in the search for a more stable economic foundation resulted in the establishment of a grain growing industry and then a dairying industry. These new enterprises expanded steadily and, in conjunction with the earlier ranching activities, placed the Cochrane area in a secure financial position before the depression of the 1930's. Like other farming and ranching districts in Alberta this region felt the depression at an early stage, but unlike many it survived it without serious

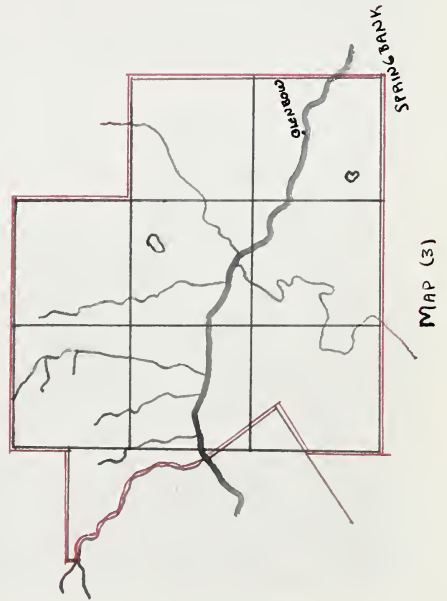
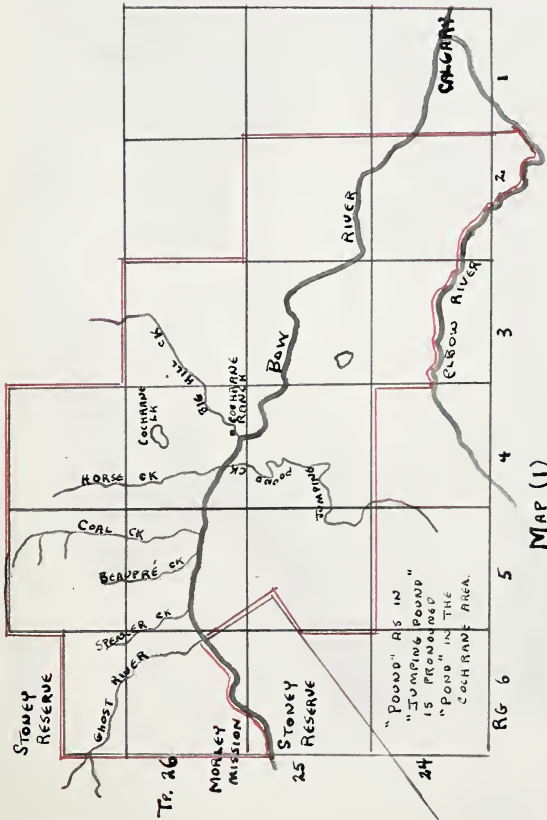
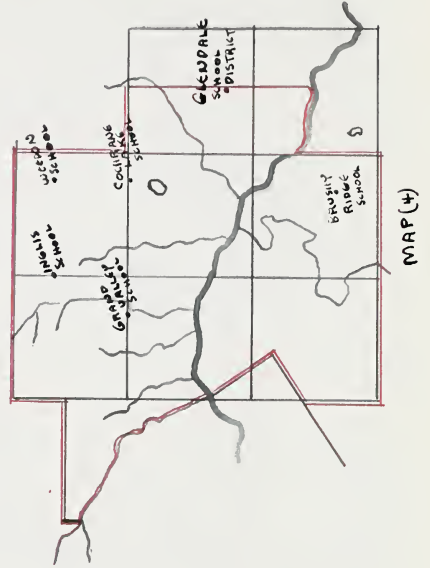
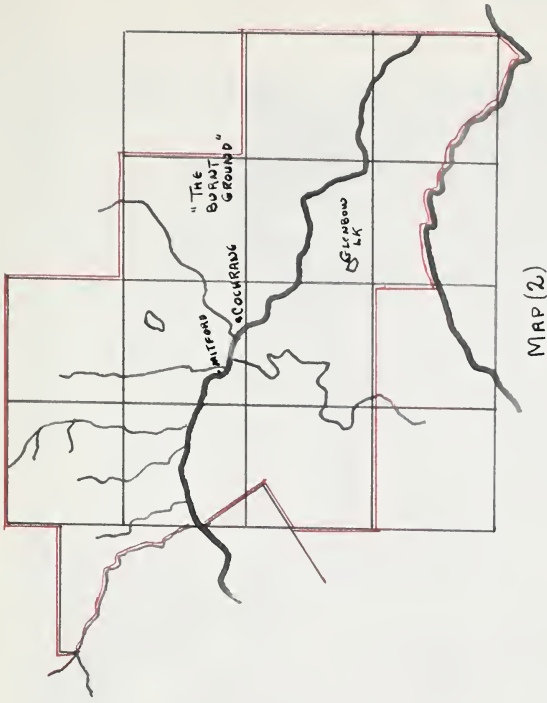
consequences, largely because it had a sufficiently diversified agricultural economy.

The history of the Cochrane area also presents a rather interesting example of the influence of geographical position on the development of a local society. To begin with, there were the hardy pioneers, travelling with teams of horses or oxen into a comparatively isolated section of the province and laying the foundations of a tightly knit community. The railway followed and established a much closer link with the rest of Canada east and west. It brought new settlers with the result that the social structure of the area was modified. The early community feeling was partially broken down by the influx of great numbers of homesteaders, who were regarded as somewhat inferior socially because they were unpropertied newcomers and because they did not usually become ranchers. As the earlier concept of ranchers being more aristocratic than farmers began to wane, partly because the farmers proved that their enterprise could be just as profitable as ranching, the automobile made its appearance and further disunited the community. The farmers and ranchers were given greater mobility, with the result that they could travel outside the district to participate in social activities and did not therefore develop a strong feeling of local unity.

In conclusion, it may be maintained that the history of the Cochrane area is interesting in itself because it is the story of the people who created, in a beautiful section of Alberta, one of the prosperous agricultural communities that are the foundations of this province.

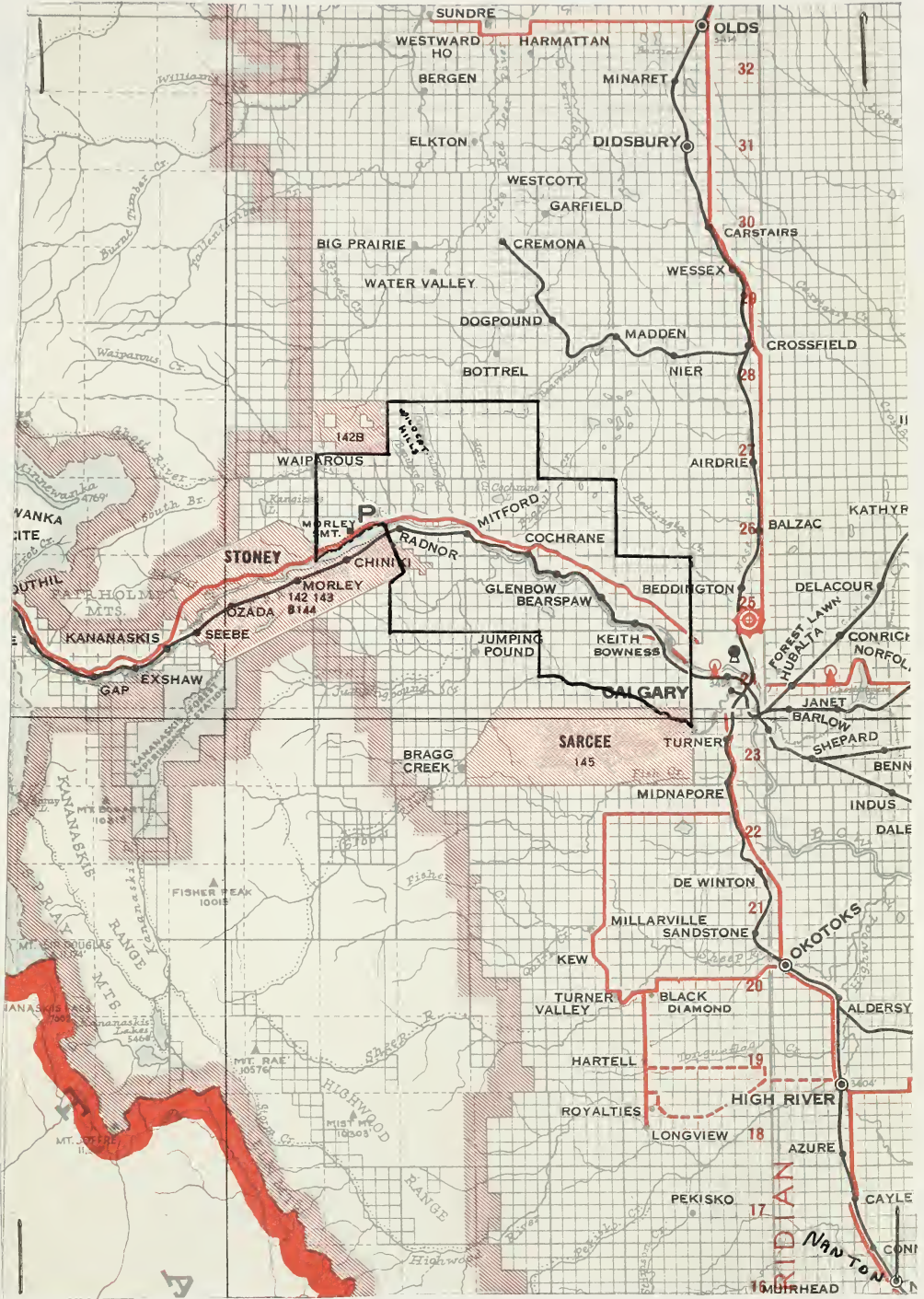
APPENDICES

APPENDIX A. - MAPS



"POOND" AS IN
 "JUMPING POOND"
 IS PRESERVED
 "POOND" IN THE
 COCHRANE AREA.

APPENDIX A.



MAP (5)

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1

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1st

Old Sam 500

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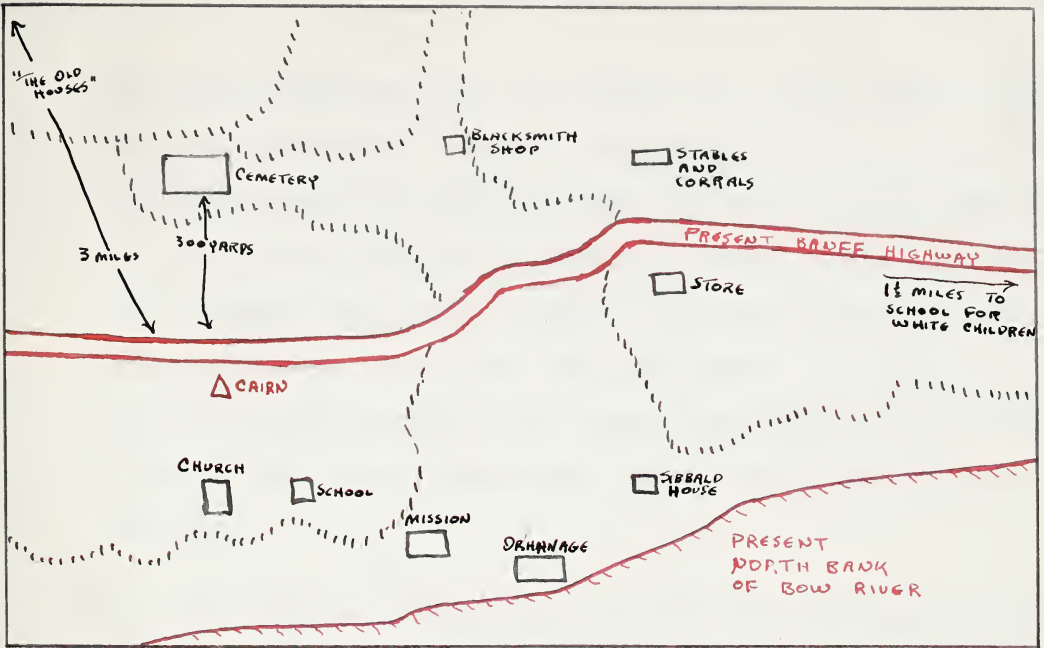


Diagram (1)

MORLEYVILLE AND ITS EARLY SETTLERS

This diagram shows the disposition of the buildings in the early Morleyville mission. The church is the only building still standing and its location is shown in Appendix A, map (5). These buildings were further north of the river in 1873, but the Ghost dam has caused the water to back up to such an extent that the church is now only one hundred yards from the water.

"The Old Houses" is the name that was given to the original fort when the McDougall family took up their quarters in the new buildings in 1875.

After the railway was built, the post office was on the south side of the river and somewhat to the west. It

was called Millward for some years, in honour of Rev. George Millward McDougall. Indian settlement centred around this new post office and in time some of the buildings from the original settlement were moved over there. The Orphanage, for example, was moved in 1904. The old store was operated intermittently until 1932 when it burned. An agency store had been established in the Indian settlement in the late 1890's. The newer settlement finally took over the name Morley.

- (1) Mr. Andrew Sibbald had no left hand. He wore a hook, and those who remember him remark on his outstanding ability to use tools, especially the axe, in spite of this handicap. A son, Clarence E. Sibbald, was born after the family came to Morley. Mrs. Sibbald died of typhoid fever in 1882 and is buried at Morley. Sibbald creek, a small tributary of Jumping Pound creek, is named after Frank Sibbald, who ranched in that neighbourhood for many years.
- (2) J. MacLean in "McDougall of Alberta", 113, has an excellent account of the circumstances surrounding the death of the Rev. George McDougall. In January 1876, he was hunting with Rev. John and others. While returning to the camp to prepare supper for the rest of the party, the Rev. George lost his way. A severe

blizzard developed that night and he was not found for thirteen days. The spot where he was found has not been established with certainty, but it is about fifteen miles northwest of Calgary. Rev. George McDougall was fifty-four years old when he died. He is buried in the Morley cemetery.

Mrs. Elizabeth Chantler McDougall, his wife, died in 1903 at the age of eighty-five and is buried beside him. She was born in England in 1818 and came to Alberta with the Rev. George McDougall in 1862. Three daughters died of smallpox during the epidemic at Pakan (Victoria). George, a son, died of tuberculosis on the trail to Fort Benton about 1878.

Mrs. (Senator) R. Hardisty, Mrs. L. Wood and Mrs. Harrison Young were daughters of the Rev. George McDougall. Mrs. Young's husband was a Hudson's Bay Company official. In October 1877 Mrs. Young was visiting Morleyville. Realizing that the birth of her expected baby was imminent, she persuaded her brothers David and Rev. John to take her to Calgary where medical aid would be available. A severe blizzard caught the party on the banks of the Ghost river and they were forced to make camp. The baby was born in this camp. This child was Birdie Young who, in 1899, married Dr. Philippe Roy, a young doctor. In 1911 Dr. Roy was appointed Canadian

Commissioner to France and in 1928 was made Canadian Minister to France.

Madame Roy appears to have been the first white child born in the Cochrane district.

The Rev. John McDougall was married twice. His first wife, whom he married in 1864, was Abigail Steinhauer. Her father, the Rev. H. B. Steinhauer, was the missionary at White Fish lake. There were three daughters by this marriage, Flora, Ruth and Augusta. Mrs. McDougall died at Victoria, N. W. T., in 1870.

Flora married Mr. Magnus Begg, an Indian agent to the Blackfeet. Mrs. Begg passed away in 1950. Ruth married Mr. Captain Wheeler and now lives in Winnipeg.

Augusta Victoria Mathieson, who has supplied much of this information on the McDougalls, was born at White Fish lake in 1870. She came with her father and step-mother to the early mission at Morleyville. The family lived in the fort for two years and then moved into the new settlement beside the river. In 1878 she was sent east to school. Her sister Ruth went with her and Flora had gone a year or two earlier. A year was spent in a school in Cobourg and then four years in a young ladies school in Oshawa. They returned to Morley in 1884. The greater part of the next twenty years was spent in teaching and nursing around the Morley mission.

She married in 1914 and she and her husband went farming in the Carstairs district. In 1947 Mr. and Mrs. Mathieson moved into Calgary, where they now live. There are two daughters, Mrs. Agnes Raynes and Mrs. Robert Simpson, both in Calgary.

The Rev. John McDougall's second wife was Elizabeth Boyd of Grey county, Ontario. They were married in 1872. There were six children, George Millward, John Boyd, Lilian Elizabeth, Morley Samuel, David Livingstone and Douglas Judson. George and John were ranchers around Morley and both are now dead. Lilian married John Graham, an old-timer in the area. Mr. Graham is now dead and Mrs. Graham lives in Calgary. Morley was a C. P. R. conductor and is now retired in Calgary. David is a C. P. R. conductor and Douglas is an electrician in the Calgary Fire Department.

The Rev. John McDougall died in January 1917 and is buried in Calgary.

David McDougall (trader Dave) had a family of four daughters and one son. They are Mrs. Georgina Elizabeth Luxton of Banff, Mrs. Jane Ellen Graham of Calgary, Mrs. May (Senator) Ross of Calgary, David Hardisty McDougall, a rancher at Cochrane and Mrs. Anne Condie Carling of Calgary.

THE COCHRANE RANCHED COMPANY

WITH THE EXCEPTION OF SECTION 7, THE MATERIAL
BELOW IS BASED ON OR QUOTED FROM FRANK
WHITE'S "GENERAL NOTES"

- (1) Cochrane ranch losses - winter of 1881-82. ~~Frank White's~~
~~"General Notes"~~. It is difficult to arrive at an accurate figure but the losses through the winter appear to approach two thousand head. F. White records that the stock on November 30, 1881, numbered six thousand seven hundred and ninety-nine head. This figure does not include the calves, which were apparently not counted in the purchase price. It is hard to estimate how many calves there would be in the herd, but it is recorded that there were some fourteen head of yearlings in the spring of 1882. Hundreds were lost on the trip north, but it is safe to assume that there must have been very considerably more than fourteen hundred head of calves when the drive started. Therefore, I think it is safe to assume that eight thousand head of cattle at least (counting calves) were on the Cochrane range in November of 1881. F. White records that there were seven thousand two hundred and fifty four head in April 1882. This includes fourteen hundred head of calves born that spring. If the assumptions are granted, it follows that some two thousand three hundred head of cattle perished that winter. There is no indication that the directors of the Company thought that this was an unexpected loss.
- (2) Copy of the contract between Poindexter and Orr and Major Walker.

"It is agreed this 16th day of May A.D. 1882 between Messrs. Poindexter and Orr of the first part and James Walker of the second part as follows;

The parties of the first part agree to sell to James Walker of the second part all their herd of cattle except 150 dairy cows and about 60 thorough bred cows and heifers which have never been with the herd at the rate of \$25.00 per head. Diseased, big jaw and lame cattle excepted, branded thus - XX on right hip, double dew lap, and one slit in right ear and two slits in left ear. All unbranded yearlings and calves over eight months at time of delivery to be counted, the balance of the calves to be given free with the herd and not counted. Delivery of the cattle to commence 1st July next and continue until all are delivered.

The parties of the first part agree to provide suitable corrals with branding shutes and will corral the cattle and assist the said part of the second part to brand the cattle. The cattle as soon as branded to become the property of James Walker.

And said James Walker agrees to purchase the said cattle at the rate aforesaid. \$5000 to be paid by draft on I. G. Baker and Co. through Sebris, Ferris and White, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged. The balance to be paid in New York exchange on due

delivery of aforesaid cattle.

Signed - Poindexter, Orr, James Walker."

There was a verbal agreement to the effect that James Walker would buy as many of the saddle horses as possible. In another note, F. White records that fifty-five head were purchased at sixty dollars per head.

- (3) Copy of the contract between I. G. Baker Company and the Cochrane Rancho Company, September 5, 1882.

"B and Co agree to deliver to the C. R. Co from 450 to 550 steers, at their Rancho at Bow River, N. W. T. -

The steers to be started on the drive from here not later than the 1st week of October and in order to secure as far as possible their arriving in good condition the drive must not occupy less than three weeks from the time they are fairly started on the drive.

No steers must be under three years old.

The price to be forty dollars per head, delivered on the C. R. C Ranch at Bow River, N. W. T.

The C. R. Co are to pay I. G. B. and Co the sum of two thousand dollars (\$2000) to cover all expenses of driving the said steers provided the number is not less than four hundred and fifty (450).

The C. R. Co further agree to purchase such horses

as are used in driving the above cattle, at what they may have cost I. G. B. and Co., provided they are sound and in as good condition as when purchased by them. The number not to exceed ten (10) horses."

- (4) Copy of contract between W. D. Kerfoot and the Cochrane Ranche Company.

"Fort Benton M. T.

August 10/82.

I, W. D. Kerfoot of Oka M. T. hereby enter into an agreement with Jas. A. Cochrane representing the Cochrane Ranche Co of Bow River, N. W. T. Canada, to enter into the service of the said Company under the direction of the resident general manager, to take charge of the cattle or other stock of the said company and otherwise to carry out the instructions of the Manager, in consideration of the sum of \$2000 payable half yearly with customary lodging and board for one year commencing Sept. 15/82 or at so much earlier a date as it is possible for me to close my present business.

Signed - W. D. Kerfoot."

- (5) Copy of contract between Cochrane Ranche Company and N. W. M. P. - the full contract is not recorded.

" 64,000 lbs of Beef at 8³/₄ per lb.

Beef to be delivered on foot, animal by animal as

required, to be slaughtered by the police. The head, feet and hide to be returned to Messrs I. G. Baker and Co, the Dep't of the Interior paying for the four quarters only.

The necks of the animals slaughtered for beef shall be cut off at the fourth vertebrae joint, and the heart trimmed down. The shanks of fore-quarters shall be cut off from three to four inches above the knee joint and of the hind-quarters from six to eight inches above the gambrel or back joint.

Should it be necessary for the requirements of the police to take over cattle on foot "in herd" the price to be paid for the live weight of such cattle to be one half the price for the delivery of meat at dead weight.

The Honourable the Minister of the Interior reserves the right to increase or diminish the quantities of any of the articles without any increase in the price provided notice thereof in writing be given before 1st June/82.

One year from 1st July 1882."

Mr. White mentions that the tenders go in about February or March.

Remarks

Logans - Hedley

- (6) Remarks on the contracts with the Dominion Government for the Indian Reserves.

"Blackfoot Crossing - 7,500 lbs (monthly)		9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
Morleyville	- 1,875 lbs	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢
Sarcee	- 1,875 lbs	8 $\frac{3}{4}$ ¢

To be delivered in quarters net on the block, not less than one animal at a time and to be of good quality.

The hides and offal of all Beef killed on Reserves to be the property of the gov't.

Additional quantities, if required, to be supplied at same rates.

One year from 1st July 1882."

- (7) PUBLIC Notice is hereby given that, under "The Canada Joint Stock Companies Act, 1877," letters patent have been issued under the Great Seal of the Dominion of Canada, bearing date the fifth day of February, 1884, incorporating the Hon. Matthew Henry Cochrane, of Compton, in the Province of Quebec, Senator; Hugh Mackay, merchant, William V. Lawrence, manufacturer, William Cassils, Gentleman, William Cassils, Gentleman, in trust, William Ewing, seedsman, and Charles Cassils, manufacturer, all of the City of Montreal, in the Province of Quebec, in the Dominion of Canada, for the purposes of the breeding

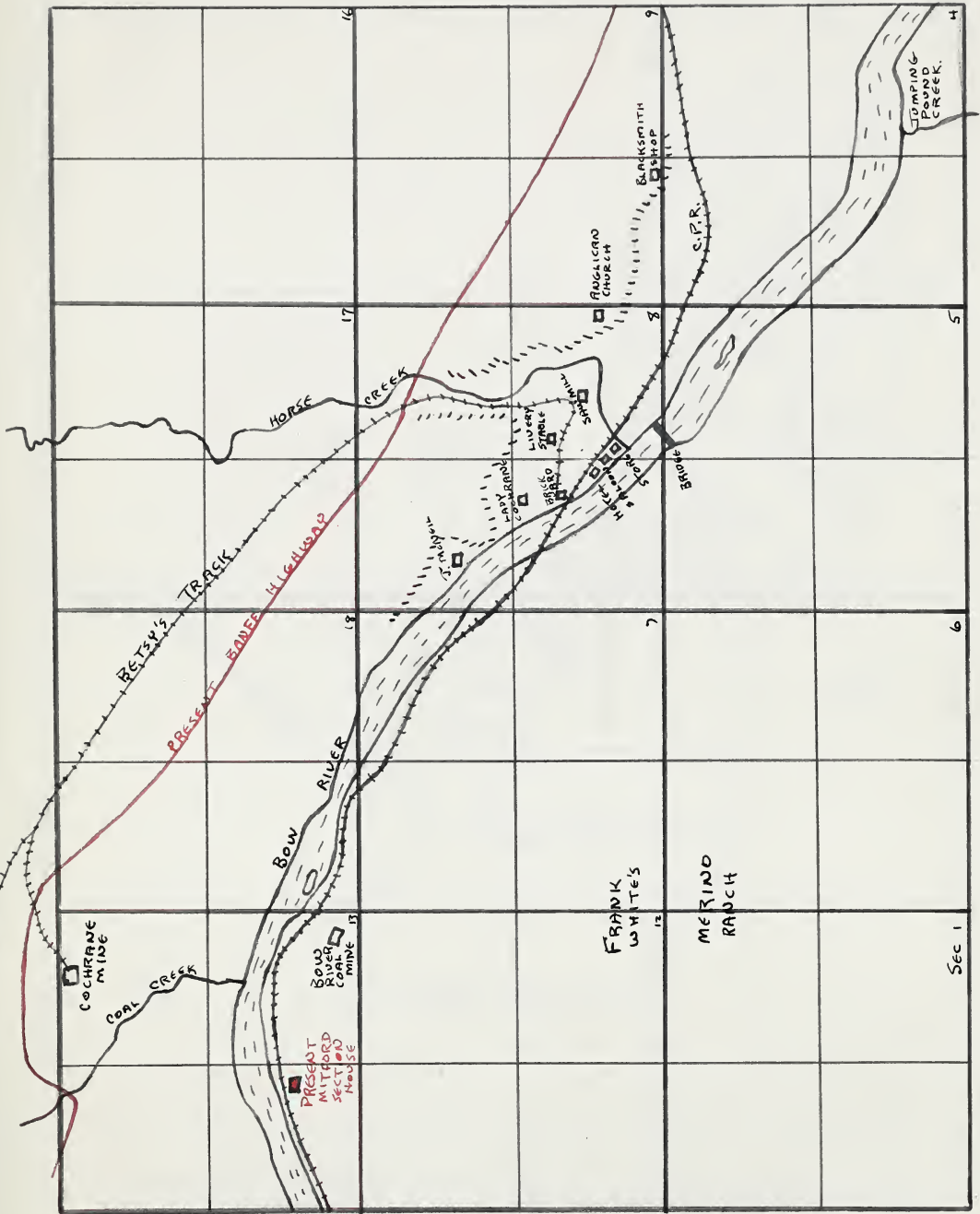
and rearing of horses, mules, sheep, cattle, and swine in the North West Territories of Canada, of dealing and trading in them or any of them throughout the Dominion of Canada, and of shipping the same to foreign countries, and of acquiring and holding the property required therefor, -- by the name of "The British American Ranche Company (limited)", with a total capital stock of two hundred thousand dollars, divided into two thousand shares of one hundred dollars.

Dated at the office of the Secretary of State of Canada, this fifteenth day of February 1884.

J. A. Chapleau,
Secretary of State.

Canada Gazette - 1884 - Jan. - June, page 1259.

APPENDIX D.
MAP (1)



MITFORD
ABOUT 1892

RG. 4

TP. 26 - RG. 5

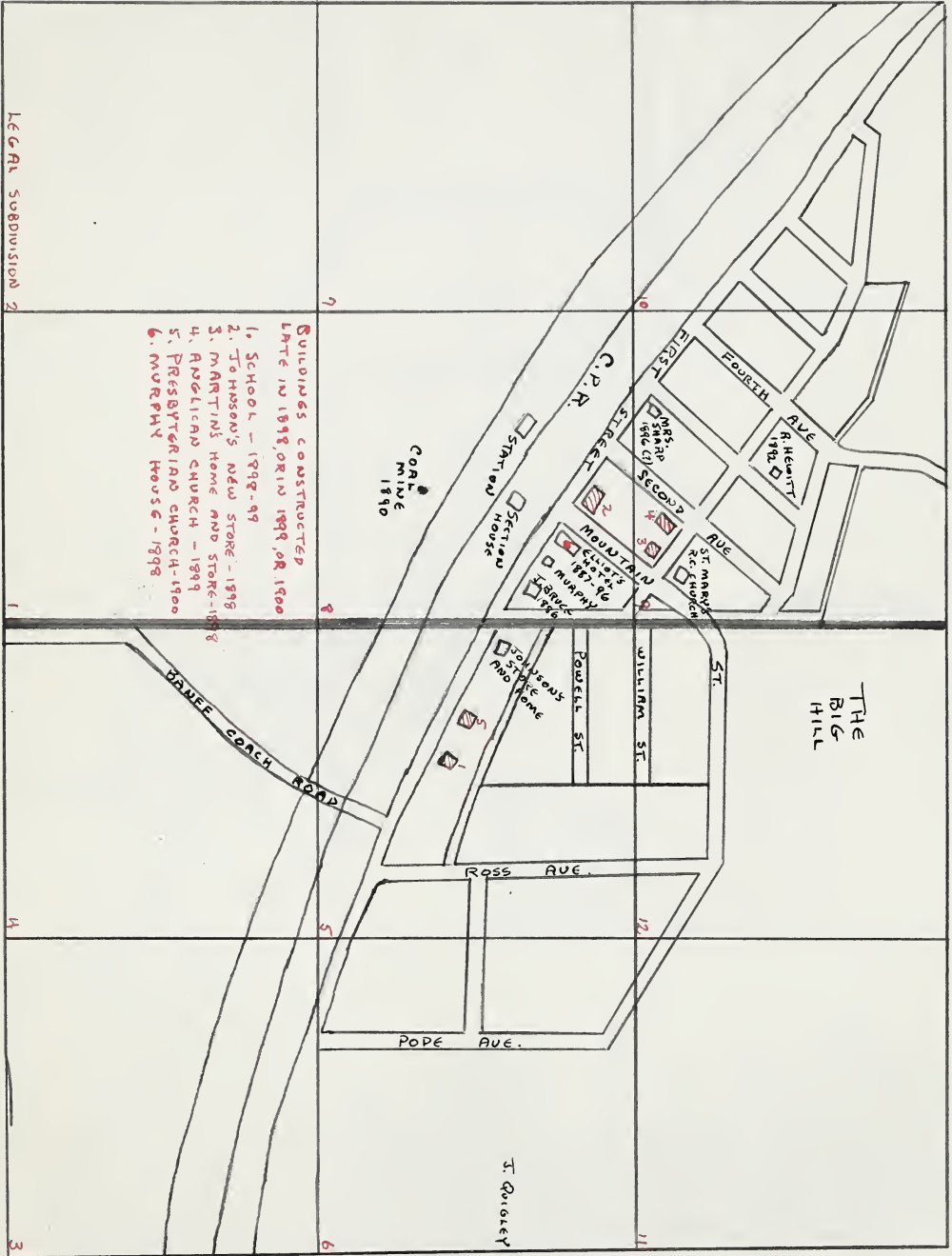
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APPENDIX E.
MAP (C)

TR 26 - R.G. 4

LEGAL SUBDIVISION 2

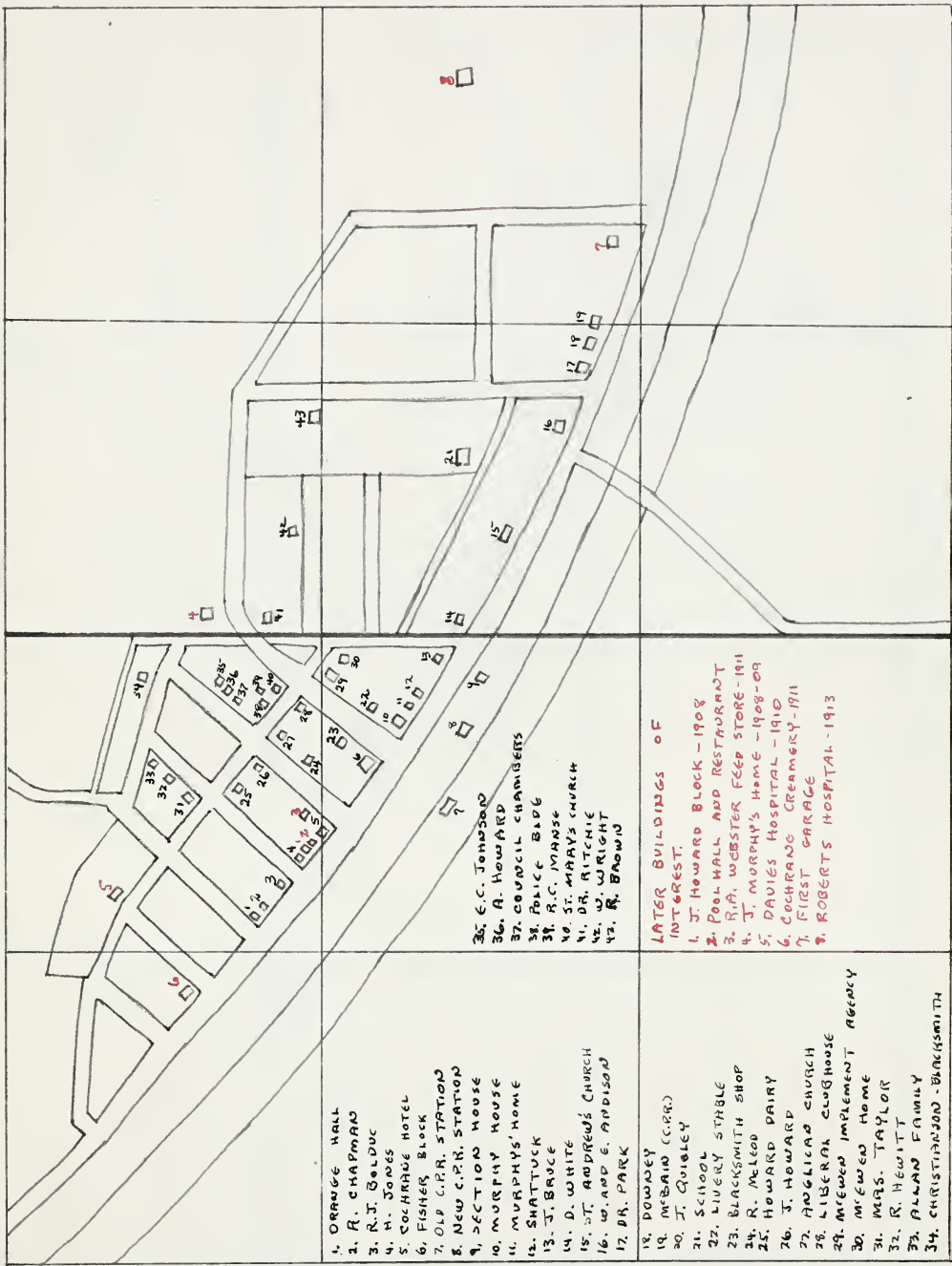
SEC. 3 SEC. 2



- GUIDENCES CONSTRUCTED
LATE IN 1898, OR IN 1899, OR 1900
1. SCHOOL - 1898-99
 2. TATHOSON'S NEW STORE - 1898
 3. MARTIN'S HOME AND STORE - 1898
 4. MEDICAL CHURCH - 1899
 5. PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH - 1900
 6. MURPHY HOUSE - 1898

T. O'Riarty

APPENDIX E. MAP(2)



- 1. ORANGE HALL
- 2. R. CHAPMAN
- 3. R. J. BALDUC
- 4. H. JONES
- 5. COCHRANE HOTEL
- 6. FISHERS BLOCK
- 7. OLD C.P.R. STATION
- 8. NEW C.P.R. STATION
- 9. SECTION HOUSE
- 10. MURPHY HOUSE
- 11. MURPHY'S HOME
- 12. SHATTUCK
- 13. J. BRUCE
- 14. D. WHITE
- 15. ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH
- 16. W. AND E. ANDISON
- 17. DR. PARK

- 35. E. C. JONASDOR
- 36. A. HOWARD
- 37. COUNCIL CHAMBERS
- 38. POLICE BLDG
- 39. R. C. MANSIE
- 40. ST. MARY'S CHURCH
- 41. DR. RITCHIE
- 42. W. WRIGHT
- 43. R. BROWN

LATER BUILDINGS OF INTEREST.

- 1. J. HOWARD BLOCK - 1908
- 2. POOL HALL AND RESTAURANT
- 3. R. A. WEBSTER FEEP STORE - 1911
- 4. J. MURPHY'S HOME - 1908-09
- 5. DAVIES HOSPITAL - 1910
- 6. COCHRANE CREAMERY - 1911
- 7. FIEST GARAGE
- 8. ROBERTS HOSPITAL - 1913

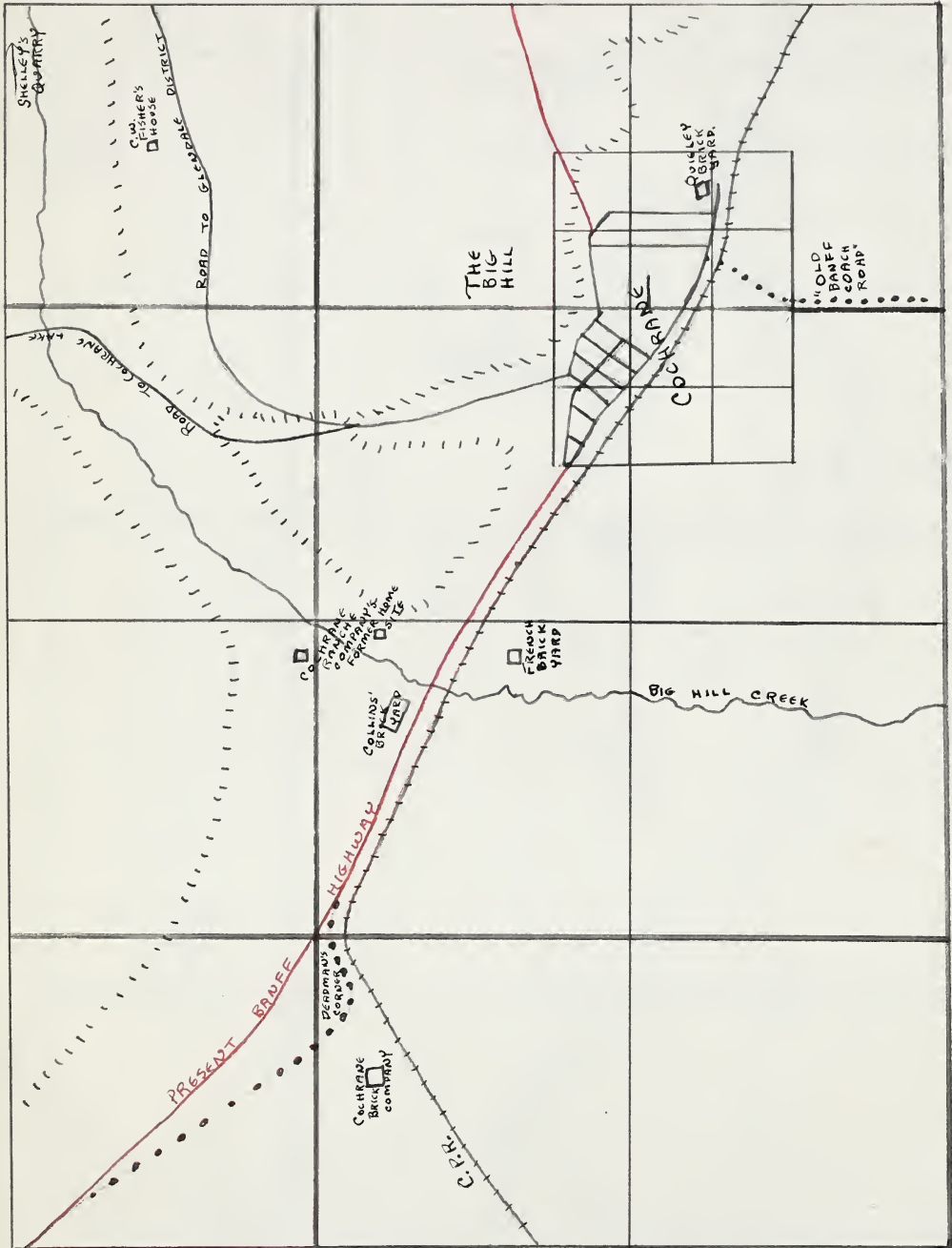
- 18. DOWNEY
- 19. McBAW (C.R.G)
- 20. J. GOSLEY
- 21. SCHOOL
- 22. BUCKERY STABLE
- 23. BLACKSMITH SHOP
- 24. R. MCLOD
- 25. HOWARD DAIRY
- 26. S. HOWARD
- 27. AMERICAN CHURCH
- 28. LIBERAL CLUBHOUSE
- 29. McCREW IMPLEMENT Agency
- 30. McCREW Home
- 31. MCGS. TAYLOR
- 32. R. HEWITT
- 33. ALLAN FAMILY
- 34. CHRISTIANSON - BLACKSMITH

COCHRANE 1906

APPENDIX E.

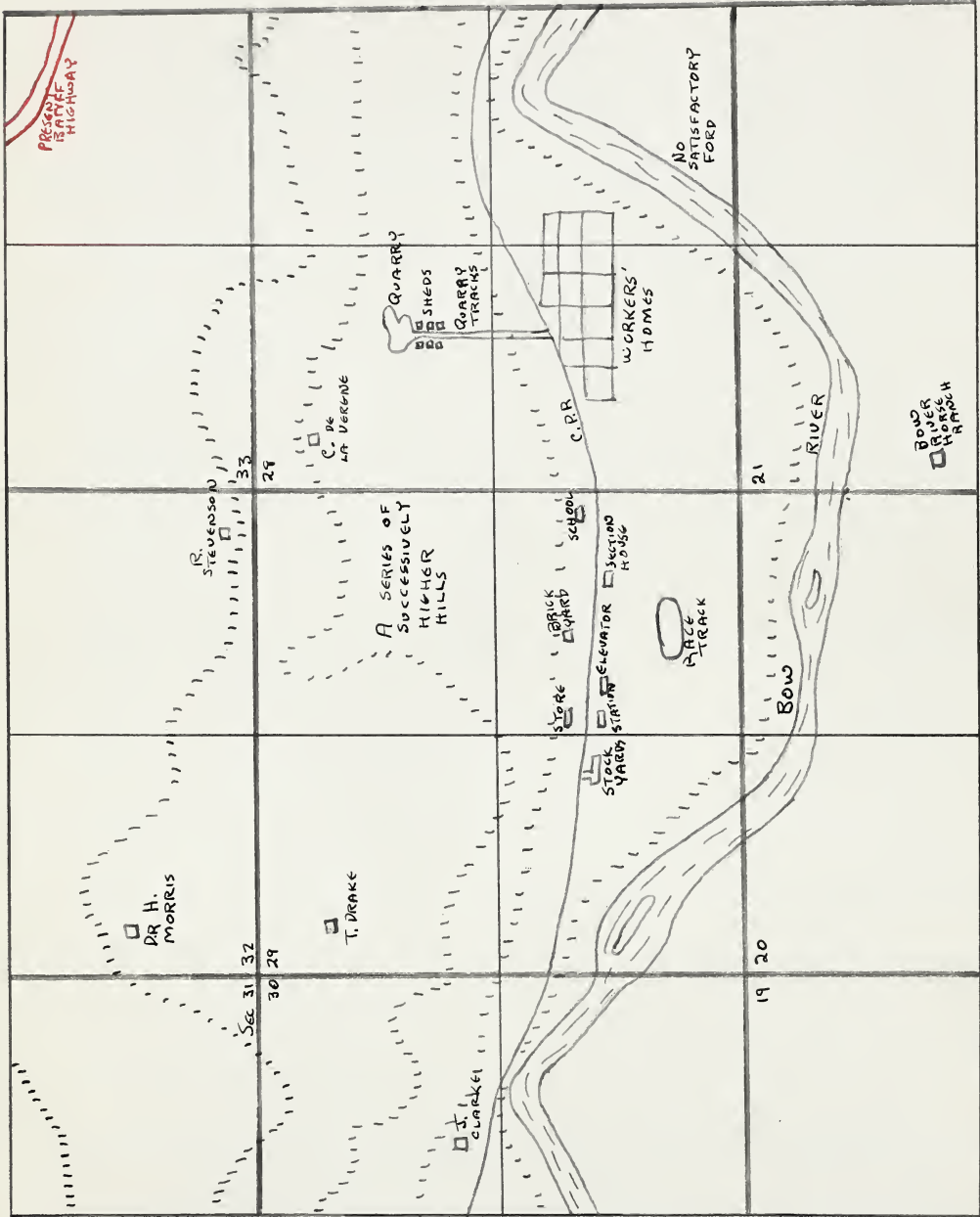
MAP (3)

183



LOCATIONS OF THE BRICK
YARDS AND THE STONE
QUARRY AT COCHRANE.

APPENDIX F.



MAP (1)
GLENBOW 1914

TP. 25 - Rg. 3.

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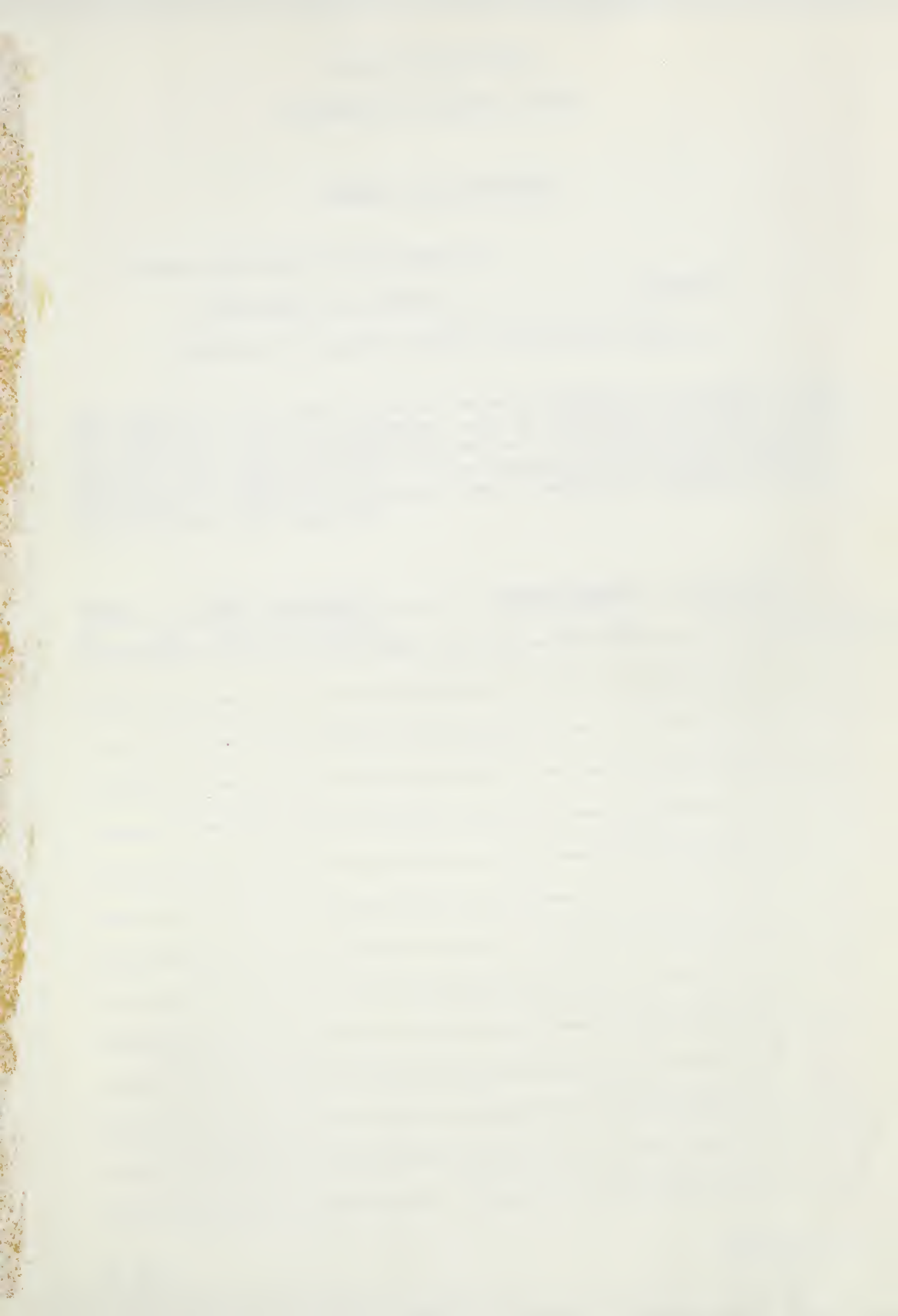
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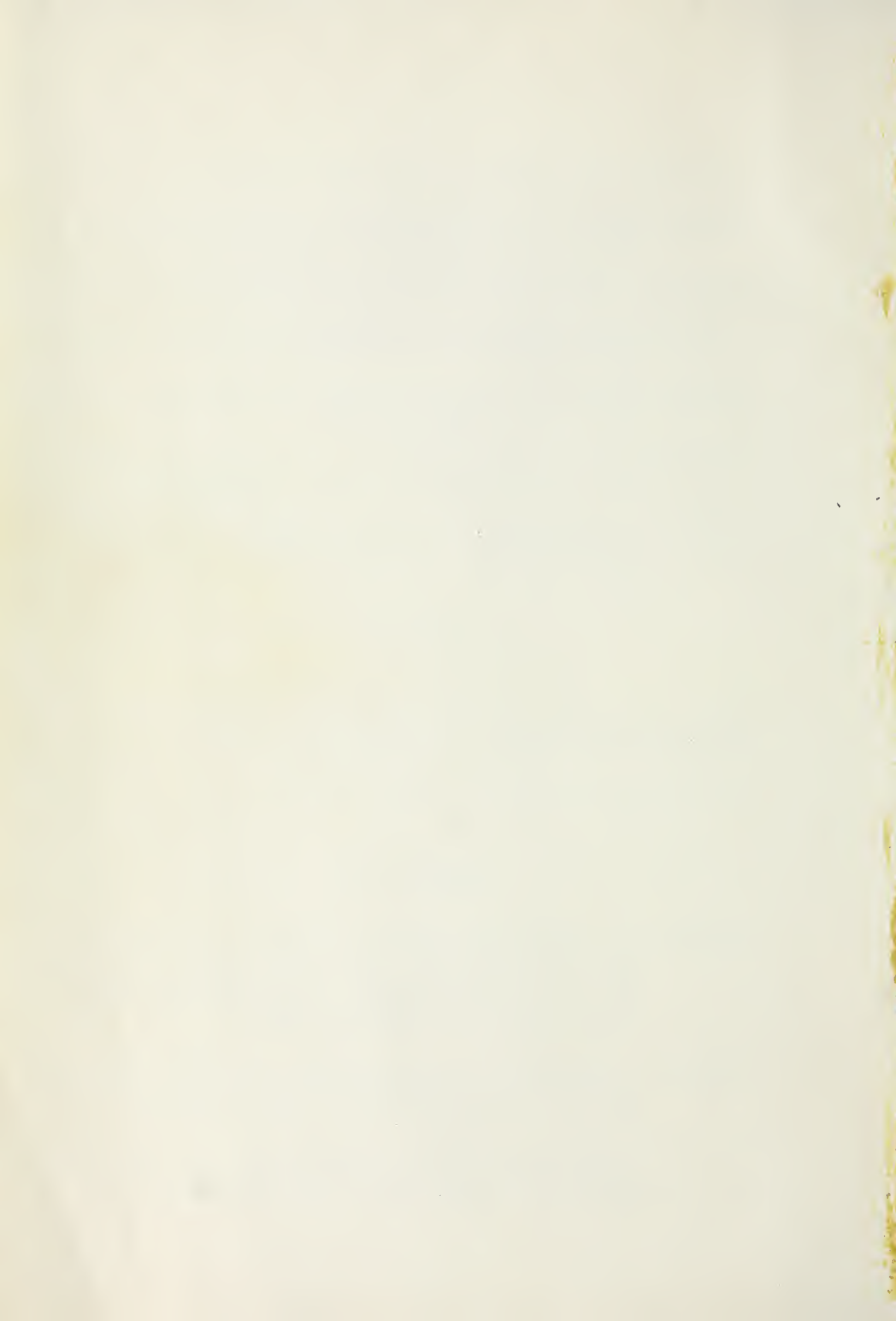
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