

# Calgary--The Heart of the West

By LORNE STOUT, Calgary, Alta.

**S**EVENTY-FIVE YEARS! Just a life span for a man, and for a City. CALGARY this Summer marking its 75th birthday, ranks as one of the youngest cities on the continent, but has attained a prominence far outreaching its age or size. Heart of the ranching West, home of the Stampede, Oil Capital of Canada, famed as the Gateway to the Canadian Rockies, Banff, Lake Louise and Jasper; for natural gas, coal, cattle, oil and the Chinook and sunshine . . . It's the city of the foothills, with a heart as big as all outdoors; a city that four times in four years has put teams in the Dominion finals of hockey and football for the Allan and Grey Cups, and won them twice. Calgary — the name is magic in Toronto (mud in Edmonton).

Twice in a row, rabid football supporters, at a cost each Fall of an estimated \$300,000 have sent a special train of supporters to the East for the Grey Cup finals. Calgary — an elderly lady on a Toronto street car noticed a pair of cowboy boots worn by another passenger, and asked politely "Are you from Calgary." Assured that the wearer was indeed from Calgary — she promptly shook hands and said "Welcome to Toronto!"

This happened the day before the Grey Cup final — and was significant in that Calgary and the West have become synonymous. To this elderly resident of Toronto, Stetson, cowboys, the West and Calgary all have an affinity. To think of one is to envisage them all.

As far as the rest of the world is concerned, Vancouver may be in British Columbia, Winnipeg could be in Saskatchewan, Regina in Alberta and Edmonton in the Yukon, but this they know — Calgary is THE West. Cabinet Ministers have walked the staid Halls of the East Block in Ottawa, proudly wearing White Stetsons, and as proudly telling other envious Members of the House of Commons "This is from CALGARY".

Actually, Calgary will go on being Calgary, whether it's the 75th anniversary of the first habitation in 1875, or the 76th, or the 77th, or the 100th, but for 1950, this 75th anniversary does provide a good alibi — to be even more Calgary. Celebrations won't be a great deal different — just more so. The annual Exhibition and Stampede, almost as old as the city itself, will be the pinnacle of the celebrations, and for the first time this year, may exceed a half a million attendance. It was over 407,000 last year, more than double the greatest pre-war attendance. The major change at the Exhibition and Stampede grounds is in the nature of a face-lifting and restoration. The old Exhibition ground gates, which were of sandstone and brick of no particular design, have been torn down. Rising in their place are new imposing entrance gates, with enlarged facilities for passage of the huge crowds, in the replica of Old Fort Calgary. Plans for construction of the new gates were advanced to have them in readiness for this year's 75th Anniversary celebration.

Let's not be the dullest boom town in the world — but there's no danger. It's been said of Calgary by a renowned com-

mentator — "If you have an idea of something to do — Calgary will do it better than you had thought possible".

Possibly it's because the dominant characteristic of this optimistic city is confidence. Not a braggadocio or cocksure confidence, but the quiet assured confidence that has no doubts.

Behind this is the cold logic of reason. Typical was the past winter, possibly the coldest, most prolonged in the 75 years there has been a Calgary, but seldom if ever did anyone speak of the cold without in the same frosty breath mentioning the prospects for a Chinook. The warm winds have always come, sooner or later.

And Calgary has many reasons to be confident. Envious is its location, within sight of the towering Rockies. The city is the gateway to one of the world's largest potential playgrounds and beauty spots, the vast National Parks, Banff, Jasper, Yoho, Kootenay, bound to attract thousands annually, regardless of the times.

Calgary is the heart of the greatest ranchlands, and the cattle and livestock industries in Canada. Calgary's Spring Bull Sale is the largest of its kind anywhere in the world, with this year more than 1,200 Purebred Hereford, Aberdeen-Angus and Shorthorn Bulls sold individually. And livestock is only an aspect of the larger agricultural picture, in which Alberta cattle, sheep, and seed crops have a long record of world championships.

It was back in 1881, Alberta began to look to Calgary as the centre of Alberta, with the advent of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Before many years, Calgary became known as the natural gas city, the first major centre of its size in Canada to adopt the ultra-clean fuel close to 100 per cent for heating, cooking and industry.

Soon after the turn of the century, the belief grew that Calgary would also centre a discovery of crude oil. That came in large measure by 1914 with the finding of crude at Turner Valley, along

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with naphtha and natural gas. So established did Calgary become as the Oil Capital of Canada, that after three years of extensive discovery and development of major oilfields in the northern part of the Province, it is still estimated that of all the millions of dollars poured into drilling and development, 90 per cent of all the oil capital flows through Calgary, where nearly all of the oil companies maintain head offices.

Possibly of as great eventual importance as oil are the unlimited resources of coal which lie all around Calgary — Drumheller to the East, Brazeau and Nordegg West of Red Deer, Canmore to the West, the Highwood anthracite fields, now being developed to the southwest, the Crow's Nest Pass, and Lethbridge. An outstanding United States economist a few years ago made this prediction: "Calgary will be the Pittsburgh of Canada, in 200 years". His reasoning was that Canada is the only country in the world with extensive coal deposits (estimated at one-seventh of all the known coal in the world is in Alberta alone), that has no extensive steel industry located in the vicinity of the coal.

Industrial possibility of Calgary does not, however, either have to wait for coal development, or be dependent upon the black gold. The City has a plentiful and cheap supply of water, natural gas and power. Virtually all of the Hydro development in Alberta, 107,100 horsepower is on the Bow River by the Calgary Power Company. Alberta's undeveloped water power resources are estimated at 463,200



Calgary in 1875 from a painting by an old trader. This photo shown in a Calgary Special Edition of "The Dominion Illustrated" published in Toronto, June 28th, 1890.



horsepower, on the basis of minimum stream flow, 1,208,880 horsepower at ordinary flow. Major developments underway are the Spray Lake installations near Banff, rated at 41,600 h.p.

With 237 manufacturing industries in the census year of 1946, value of production was \$95,000,000.00 with 7,000 employees and a payroll for the year of \$12,400,000.00. There has been rapid expansion in the past four years.

Calgary in 1875 was a collection of shacks, and the new N.W.M.P. barracks. By 1901, it had grown only to a population of 4,392. 1950 population is estimated at 120,000.

Plans are well underway for the anniversary celebrations, and while they will centre on Stampede week, the anniversary is to be marked in summer-long activities.

Calgary's early history was closely linked with the church, and to commemorate the pioneer missionaries, and their part in opening the Far West, on Sunday evening, July 9th, it is planned to have one huge interdenominational service, with an expected 30,000 attending. It will pay tribute to such pioneers as the Reverend Robert Rundle, who visited the land of the Blackfoot in 1841; to Father Lacombe, brave and wise Catholic priest, who was beloved of the Blackfoot as of the Crees in the North, and who wielded vast influence both in the signing of the Seventh Treaty and in holding the loyalty of Alberta Indians in the troublesome times of 1885. Father Lacombe came to the West in 1852. And as well to the great father and son missionaries, Reverends George and John McDougall, Methodists like Rev. Rundle, who built the first church in Southern Alberta at Morley. It is still a landmark seen by all driving from Calgary to Banff.

Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent has been invited to officially open the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede, and the Governor-General, Viscount Alexander, will close the week-long Stampede and make the presentation of Trophies.

Elaborate plans are underway for downtown street entertainment as well as the events at the Exhibition Grounds. Main thoroughfares will be decorated, and the peak of the year will be the annual Monday morning parade, sparkling with bands, cowboys and Indians, floats and color. Included may be a two-ton birthday cake, a present of the City of Edmonton to Calgary on its 75th birthday, at a cost of \$2,000.00.

All combined — it's "Many Happy Returns" and may the spirit of Calgary, its friendship, warmth and hospitality, extend to wider fields.

#### CATTLE NUMBERS

Cattle on farms in Canada at December 1st, 1949, totalled 8,243,300 compared with 8,251,300 at December 1st, 1948, according to the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. The number of milk cows was 3,570,000, an increase of 30,600 over the estimate for December 1st, 1948. The total of all other cattle decreased by 38,000.

Sheep numbers have declined steadily for five years. The estimate of 1,235,100 sheep and lambs on farms at December 1st, 1949, was 6.6 per cent below the 1,322,300 of a year earlier. Decreases occurred in all provinces except Prince Edward Island and Manitoba.

There has been a steady decrease since 1942 in the number of horses on farms. There was a further decrease of 5.6 per



The evening shadows lengthen over the heart of a modern Western city. [Canadian Cattlemen photo.]

cent from December 1st, 1948, to December 1st, 1949, the estimate of total numbers being 1,841,900 and 1,738,000 head, respectively. The number of horses decreased in all provinces during this period.

#### STOCK CUTTING CONTEST

At the Calgary Spring Horse Show, with competition unusually keen, **Speckle Boy**, an Appaloosa stallion owned by Jim Wyatt of High River, Alta., captured first honors and the Harry Jacques trophy in the stock cutting event. (**Speckle Boy** had won second place in the stock cutting contest at the National Appaloosa Show in Lewiston, Idaho, in 1949.) George Beatty's entry, **Suhdahoe**, from High

River was second, while third position went to Norman Stearns of Nanton, Alta. Clem Gardner of Pirmez Creek with **Boots** was fourth, and Bill Mounkes of Okotoks, Alta., was fifth, with George Walker of Water Valley, sixth.

More than half of the entire population of the United States gets its income from producing, processing, handling, transporting and distributing food.

Thousands of trees suffocate each year, when extra soil is piled around their roots. A tree breathes through its roots as well as through its leaves, and a heavy soil cover piled around a tree is a death warrant.

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