

Canada's Six Thousand Blind

You have doubtless been interested in what you have read or heard regarding the progress of a national effort on behalf of the blind of Canada.

Do you realize just what this effort means?

Here are some of the things that are being done:

Industrial training and employment is being provided for the blind in centres established in Halifax, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver.

Useful handicrafts and the reading and writing of embossed characters are taught in the homes of those blind people who for various reasons are unable to take training at one of the regular centres.

The product of the home-workers is bought and sold.

Personal contact is established with recently-blinded persons, and with cases which are sometimes

so old that they become new in a very real sense. This work is done by an experienced Field Agent.

Books, magazines, and music in embossed types are circulated free to the blind of Canada. The monthly average circulation of books, etc., is close to eight hundred. The Institute also arranges for the transcription of music for any of its members at cost-price.

An active publicity propaganda dealing with various dangers to which the eye is subject is carried on, and this is followed up with personal work, looking to the larger co-operation of medical men and nurses, employers of labor, Boards of Education, etc., in the vital matter of preventing blindness.

A residence and training centre, "Pearson Hall," has been provided where blind soldiers may find congenial conditions while taking vocational instruction. In this connection it may be interesting to know that the Institute has en-

tered into an agreement with the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-Establishment, under which the Institute has established an after care department for Canadian Soldiers blinded in the war.

There are other things, but they may all be summed up by saying that the Institute endeavors in every practical way to advance the interests of the blind and to ameliorate the conditions under which they live.

Will you aid in supplying the most vital need of this work?

Then mail your cheque to the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, 36 King St. East, Toronto, Ont.

A critic was discussing John Singer Sargeant, the artist, with Chauncey Depew, and remarked:

"They say he painted a cobweb on a ceiling once and it was so natural that the maid wore herself out trying to brush it off."

"What you say about the naturalness of the cobweb may be perfectly true," retorted Depew, "but there never was any such maid, I'm sure."

Fortunes in Canadian Alfalfa



STACKING ALFALFA AT BROOKS, ALBERTA.



Stacking alfalfa in the Central Farm, Van Horne Colony at Coaldale, Alberta. The Van Horne is one of the Colonies for returned soldiers established by the C. P. R. in Alberta.

It is no exaggeration to say that fortunes are being made in Southern Alberta to-day with alfalfa. With this crop selling at \$30 a ton and yields of four tons to the acre being harvested, it is easy to see that large sums of money are being obtained from this crop.

One farmer at Coaldale in the Lethbridge Irrigation District, this year harvested no less than 54 tons of alfalfa hay on twenty acres of irrigated land at the first cutting. This hay he sold at the price of \$50 per ton in the stack, realizing \$2700 from the acre. The second crop on this land was almost, if not quite, as good, and there is every probability that a third crop will be harvested. It is safe to say that the returns from these twenty acres of land this year will be between \$150 and \$170 to the acre.

The case quoted in the previous paragraph is not an isolated one. Other farmers in the same district have crops equally as good, though no doubt such yields are somewhat above the average. Most of the other farmers have, however, much larger fields. Altogether there are about fifteen thousand acres in alfalfa in the Lethbridge Irrigation District this year. Two cuttings had been made on most of the fields before the end of August. The average yield from the two cuttings for the whole of the fifteen thousand acres was well over three tons to the acre, and it is safe to say that with the third cutting the average yield will be at least four tons to the acre. The farmers in this district will, therefore, get a return this season from their alfalfa crops alone of nearly two million dollars.

But the Lethbridge District is not the only part of Southern Alberta where alfalfa can be grown. It is being grown equally successfully in various parts of the large irrigation block operated by the Canadian Pa-

cific Railway east of Calgary. Both in the Eastern and Western sections of the block farmers are growing alfalfa and obtaining yields of four tons of alfalfa to the acre and more during the season.

One man north of Brooks, Alberta, has the whole of his 150-acre farm, with the exception of a small place for his buildings, in alfalfa. Last year he cleared between \$14,000 and \$16,000 from this crop. This year his returns will probably be greater because if anything, his crop is larger, and the price of alfalfa hay is still higher.

The growth of alfalfa in Southern Alberta is certain to have an enormous influence in the development of the Province. It has been proved that it will grow anywhere throughout the irrigated area. There are still thousands of acres of land suitable for the successful growth of this crop available, but settlement is proceeding very rapidly and getting impetus every year. The irrigation systems at present in operation are destined to supply water to approximately 940,000 acres of land. This year about 150,000 acres of irrigated land were producing crops. These crops were mostly grain, wheat, oats, barley and flax—a large number of the settlers being new, and as yet their land is not in shape for growing alfalfa, which requires that the soil be thoroughly disintegrated for best results.

But when the development reaches the state of development that has been reached in the Lethbridge district, in which 15,000 acres out of 100,000 acres of irrigable land are growing alfalfa, there will be an enormous production of this crop. On this basis about 141,000 acres out of the 940,000 acres would be producing alfalfa. Taking an average yield of three tons to the acre, which is one ton less than the average this year, it means that 423,000 tons of

alfalfa hay, worth at present prices \$12,690,000, would be grown.

Experts tell us, however, that we should develop our irrigated farms on a ten year rotation plan with one-half of the land in alfalfa each year. With the 940,000 acres developed in this manner, there would be upwards of 470,000 acres of alfalfa grown on the irrigated land. Averaging the yield of three tons to the acre we should have a crop of 1,410,000 tons of hay. This production would make Alberta one of the greatest winter cattle feeding countries on the continent.

The story is not finished, however. The fine crops that have been grown on the irrigated land throughout Southern Alberta have stimulated the desire of thousands of other farmers already settled in this part of the West to have irrigation for their lands so that they can grow alfalfa too. They are now organizing into irrigation districts for the purpose of securing water for their land. With the organization of these districts and the establishment of irrigation systems it is estimated that there will be approximately another half million acres of land brought under irrigation. With half of these lands growing alfalfa, another 750,000 tons of hay would be grown in Southern Alberta, bringing the total to over two million tons a year.

Alfalfa has already made fortunes for many farmers on irrigated land in Southern Alberta. But its cultivation is still in its infancy. Before many years have elapsed with the quantity of this crop grown increased manifold, many more fortunes will have been made. Its influence on the future prosperity of Southern Alberta and of the West generally cannot be estimated at the present time, but it will assuredly be very great.

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