

coast are principally dependent upon outside sources for flour, oatmeal, oats and other feed stuffs and hay, butter, cheese, fresh and cured meats and poultry products. All these Central Alberta can supply. In Southern Alberta is a great area devoted to winter wheat where few cows are kept on the farms, and which, as well as the extensive coal industries, provides an excellent market for our meat and dairy products. Immediately to the east is the province of Saskatchewan, principally open-plains country more suited for production of wheat than for mixed farming, the southern and central portions of the province providing a good market for dairy products.

Then there is an excellent home market, which is of course the most valuable. There is a large industrial population to be fed, engaged in lumbering and in coal mining, which industries, particularly the latter, will shortly reach very large proportions. The men and animals employed must be fed principally by Central Alberta farms.

Only in a single product is Alberta at a disadvantage as compared with the other western provinces, and that condition is only temporary. The freight rate on wheat from Central Alberta points to Liverpool averages about 10 cents per 100 pounds higher than from Manitoba points, and about 5 cents per 100 pounds more than from the principal wheat shipping points in Saskatchewan. But on the other hand, statistics show the average yield of wheat in Central Alberta to be from $2\frac{1}{2}$ to 3 bushels per acre higher than in Manitoba, so that the Central Alberta wheat fields produce more in dollars and cents, on an export basis, than do those of Manitoba. It must be remembered also, that long before there is any prospect that our production will have overtaken the rapidly growing western market for our products, the Panama Canal will be in operation; and Central Alberta will then be very considerably nearer Liverpool and the world's markets, so far as freight rates are concerned, than any other wheat shipping portion of Canada.

WHAT IS LAND WORTH?

The intrinsic value of Central Alberta land is of course a matter of opinion, and cannot be stated definitely. But it can be stated as a fact that, on the average, the land is richer and more fertile than any area of similar extent on the American continent, where general farming is followed. It will produce more, and produce it with less labor and with greater certainty. More grain can be raised to the acre; horses or cattle can be raised with less expense; dairy cows can be fed cheaper; the markets for farm products average somewhat better; a desirable climate goes with it. Why, then, is the land not worth at least as much as the highest priced farm land in Ontario, Quebec, Ohio, Iowa, Indiana, Illinois or any other place where mixed farming is carried on?