

Dear Friends,

It has come to my ears that some of you are still athirst for "more about Canada" so I am going to try to send you a short account of how we are progressing in this far away land. Well, the town of Lloydminster is growing not "slowly" and surely, but rapidly and surely". Just recently we have a fine Bank Building belonging to the "Canadian Bank of Commerce."

Lloydminster

Nov, 1905

Dear friends,

It is such a long time since I last wrote you a general letter that I think I must make an effort to give you some idea of how we are getting on up to date. Much has happened since I wrote last and I hardly know where to begin.

Lloydminster is now quite a little town, the rail is up and our station is quite a pretty addition to the town. Little did I think that the whistle of an engine could ever sound so sweet. The passenger service is not properly organized yet as the line is still in the hands of the construction party but as soon as the line is completed and handed over to the CNR company then we shall have a regular service. It is hard for you in the old country surrounded by every comfort and luxury to realize in the smallest degree what we have all put through the past two years in comparative isolation. Sometimes without the slightest idea of what was going on in the outside world for a fortnight or three weeks together. For the winter comparatively at the mercy of the weather for news of provisions, all having to come by road from Saskatoon and when they did come the price of the commonest necessity was enough to make the pluckiest feel downhearted

when we saw the capital we had thought ample to carry us on for a year or so vanishing like dust almost in bare living.

It will be different when the train is in became a stock phrase. It was weary waiting and many of us had almost lost heart until one day we heard the rails were laid within two miles of Lloydminster and in less than a week later the first train steamed into Lloydminster. Since then there has been quite a revolution in the price of everything. Flour, which we had paid 5 dollars per 100 lb bag is now \$2.80 top price and everything else in proportion. Lumber too is coming down in price.

Town lots have been on the market and bought at high prices. Everyone is now building lumber houses instead of the log shack of the "old timers", bricks too are being extensively used for building and this winter will probably be a pretty severe test as to whether they will stand the climate or no.

To those like ourselves who were amongst the first to arrive up in the Colony in May 1903 and at most one dozen tents were all that could be seen on the bare prairie and now three large hotels are in course of erection, stores of all kinds, a fine building for the Branch of the Canadian Bank of Commerce, drug store, printing office from which is issued weekly out newsy little paper the "Lloydminster Times". It is just marvelous. This year has been a good season on the whole for harvest, but everything has to be done with such a rush the summer season is so short.

One needs an infinite amount of patience in this climate, the late and early frosts play such awful havoc. This year we have had 50 acres under cultivation our grain is not threshed yet as the threshing outfit has not been up our way yet but the general

field is oats about 50 to 60 bushels per acre, wheat about 25. We had about two acres of potatoes and a splendid crop, but alas, an early frost spoilt half before they could be got out of the ground. From 4 lbs of seed from the experimental farm. Mr. Rendell has a yield of 136 pounds many of them weighing over 20 ounces. Our garden produce was splendid. We picked several cwt of peas and disposed of in town, one restaurant taking nearly all we could supply.

We have put on a large addition to our house in the shape of a substantial log building 14 ft by 18 ft which will serve to store the grain in winter and in summer will be utilized as a summer kitchen. Mr. Rendell is now completing a fine stable also log, 30 by 15. We have some good cows and our milk is disposed of right away and fetched from the door so that we have no bother.