

1,098 TENTS IN EDMONTON OCCUPIED BY 3,294 TENTERS

For Pleasure, for Economy and for Inability to Secure Other Quarters.--Almost a Fifth of Edmonton's Population Lives Under Canvas.--Not An Unpleasant Experience.

Tent life in Edmonton during the summer months had an attractiveness that appeals to many, both from the holiday-like pleasure that is to be obtained in living amid the shade of the trees in the less thickly populated parts of the city, and to others from the cheapness and comfort with which it is possible to subsist in warm weather underneath a canvas roof.

High rents and the scarcity of houses are other means to induce many to take up their homes within canvas walls, where the expense of living is reduced to the cost of meals and the primary outlay of \$15 or \$20 for a tent, with a similar amount for the materials to fit a habitation of this kind for comfortable occupancy.

Probably in no other city in Western Canada does a larger proportion of the population spend the summers in tents, than in Edmonton. This is by no means a reflection upon Edmonton as a residential city, for nowhere among the fast growing cities of the prairie are there more beautiful homes than in the capital of Alberta. One has but to make a comparison of Edmonton's residential sections with those of other Western cities to realize that the people here take a pride in their homes that is not lost amid the bustle and haste of western life.

The Weather Responsible.

What then is the reason why so many of the residents of Edmonton choose tent life for the summer months? An answer may perhaps be found, to a large extent, in the ideal summer weather that usually prevails in northern Alberta—weather that makes the conditions of outdoor life the most pleasant to be found in Western Canada. For where can finer summer evenings be enjoyed than right here amid the foliage that grows luxuriantly on every unoccupied space on the outskirts of the city. To the lover of nature there is no more beautiful spot than along the hillside overlooking the valley of the Saskatchewan in the west end. And here hundreds of people have pitched their tents, content to spend the long summer evenings amid the shade and the stillness of the wood. It is true that so far this summer time has been more rain than most tenters like to see, but the rainy season has now surely reached an end.

To the north of the Canadian Northern tracks in the north end and stretching from the east to the west of Edmonton, hundreds of tents are standing while on unoccupied blocks in every part of the city are white topped dwelling places that are the temporary homes of hundreds.

1,098 Tents and 3,294 Tenters.

As the result of an exhaustive census made last week by Bulletin representatives it has been ascertained that there are at present 1,098 tents in Edmonton in use as permanent summer abodes. In these

tents there are in all, 3,294 people, not a small proportion of the entire population of the capital.

Tent life in Edmonton is most enjoyable. To sleep amid the trees during the cool Albertan evenings is a pleasure that is not afforded to the dweller in the Eastern city. And in the early morning hours one is awakened from peaceful slumber by the birds, ready for the day's work, refreshed by the sleep amid the ideal conditions of outdoor life.

Many prefer to remove to tents during the summer rather than live in the more confined limits of their dwellings. As a result, numbers of the best families of Edmonton are now tenting, while their homes are closed for the summer months.

The largest class who avail themselves of this mode of living are young men engaged in business. In groups of three, four, five, or six, they club together, buy a tent with the necessary tenting outfit and set up housekeeping. Their usual method is to cook their morning and evening meals, taking their noonday luncheon at a restaurant. Turn about each one acts as cook and each vies with the other to excel in his preparation of the menu.

Among the Immigrants.

Life in the immigrants' tents is by no means unpleasant, if the head of the home can find some work to do while he waits for a decision about his homestead.

All the tents are of a fair size and in some a portion has been curtained off with cretonne hangings to form a sleeping room. In almost every tent some pictures and photographs from the old homes in the East or Europe are hanging on the walls. These to the strangers within Edmonton's gates are very precious.

In one tent where an outdoor sign notifies you that shoes are neatly repaired and an high old grandmother's clock stands ticking away the minutes of loneliness and first effort in a strange country cheerfully, unceasingly, as they ticked away the moments of the past and gone generations in the old land.

One tidy German hausfrau has placed her kitchen-table outside her tent, with a bit of red awning over it, and here their simple meals are eaten. And after the meals, when the house mother must go off to work in the city, three little ones with faces that would provide studies for Correggio, "straighten up things" (or whatever they call it in German), and then gambol about their wilderness of a play-ground with an abandon of childish glee that is good to look on.

D. S. M...

Ouida's Condition Improved.

Rome, July 19.--The Tribuna says that the condition of Louise de la Rame (Ouida), the English novelist, is much improved. She refused to be interviewed and, the Tribuna adds, is greatly enraged at what she terms the exaggeration of the British newspapers concerning her health and circumstances.