

2.2
CoP. AL. 3162

Survey of

ALIX



Prepared By

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BRANCH
DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY & DEVELOPMENT

Government of the Province of Alberta



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

<https://archive.org/details/surveyofalix00albe>

Village of Alix

(Revised October, 1963)

1. LOCATION

Section 36-39-23-W4 in Census Division No. 8. This location is 112 miles southeast of Edmonton on Highway No. 12 and on the Canadian Pacific Railway branch line between Lacombe and Coronation. It is also on the Canadian National Railway line between Edmonton and Calgary.

2. ALTITUDE

2,614 feet

Latitude 52/24

Longitude 113/12

3. TEMPERATURE

Mean summer temperature — 50 degrees fahrenheit.

Mean winter temperature — 10.5 degrees fahrenheit.

Average yearly temperature - 36.3 degrees fahrenheit.

4. RAINFALL

Average yearly rainfall - 14.07 inches.

Average yearly snowfall - 40.1 inches.

Average annual precipitation - 18.17 inches.

(Note Section No. 3 and No. 4 taken from the weather station at Lacombe,)

5. GEOLOGY

Underlying the rocks in the Alix district are shales and sandstones which were deposited by streams in lakes and deltas. They are thus fresh water in origin and are several hundred feet thick in that area. The rocks are grouped together by geologists who call them the "Paskapoo" formation and who give them an early Tertiary age, which began some fifty million years ago. Since these rocks were deposited, the North American continent has been uplifted, consequently, the rocks have been eroded and only a fraction of their original thickness remains.

6. SOIL

Alix lies in the black soil zone.

Vegetation

Grassland which has been partially invaded by woodlands (mainly deciduous trees), often referred to as parklands.

Soil Profile

The normal profile has a black to very dark brown surface horizon that averages 12 to 14 inches in depth. The more compact sub horizon is brown to dark brown, and the lime horizon is usually found at 24 to 40 inches below the surface.

Fertility

Soils in this zone are the most fertile in the province and they have in their surface foot three to four times as much nitrogen and organic matter as there is in the average brown or grey wooded soil. Every precaution should be taken to see that they are not allowed to deteriorate. The use of fertilizer to replenish the supply of available nitrogen and phosphorous is usually a good investment.

Land Use

A high percentage of the zone is arable. Wheat of fairly good quality can be grown, but mixed farming, including the use of crop rotations and fertilizers is desirable from the standpoint of both profit and permanence.

7. HISTORY

The village of Alix was named after Mrs. Alix Westhead, a pioneer rancher of the district.

The first settlers arrived in the district in the early 1890's and filed homestead leases. The majority came from Eastern Canada to Lacombe by railway and travelled by oxen, team or foot to their destinations. Their supplies had to be freighted from Lacombe, a distance of some twenty-five miles.

With the completion of the branch line of the Canadian Pacific Railway from Lacombe to Coronation in 1905 a large number of new settlers began to arrive.

Alix was incorporated as a village on June 3, 1907, but did not administer its own affairs until 1916 when an election was held to elect a council.

The history of Alix would not be complete without the mention of Mrs. Irene Parlby, the first woman cabinet minister in the British Empire, and who represented the Lacombe provincial constituency under the United Farmers' Government.

8. LIVING CONDITIONS

Alix is the trading centre for a prosperous mixed farming area with dairying being carried on extensively.



The Alix unit of the Central Alberta Dairy Pool serves many farmers in the district.

The streets are wide and gravelled. The residential area having tree-lined boulevards.

Ideal fishing and hunting is available in the area with many different types of fish and ducks, geese and upland game birds plentiful in season.

About 90% of the homes are owner occupied with rentals averaging \$50.00 to \$75.00 per month.

9. ADMINISTRATION

The village is governed by a three man council. One member elected each year for a three year term and one member selected each year is appointed mayor. The secretary-treasurer administers the affairs of the village in accordance with the policies set by council.

10. LAWS AND REGULATIONS

The village hires one police constable.

Regulations — the village has its own building by-law, whereby new construction or major alterations valued at over \$100.00 must be approved by council after which a permit is issued.

Electrical installations must conform with the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

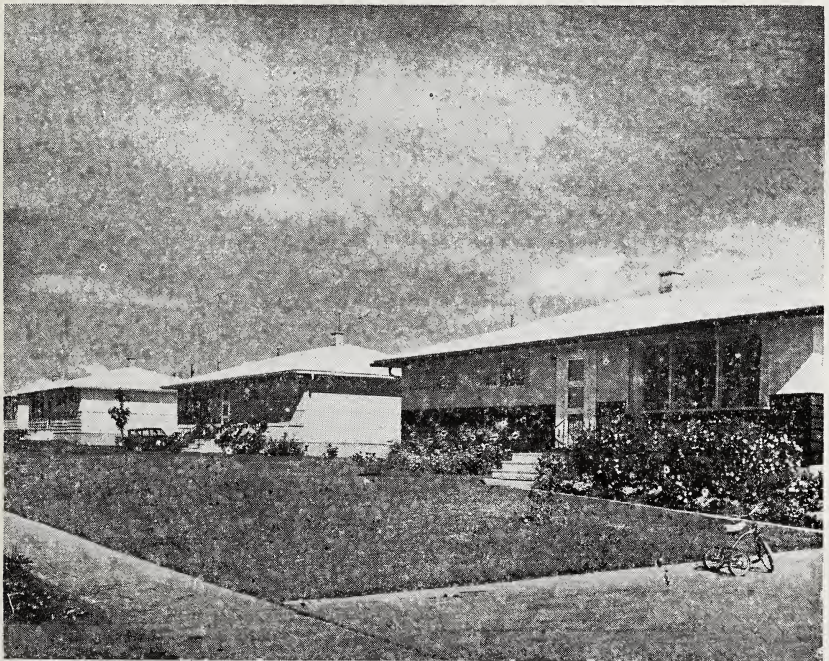
Sanitary installations must conform with the Provincial Health Regulations.

Gas installations must conform with the Gas Protector Act.

11. FIRE PROTECTION

The fire brigade consists of a fire chief and 17 volunteer firemen.

Equipment - One 1953 - 200 GPM pumper with 250 gallon tank; 700 feet of 2½ inch hose; 350 feet of 1½ inch hose; ladders, crowbars, axes, coats, boots, etc.



Modern new homes line the residential streets of Alix.

Water supply - Obtained from wells and is pumped into a 50,000 gallon reservoir. There are 15 fire hydrants conveniently located throughout the village.

12. TAX STRUCTURE

	1963 Net Assessment
Land, 100% of value	\$ 79,410
Improvements, 100% of fair value	640,370
Business	94,500
Power	12,410
Total Assessment	826,690
Mill Rate — 1962 — Municipal 23.3; School 33.5; Hospital 3.2; Total of 60 mills.	

13. AREAS

Total area of village — 490 acres.
 Streets, roads and lanes — 48.75 acres.
 Parks and Playgrounds — 31.25 acres.
 Miles of Roads, Streets and Lanes:

	Asphalt	Gravel	Other	Total
Provincial Main	.75			.75
Streets and Roads		8.5		8.5
Lanes		7.25	.25	7.5
Total Miles				16.75

There are approximately 2½ miles of cement sidewalks in the village.

14. SEWER AND WATER MAIN MILEAGE

Storm Sewers — Nil.
 Sanitary Sewers - 4.4 miles.
 Water mains - 4.3 miles.

15. POWER

Three phase 60 cycle is supplied to the village under a franchise by the Calgary Power Limited.

Rates:

Available only for lighting, cooking, domestic power and other ordinary uses in private houses and individual apartments used exclusively for residential purposes.

First 20 KWH or less used per month - \$2.60 gross. Minimum subject to 30c prompt payment discount making \$2.30 net minimum.

Excess KWH used per month - 1½c per KWH.

The discount for prompt payment is the difference between the gross and net minimum charge. The energy rates are net.

Commercial:

Demand charge per KVA - \$1.00 per month.

Energy charge -

First 100KWH used per KVA of demand - 5c per KWH.

Excess KWH used per KVA of demand - 1½c per KWH

"Demand" is the maximum 30 minute rate of power delivery, expressed in Kilovolt-amperes (KVA) during the previous 12 months, and not less than 1 KVA.

Minimum charge is the demand charge but not less than the domestic service minimum for the community.

The above are net rates applicable to accounts paid within 10 days of the date rendered. Net bills are increased by 5% and not less than 30c after the discount date.

Power rate:

Demand charge - \$1.00 per month per KVA.

Energy charge -

First 50 KWH used per month per KVA of installation - 5c per KWH.

Next 50 KWH used per month per KVA of installation - 3 1/3c per KWH.

Excess KWH used per month per KVA of installation - 1 2/3c per KWH.

Discount 10% - 10 days, based on the dollars only.

Minimum charge - \$3.00 net, or demand charge if greater.

'KVA of installation', One motor HP is taken as one KVA. The company may, at its own option, estimate the demand or may install a thermal demand meter. When a demand meter is installed the billing demand is the maximum 30 minute KVA demand in the preceding 12 months.

16. WATER

Water is obtained from two wells 350 feet deep. The water is pumped into a 50,000 gallon reservoir and then into the water mains.

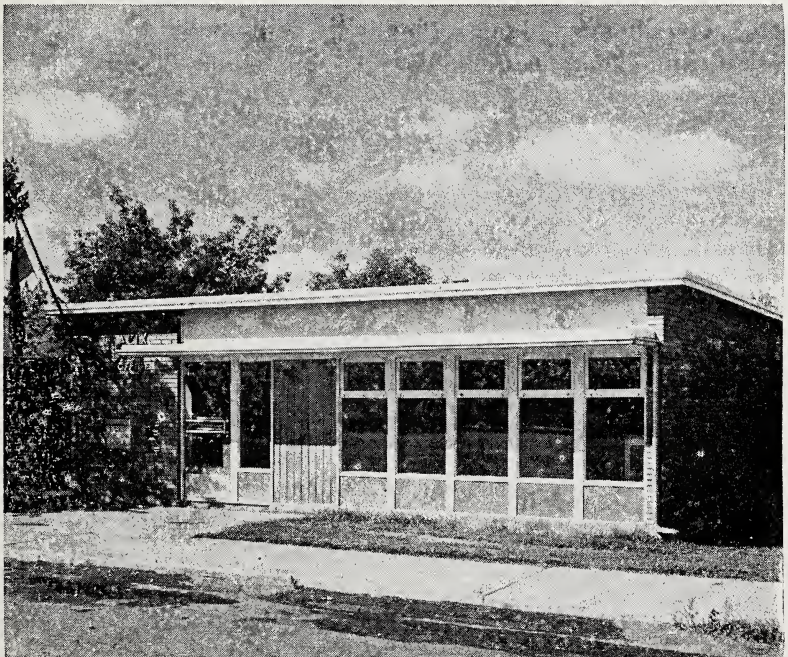
Rates:

First 6,000 gallons or less used in two months - \$5.50.

Next 4,000 gallons used in two months - 80c per M gallons.

All over 1,000 gallons used in two months - 65c per M gallons.

Plus sewerage charges: Domestic \$2.00 per month. Commercial \$3.00 and up per month.



The post office is an attractive modern structure.

Water Analysis	Parts per Million
Total Solids	1066
Ignition loss	32
Sulphates	220
Hardness	90
Chlorides	7
Alkalinity	640
Nature of Alkalinity - Bicarbonate of Soda, Lime and Magnesium.	
Nitrites	Nil
Nitrates	Nil
Iron	0.4
Fluorine	Nil

Remarks: Chemically suitable, soda contents 40.81 grains per gallon which will harm plants and corrode aluminum.

17. GAS

Natural gas is supplied to the village under a franchise by the North-western Utilities Limited.

General Rate -

Available to all customers.

First 20 therms or less used per month - \$3.00

All additional therms used per month - 7c per therm.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date, the charge per therm other than the first 20 therms shall be increased by 3c and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

Optional Rate -

A - Available on annual contract to all customers whose annual consumption is more than 8,800 therms.

Fixed charge - \$20.00 per month.

Plus commodity charge - 4½c per therm.

Minimum monthly charge - \$20.00.

B - Available on annual contract to all customers whose annual consumption is more than 73,800 therms.

Fixed charge - \$100.00 per month.

Plus commodity charge - 3 1/5c per therm.

Minimum monthly charge - \$100.00.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date, the charge per therm shall be increased by 2c and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

These rates are available only on annual contract, which shall continue from year to year, thereafter, until either party shall give to the other party, at least 30 days prior to the expiration of any such year, a written notice of desire to terminate same, whereupon at the expiration of such year, it shall cease and determine.

18. L. P. GAS

Heat value 2,521 b.t.u per cu. ft. at 60 deg. F.

100 lb. cylinders - \$6.00.

Bulk - 16c per gallon.

Storage capacity 5,000 gallons.

19. DIESEL FUEL

Heat value 135,000 to 140,000 b.t.u. per gal. at 60 deg. F.
Winter grade - 17.2c per gallon.
Summer grade - 16.2c per gallon.
Storage capacity 16,500 gallons.

20. COAL

There are extensive coal deposits in the district. The majority of the coal is secured from mines 7 miles south of the village.

Price per Ton Delivered:

Lump	Stove	Stoker
\$6.75	\$5.75	\$3.75

21. LOCAL RESOURCES

Wheat, coarse grains, coal, horses, cattle, sheep, hogs, straw, dairy products, poultry products, clay for bricks, oil and gas.

22. GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND SERVICES

Federal - Post Office.

Provincial - Alberta Government Telephone.

Alberta Liquor Vendor.

Municipal - Village office housing (secretary-treasurer, council chamber, library, police department), fire hall.

23. HEALTH SERVICES

There is no hospital in the village. Local residents use either Stettler or Lacombe facilities.

The Red Deer Health Unit calls monthly and provides the following services; immunization of all school and pre-school children, examination of any person residing in the Health Unit district, pre-natal and post-natal care, inspection of water and food supplies as well as sanitary inspection. Other health services:

One doctor - calling weekly, One drug store.

24. PROFESSIONAL AND SKILLED PERSONAL SERVICES

(excluding health services)

Type of Service	No. of Establishments
Barbers	1
Beauty Parlors	1

25. TRANSPORTATION

Canadian National Railway - Dayliner service daily. Edmonton to Calgary via Alix.

Canadian Pacific Railway - freight service only Lacombe to Coronation via Alix.

Sorenson Bus Line - daily service east and west.

Daily truck service to Calgary, Red Deer and Edmonton.

26. NEWSPAPERS

Nil.

27. COMMUNICATIONS

Canadian National Telegraph, Alberta Government Telephones, Canadian Pacific Telegraph, Post Office, Nearest radio station - Lacombe CBX, Nearest T.V. Station - Red Deer CHCA T.V.

28. FINANCIAL FACILITIES

Royal Bank of Canada.

29. HOTELS

	No. of Rooms	Rates	Licensed
Alix	16	\$2.00 up	Yes

30. MOTELS

Nil.

Trailer Court

Johnny's Trailer Court.

31. CHURCHES

Anglican, Free Methodist, Roman Catholic, United

32. LODGES AND SERVICE CLUBS

Masonic, Foresters, Eastern Star, Rebekahs, I.O.O.F., I.O.D.E., Board of Trade and Agriculture, Canadian Legion, Women's Auxiliary of the Canadian Legion, Women's Institute.

33. SOCIETIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

Red Cross Society, Agriculture and Athletic Association, Home & School Association, United Farmers of Alberta.



An attractive picnic and camp site is located at the edge of Alix .

34. EDUCATION

The village school district is a unit of the County of Lacombe No. 5, with grades 1 to 12 being taught, along with the following optional subjects, typing, art, music, drama, home economics and shop.

The school population is made up as follows:

	Grades	No. of Teachers	No. of Pupils
Elementary	1-6	8	199
Junior High	7-9	3	94
High	10-12	4	48

35. THEATRES AND HALLS

	Capacity	Stage	Piano
Circle Theatre	300	yes	no
Community Hall	200	yes	yes
United Farmers of Alberta Hall	100	no	yes

36. CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The Alix Library is a branch of the Parkland Regional library and is opened 10 hours per week during school hours. There are over 3,000 volumes in the library.

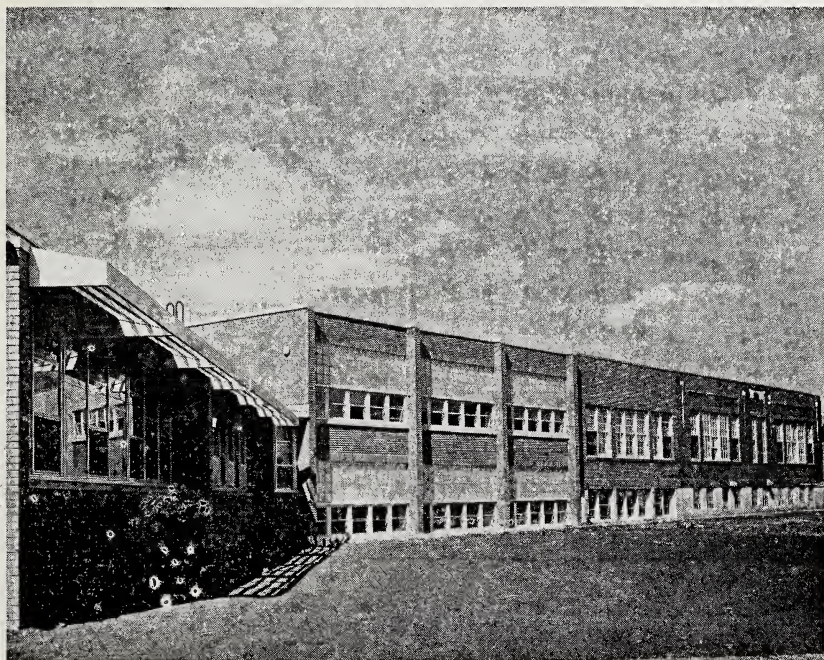
Other Activities

Drama, art and music taught at school.

37. YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Boys - Scouts, cubs, 4-H club, calf club.

Girls - Guides, C.G.I.T., Brownies, 4-H club.



The Elementary and the high schools are combined in Alix

38. SPORTS

Baseball, softball, curling, hockey.

Sports facilities:

Covered curling rink - 3 sheets natural ice, covered arena for hockey and skating, baseball diamond, school grounds for playground.

39. FAIRS

Sports Day; Annual Regatta.

40. HISTORIC SITES

Nil.

41. CO-OPERATIVES

Central Alberta Dairy Pool, Buffalo Lake Farmers' Co-op. Marketing Association, F.U.A. Co-op. Alberta Wheat Pool, Maple Leaf Co-op. Oil Distributor.

42. INDUSTRY AND BUSINESS

Type of Business or Industry	No. of Establishments	Producer or Manufacturer	Wholesale	Retail	Type of Business or Industry	No. of Establishments	Producer or Manufacturer	Wholesale	Retail
Auto Body Repairs	1	1	—	1	General Store	3	—	—	3
Bank	1	—	—	—	Grain Elevator	2	—	—	—
Barbers	1	—	—	—	Total capacity 80,000 bushels				
Beauty Parlors	1	—	—	—	Hardware	2	—	—	2
Butchers	2	—	—	2	Hotels	1	—	—	—
Building Contractor	1	—	—	—	Implements (farm)	3	—	—	3
Blacksmith	1	1	—	1	Insurance, Real estate.....	1	—	—	—
Cartage Delivery	1	—	—	—	Lumber Yards	1	—	1	1
Clothing (Women's & Children's)	1	—	—	1	Milk Distributor	1	—	1	1
Cold Storage Locker	1	—	—	1	Oil Distributor	2	—	2	—
Creameries	1	1	1	1	Painters & Decorators.....	1	—	—	—
Doctor	Calls Weekly				Plumbers	1	—	—	—
Drug Store	1	—	—	1	Pool Room	1	—	—	—
Egg Grading Station	1	1	1		Propane Gas Distributor	2	—	2	2
Electrical Appliances	1	—	—	1	Restaurants	3	—	—	—
Electrical Contractor	1	—	—	—	Trailer Park	1	—	—	—
Garage & Service Station	6	—	—	6	Variety Store	1	—	—	1
Gas Fitters	1	—	—	—	Welding & Machine Shop	2	2		2
					Woodworking	1	1	—	1

43. SITES

Excellent industrial and residential property can be purchased from the village or private owners at reasonable prices.

44. INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT

A livestock cash crop type of agriculture predominates in the area served by the village. The source of farm cash income for the district are cattle 30%, hogs 17%, dairying 10%, grain 38% and others 5%. This shows that livestock in the area has become very important. The average size farm in the Alix area is 372 acres of which 79% is owned and 71% improved. The principal crops grown in acres per farm; wheat 10, oats 31, barley 91, tame hay 29 and improved pasture 20. The average area in summerfallow is 53 acres. The average number of livestock kept per farm are; cattle 37, milk cows 7.1, sheep 3, hogs 26, poultry 91. The development of mechanization is indicated by the fact that there are 1.2 tractors, .9 trucks, and .5 grain combines per farm.

Approximately 78% of all the farms are electrified.

The main industry in the village of Alix is the creamery. It was established in 1916 by Mr. N. A. Larson and during the first year of operation the plant produced 60,000 pounds of butter. In 1925 the creamery was sold to the Central Alberta Dairy Producers' Association and operated until 1928, when it was purchased by the present owners, the Central Alberta Dairy Pool.

The peak production year of the plant was 1934 when over two million pounds of butter were produced. The average yearly production amounts to approximately 625,000 pounds.

The creamery has exhibited at many international exhibitions and have won many laurels and prizes for its butter. During these exhibitions the creamery has given the village a lot of valuable advertising.

Since the discovery of oil in the district in 1949, two multi-million dollar absorption plants have been constructed in the area.

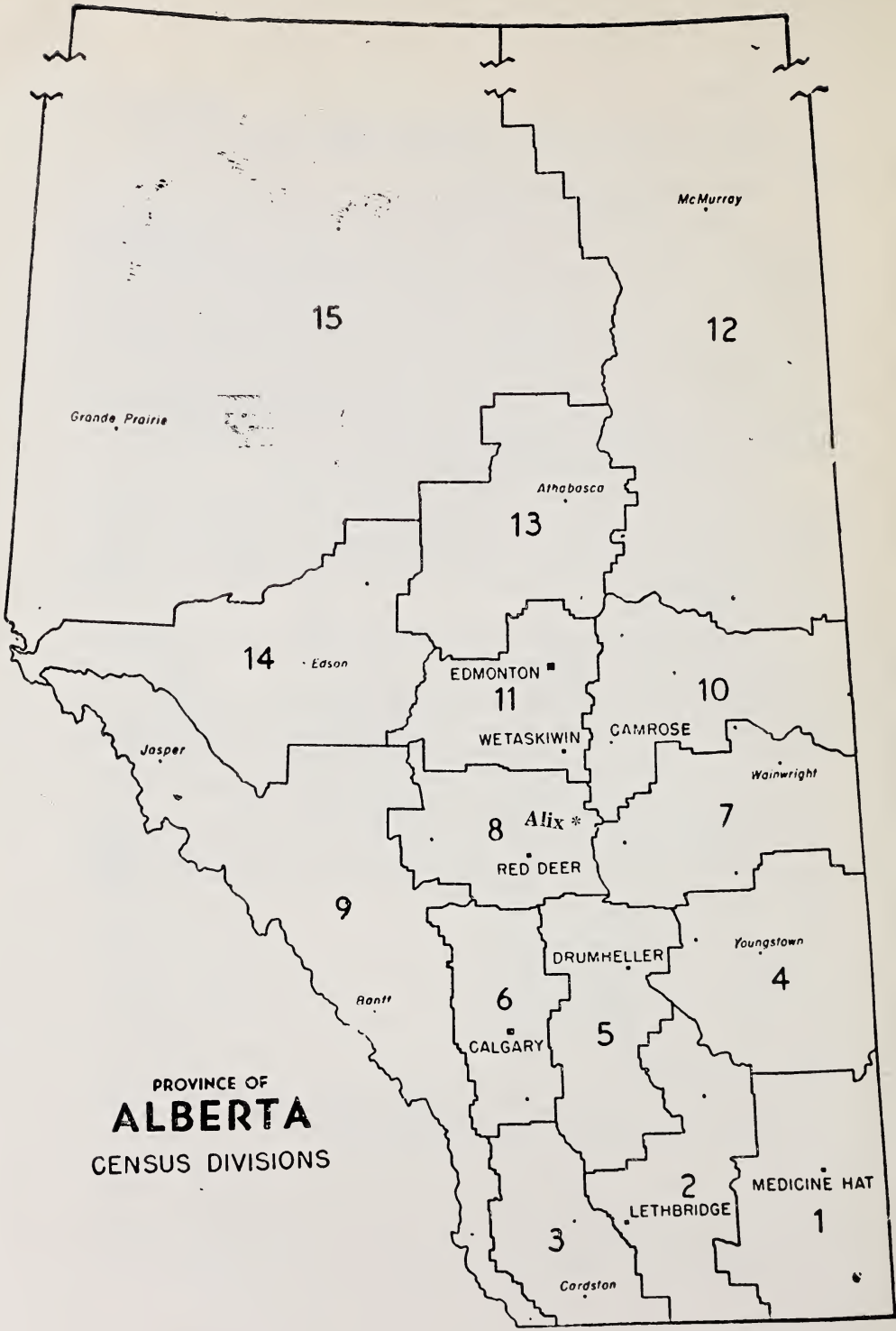
With the granting of export of natural gas, the Alberta Gas Trunk Line has constructed a meter station in Alix and employs five persons who reside in company-owned houses which they had built in the village.

45. TRADING AREA

North	14 miles.
West	14 miles.
South	15 miles.
East	14 miles.

46. POPULATION

Trading area population 1961 Dominion Census 4,961
Village population 1961 Dominion Census 631.



PROVINCE OF
ALBERTA
CENSUS DIVISIONS

N.L.C. - B.N.C.



3 3286 10805017 6

