

Doris Court, Britannia  
Lloydminster, Sask. NWT  
Canada

Dear Friends,

According to promise I am going to do my best to give you, to the best of my ability, a graphic account of how we spent our first Xmas in Lloydminster. I think as Xmas approached we all rather dreaded it knowing how this special season brings with it so forcibly the memory of all the home gatherings in the Old Country.

Fortunately, we personally, are for too busy in our surrounding to brood over vain regrets and Xmas Day was upon us almost before we could realize the fact. There was service at 11 o'clock a.m. and at 5 p.m. the "Festivities" started. Thanks to the generosity of Mess. Hall Scott and Co who have just completed a very large building for General Stores, the Gathering of the Colonists too place there and it is certainly owing to their great kindness that Xmas and New Year was spent so pleasantly and happily. The 1<sup>st</sup> item on the program was a big feed followed by a capital concert divided into two parts. After the 1<sup>st</sup> half had been successfully carried through came a large Xmas tree very prettily decorated, the little gifts being distributed by an ideal "Santa Claus". I need scarcely say how delighted the little one were. The whole proceedings were brought to a close about 11:30 p.m. after a most enjoyable social gathering and the 1<sup>st</sup> Xmas in Lloydminster is a thing of the past but nevertheless it will be remembered by all who were present as a bright and happy one the more so as it was unexpected and well carried out. The effect it had upon us was that we all felt cheered by this little excitement after all we had previously passed through and

somehow "longed for more". Thanks again to Messrs. Hall Scott and Co. another happy gathering was arranged for New Years Eve, and yet another for New years Day. They not only gave the use of their splendid building for a dance but undertook all arrangements and issued a general invitation and welcome to all. The room was very prettily decorated and the floor well waxed. The Band consisted of several violins, 2 coronets, and harmonium. We started dancing at 8:30 p.m. and after a most enjoyable evening broke up at about 4:30 a.m.. We all felt years younger. We waltzed with Sir Roger and Auld Lang Syne and walked back to Doris Court in brilliant moonlight arriving home as the clock struck 5 a.m.

The next evening (Saturday) there was an excellent concert at the conclusion of which there was an impromptu dance this being the last chance in Messrs. Hall Scott and Co.'s spacious building. You will see that our Xmas and New Year was by no means dull or miserable, nor were our dear absent ones forgotten.

We are much amused at the reports that reach us from England as to the terrible plight we are in even to the verge of starvation. Please one and for all disabuse your minds of any such ideas. We are quite happy and contented, very much better off than we were in England, whilst as to food we live quite well as ever we did. We have 2 butchers on the town site. Our meat is delivered at the door and is of the very best quality. Certainly we have had difficulties to surmount and hardships to endure but we quite expected we should before we left England and we treasured up a reserve fund of determination and pluck which stood us in good stead when the need came. I would never advise anyone to come out here who is the least afraid of work. They are better off at home.

There is plenty of room to breathe in this country and if the work is hard the freedom, which is the indispensable attribute of the life here, makes one far less susceptible to physical fatigue than in England where one seems to have such a feeling of weighty oppression to handicap one's energies. Here one feels that each week's work is a step forward whilst also in the old country often times a year's hard toil brought nothing but disappointment and additional anxiety.

We are proud possessors of the best house in the colony and I think I may also add the best homestead. It is generally pronounced by those whose opinion is worth having, to be of exceptionally good value owing to its close proximity to the town, our land is actually adjoining the town site.

There is no doubt whatever but that Lloydminster bids fair to be a very important centre, its growth week by week is marvelous. The Government are now erecting a large Emigration Hall in anticipation of the arrival of the new comers in the spring. Meetings are being held now to discuss and perfect all arrangements for the meeting of expected friends and families and ensure their safe conduct right up to the colony. There seems to be a terrible feeling of jealousy of something akin to it existing at Saskatoon and Battleford with regard to this colony and they are doing their utmost to dissuade people from coming up beyond those two points by spreading the most gloomy reports which are utterly untrue. Many there are who seemed to expect that luxuries sprang up on the prairies like mushrooms, ready for them without any special effort or exertion on their part. I need scarcely say that they are now sadder and wiser men.

So far we have passed through the winter splendidly and at the time of writing this it is the 19<sup>th</sup> of Jan, Brilliant sunshine for week's end to week's end. Our bungalow has kept beautifully warm, it is heated throughout by pipes connected with the kitchen stove and a heating stove in the Hall. The rooms are all pretty well of an even temperature. The worst feature we have had to contend with is want of water. We have had two wells sunk close to the house but up to now have not been successful in striking water. Of course we are never without water whilst the snow is about/ we use nothing else but melted snow for washing and cooking, lovely water it is too.

From what I hear I fancy we are being favoured with an exceptionally mild winter to make up for the exceptionally severe spring that greeted us on our arrival to this country. Any way we have all kept well up to now. We have had a good supply of wood from our own land and the "price of coals" is another item over which we have no need to worry. We have to pay very dearly for flour. 1 1/2 dollars for 100 lb. The reason things are so dear is of course owing to the freightage. When the Railway comes through the Colony everything will be cheaper.

There is every prospect of the rail being opened up in a year from now. The telegraph will be in working order in a few weeks time. We have 2 large general stores, drug stores, a resident Doctor and Hospital in view. We have a Choral Union mustering 120 members and they are now forming a Rifle Corps, 160 members enrolled. Mr. Rendell has been appointed Lieutenant and Auditor. The temperature at time of writing registered 28 below zero. Those who have been outside say it is a bit "nippy" and if you don't take proper precautions to well protect nose and ears

you soon get them frost bitten. The only remedy there is to well rub the part affected with snow until circulation is restored.

The land here is of splendid quality fit to grow anything and especially adapted for mixed farming. We have now 480 acres. By next spring several thousand more are expected to arrive in the Colony and no trouble is being spared to arrange everything for their comfort on arrival from either Saskatoon or Edmonton. Should this letter be made public and meet the eye of any who may be desirous of coming out to the Colony I can only say we shall be too pleased to answer any questions or give any information in our power. There can be no doubt whatever but that the Colony will succeed and that Lloydminster in a few years time will be a very large and prosperous centre. But I earnestly hope I have here dispelled all unfavourable ideas as to our fortune. Probably many have been commiserating out lot have far greater need for pity than we, for whilst they are still plodding and "hibernating" as are on the progressive probably making greater headway in 12 months than they in as many years for this is nothing if not a "go-ahead" country.

Best wishes to all old friends in the "old country" from,

Yours sincerely

Alice Rendell.