

AGRICULTURE

9

POULTRY. The Province of Alberta offers exceptional opportunities for poultry raising on account of the bright sunshine and the healthy, invigorating atmosphere. With an unlimited market at all seasons of the year and prices ranging from 20c. to 60c. per dozen for eggs, and from 15c. to 25c. per pound for first-class dressed poultry, there is sufficient encouragement to the poultry-keeper. Owing to the rapidly increasing population and the interest taken in the industry, there will be for years to come an unsatisfied demand for eggs and birds for breeding purposes. Land and material for breeding purposes can be purchased at reasonable prices, and with the superior quality of grain that can be purchased cheaply, the conditions for successful poultry raising are as favorable as can be found anywhere.

RANCHING. There are 3 million acres under grazing leases in the west. The ranching country is chiefly in South Alberta and South-west Saskatchewan, where cattle and horses remain out all winter and live on grass. In 1881, the cattle trade of Canada amounted to 25 head. In 1911 Canada exported cattle worth \$8,547,586, and \$330,274 worth of sheep.

ROOTS AND VEGETABLES. The rich vegetable loam, together with long hours of bright sunshine and the cool nights, make ideal conditions for large growth of roots and vegetables. The latter, in great variety, can be grown by everyone. Roots grow to perfection, yielding usually 1,000 bushels per acre.

SHEEP. Farmers' flocks are proving very profitable in the central part. The local demand will take the mutton at good prices. The wool is largely sold to Ontario manufacturers. In Southern Alberta the ranching system prevails. The natural herbage of the prairie and river banks produces mutton of fine flavor. The foundation stock, chiefly Merino, come from Montana. Down and Long Wool sires have been introduced to increase the weight. Range flocks vary from 2,000 to 20,000 head. Taught by experience, ranchmen now put up a supply of feed for the winter. Most have sheds for the protection of the flocks. The outlook is bright with smaller flocks. Greater attention will be given to housing and feed in the winter, with alfalfa and coarse grains. The sheep will be sent to market in a finished condition. Neighbors will combine to herd flocks during the summer.

SUGAR BEETS. The Knight Sugar Co. commenced operations at Raymond in 1903. They own 200,000.