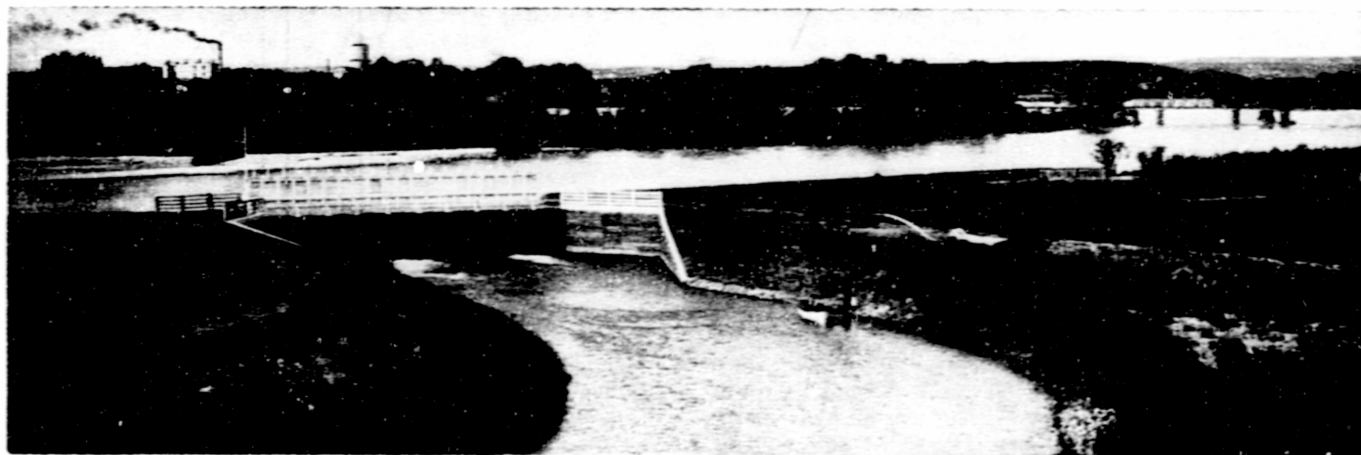




Head-gates of Main Canal on Bow River.

divisions, the climate is said to be sub-humid or semi-arid. The climate of Southern Alberta falls within the latter category, as does the greater part of the United States lying between the Mississippi River and the Pacific slope, and practically the whole of Western Canada lying east of the Rocky Mountains. It has been conclusively proven that semi-arid conditions are most favorable for the production of high class wheat. The humidity of the air is a feature of climate often overlooked, but, nevertheless, it has an important influence upon plant growth. Its effects upon the wheat plant are generally unfavorable if long continued, and particularly if it occurs during the time of ripening. Great humidity retards maturity, indirectly softens the grain, and through the over-production of starch, gives it a white color, and presents conditions favorable for the attacks of various fungus pests. It is not so much the great precipitation that gives the inferior quality to the grain in humid areas, as the prevailing humidity of the air and the lack of sunshine. It, therefore, follows that with proper soil conditions, the climatic features of the sub-humid districts are actually necessary for the successful production of wheat.

Southern Alberta lays claim to possessing the finest winter wheat lands in America, on the following grounds: (1) Low annual rainfall that prevails, only sufficient moisture falling to successfully mature the grain. (2) The very large proportion of this rainfall which occurs during the growing season. (3) The character of the precipitation, which occurs in the form of thunder-storms without fog or mist. (4) The

prevailing clearness and dryness of the atmosphere and the preponderance of sunny and warm days.

The Discovery of Southern Alberta.

It is no exaggeration to state that Southern Alberta was discovered by winter wheat growers from the Pacific States, who quickly saw the enormous possibilities ahead of this industry in Southern Alberta. Every effort was made by the Southern Alberta "cow puncher" to discourage these men from settling there. Yarns were related of drouths and all the agricultural plagues in the calendar. It naturally did not suit the rancher to have the prairie lands plowed and fenced. Many of the winter wheat men from south of the line, however, had been through the same experience where they came from, and took these calamity stories with a "grain of salt," and decided to settle in Southern Alberta, in many cases buying ranching holdings at high prices.

Bow Valley Winter Wheat Production.

As to the quality of wheat grown in Alberta let William D. Jackson, a former president of the Chicago Board of Trade, speak:—

"The samples of red and white winter wheat from Alberta have been submitted to our large millers, to Chief Grain Inspector Smiley, to the expert buyers of our elevators, and unofficially to the grain committee of our board. It was the judgment of all that the wheat was exceptionally fine, and