

Those engaged in sheep raising are enjoying unparalleled prosperity. Mutton and wool now command top prices. Flock-masters in Alberta will not be affected for many years to come by the great fluctuations in sheep products. Woollen mills are being established in the West and a good local market for mutton is available in British Columbia, the Yukon, and the Province of Manitoba. The principal market for Alberta-grown mutton is at present the Province of British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. The requirements of the Province of Manitoba are not as yet very considerable, but with the large growth of urban population and the gradual acquirement of a taste for mutton, noticeable all over the civilized world, it is quite certain that Manitoba will in time become a valuable market for Alberta mutton. During the past year some 5,000 head of Alberta sheep were sent to the Manitoba market, and no more being available, it was found necessary to draw upon the Province of Ontario for a considerable number. These sheep were thus sent some 2,000 miles to supply a market right at the front door of Alberta. The markets in British Columbia and the Yukon are susceptible of expansion, as considerable mutton is now being brought in from the United States and the colony of New South Wales, amounting to over 20,000 carcasses annually, which also might be supplied from Alberta.

Hogs.

As might be expected in a district where the dairy industry is growing so rapidly, hog raising, affording as it does, the most economical method of realizing the largest profits from skimmed milk and other dairy by-products, is a very important branch of farming in Southern Alberta. The soil conditions and the climate, which are so eminently suited for dairying, are also productive of those crops which make the cheapest pork.

As a foundation for winter feeding, all root crops can be grown with great success under irrigation. Large crops of turnips, beets or mangolds, are produced with ordinary field cultivation.

The mildness of the winter season makes it unnecessary to have the costly buildings which are essential to profitable feeding in the winter time in the colder climates, thus enabling farmers of moderate means to have fat hogs to sell when the highest prices are obtainable, during the late winter and early spring months. For some years past the fluctuation in prices has been very slight, the net prices received by the farmers being seldom under five cents in the autumn and six cents in the spring and summer months (live weight), and at these prices farmers have made good profits.

Calgary, the live stock centre of Alberta, has an excellent pork-packing establishment where top prices are paid.

The irrigated area of Southern Alberta is indeed "the hog man's Klondike." Each year is witnessing a large increase in the fattening of hogs in the Bow River Valley. One cause of this is the unprecedented fattening capacity of barley and field peas. The production of an acre of barley costs just about one-half of what an acre of corn does, and will fatten one-third more hogs. The cost of production of an acre of peas does not exceed \$1.50, only about one-fifth of what it costs to cultivate an acre of corn, and a fourth more hogs can be fattened from the produce of the same amount of ground. Pea-fed hogs are becoming famous all through America for the excellent quality of the bacon.

Dairying.

The Provincial Government maintains at Calgary the largest and most important "dairy station" and cold storage plant in the West. Some years ago our dairymen became dissatisfied with the private creameries which were then in operation throughout the country, and asked the Government to take charge of these institutions. The Dominion authorities fell in with the request, placed experts at the disposal of the dairymen, and eventually organized a chain of co-operative creameries all through the country. These creameries are subject to the control of the patrons, through boards of directors, under absolute Government management. Most of the patrons separate their milk at home by means of hand separators and bring their cream to the dairy station from three to four times a week. The cream is then carefully tested and weighed, and at the end of every month each patron gets credit for the equivalent of his cream in butter, and receives a cash advance of ten cents per pound.

At the end of 30 or 60 days a cheque for the balance due each patron is sent to him from the Department of Agriculture. A uniform charge of four cents a pound is made by the Government for manufacturing, and one cent a pound is deducted to create a fund for purchasing buildings and machinery, of which the patrons become part owners to the extent of the amount which they contribute in this manner. Any settler having the means to procure a few milch cows can thus insure a cash income from the first day he starts on his land. The butter is sold principally in British Columbia and the Yukon district. A trade is also being developed by the Government in China and in Japan. This creamery service has recently been placed under the control of the Provincial Government.