

"and in Central Otago (and these comprise some of the very best sheep raising districts) where the conditions are not unlike what they are in Alberta."

## The Outlook for Sheep.

Without a doubt a bright future awaits the sheep industry in Alberta. There is bound to be a growing demand for the products of the flock. As years pass, the ranges with their wholesale and rather rough methods of banding, will give way to more numerous but smaller flocks. This will make possible and profitable better attention to housing and feeding in winter. With the production of tame hay, including alfalfa, and large yields of coarse grains upon the farms, the sheep will be fed and sent to market in a finished condition. The question of fencing, that has stood in the way of sheep raising, will of necessity receive that attention that mixed agriculture on smaller farms requires. Many who do not fence for their flocks, will combine with their neighbors in having several flocks herded together during the summer where suitable range and water can be secured. Early maturing lambs will be raised and sheep farming will become a valuable staple industry of growing importance from year to year.

## SWINE

It is undoubtedly a fact that the tendency on the part of the average farmer in Southern Alberta, is to belittle the value of the by-products of the farm. These men have hitherto been doing things on a large scale. Farms in the West are generally extensive and in the Bow Valley have been extremely profitable and under the circumstances it is not to be wondered at that the smaller sources of revenue on the farm often fail to appeal to them.

In order, however, to enjoy an even and permanent prosperity, the farmers of the Bow River Valley will, to a large extent, engage in swine production in the future. It is reasonably certain that amongst the various forms of meat production for which the Bow River Valley is destined to become famous, the swine industry will occupy a conspicuous place. Climatic conditions are most favorable to it, the grains produced are suitable and the class of settlers who are going into occupation of the district are largely men with the experience necessary to make a success of the industry.

## Market Conditions

An investigation into the market conditions for live and dressed hogs existing in the Calgary district, cannot fail to convince the most sceptical of the great profit that may be derived from hog raising. A careful examination

has been made of market prices for hogs for the past couple of years, which have been found to range as follows:

| LIVE WEIGHT. |                    | DRESSED.   |                   |
|--------------|--------------------|------------|-------------------|
| 1907, ..     | 5 to 8c. per lb.   | 1907, .... | 6 to 9c. per lb.  |
| 1908, ..     | 5 to 7c. per lb.   | 1908, .... | 6 to 9c. per lb.  |
| 1909, ..     | 6½ to 7½c. per lb. | 1909, .... | 8½ to 9c. per lb. |

An important question to be decided before anyone engages in the swine industry, is what type of hog will be the most profitable to produce. Packers have divided them into three classes: The thick or lard type; the medium thick, and the bacon type. For each one there is a large market available fully equal to the volume of production. The market for the thick hog is confined chiefly to the north country, which has a somewhat sparse population with a limited purchasing power per capita. It is an important market. It is not, however, an unlimited market and it is not good business to produce any class of live stock beyond the consuming ability of the market available. The production of this class of hogs should, therefore, be given only a moderate encouragement.

The market for the moderately thick animal is confined chiefly to the mining and lumbering districts of Northern Alberta and British Columbia and to certain rural districts which have not as yet become sufficiently established to supply their own wants. This market is also a limited one. So long as the class of animals which go to supply this market is not produced beyond the limit of its power of consumption, they will find a ready sale and will command a price equal to that of any other type. But once this limit is exceeded, the medium thick hog as well as the lard hog will be discriminated against when offered for sale.

By far the largest market for our cured pork is provided by the urban population of Alberta and our sister Province of British Columbia and also by Great Britain. Once Alberta becomes an exporting country, as she must become within a few years, we will have in Great Britain an unlimited market for our cured porks of high quality. These markets will accept nothing but the flesh from hogs of the bacon type; that is, of hogs having a long and deep side and yielding a large percentage of lean meat. As this market is a very extensive one it is practically impossible to overload it and the type of hog which goes to supply it may be produced in large numbers, without fear of having them discriminated against.

## Winter Wheat and Hogs

The extensive winter wheat fields of the Bow River Valley are annually yielding their increasing golden harvest, which ultimately finds its way to the Pacific ports for export to feed the hungry multitudes of other countries. Our winter wheat farmers are exceedingly prosperous, but it is a question whether they have commenced to reach the limit of their possibilities.