thoroughly adapted to the growth of all classes of cereals, cultivated grasses and vegetables in great abundance.

## IRRIGATION.

To the normal advantages of farming on new virgin soil, there are added many features of profit by a system of irrigation.

While the artificial application of water to growing crops increases the original cost of farming and adds to the labour of the farmer, it assures certainty of crops, and the quantity and quality of the product far more than compensates for the added cost and labour.

Irrigation provides a continual fertilizing agent without added expense. The alluvial deposit carried in suspension in the waters of the rivers in spring and early summer are deposited on the soil and constantly enrich and fertilize it, so that a process of renewal is constantly in operation. This accounts for the fact that in countries where irrigation has been practised for long periods, as in Colorado, wheat crop after wheat crop has been taken from the same soil with no material reduction in the yield and, consequently, no evidence of the exhaustion of the soil. The most striking demonstration of this fact is the Nile Valley in Egypt, where cultivation has been continued for centuries, the lands finding elements of renewing strength in the properties of the muddy waters of that great river.

Irrigation, where the source of supply, as in this instance, is a never-failing stream like the St. Mary's River, gives certainty of crop, protects against dronth, places the farmer in the position of regulating the rainfall. There is no agricultural region, even in districts of normal rainfall, where the possibility of resorting to irrigation would not be occasionally beneficial, for, even in such countries, drouth is not unknown. In the most favored agricultural districts of Manitoba and the older provinces, every experienced farmer knows that there are seasons when the rainfall is sufficient and is distributed at such proper times as to keep