

City." The latter distinction is now held by Minneapolis, located some 1,500 miles further west. The time will come when the City of Calgary will become the great flour producing centre of the New North West.

Wheat raised in Southern Alberta contains the largest amount of nutritive material of any wheat raised anywhere in the world. The soil of Southern Alberta is strongly impregnated with lime and gypsum, which form essential elements for both the straw and kernel of the wheat. The great length of the summer day in these higher latitudes, provides an extraordinary amount of growth producing heat, which, together with the favorable soil conditions, will make Southern Alberta the leading hard wheat producing field of the American continent.

One does not wonder at the universal use of wheat as a food. Next to milk it constitutes the most perfect nourishment. There is no danger that wheat will decrease in popularity. A quart of milk costs about 7c. in Calgary, $\frac{3}{4}$ lb. of sirloin steak about 15c., 5 ozs. of flour costs 1c. The milk can be used as it comes from the cow, the steak has to be cooked and the flour made into bread. Allowing 2c. for making the flour into bread and nothing for cooking the steak, we get for 3c. invested in Alberta flour as much nourishment, heat, and force to sustain life and do work, as would cost 7c. if spent in milk, and 15c. if expended in sirloin steak.

Every citizen is interested in wheat. It is the warp in the web of the country's prosperity, and that the prosperity of the farming community is synonymous with national prosperity is undisputed. Wheat will undoubtedly be the leading factor in the agricultural development of Southern Alberta, and while it may not always remain so, the wheat grower, like the cattle man, is frequently the pioneer in the great scheme of development, doing the crude work of subduing the virgin prairie and transforming the grass areas into productive farming land, and often leading in the more intricate process of perfecting the diversified farm, with its multitude of interests and economies.

The Dawn and Evolution of Winter Wheat Production in Southern Alberta

There can be little doubt that the enormous expansion of Winter Wheat production in Southern Alberta constitutes one of the most far-reaching Canadian agricultural developments of modern times. Her annual increase of crop area is

regarded as a freak in statistics. Never in the history of Canada has any single crop in any part of the country come to the front with such giant strides as has Winter Wheat in Southern Alberta.

Those who appreciate the large profits and small risks in the production of Winter Wheat will not be surprised at this development, but will rather marvel that it was not initiated years ago. The growing of winter wheat in Southern Alberta is not in any sense in the experimental stage. The crop has been grown successfully for the past twenty years, but owing to adverse commercial conditions, this crop attracted little or no attention. It is not to be wondered at that such was the case.

In the early history of colonization in Alberta, the country was very largely occupied by cattle, horse and sheep ranchers. These men seldom owned large areas of land, but grazed their herds and flocks on the public domain, without either paying taxes or rental for this privilege. Consequently, the profits in the business were enormous, and the work involved was generally of an easy and pleasant character, compared with active farming operations. It is not likely that these men, many of whom owned hundreds of heads of live stock, but only a quarter-section of land, would give up this attractive and lucrative business in order to engage in the growing of winter wheat, no matter how profitable the latter industry appeared to be. In any event, the early pioneers were not in any sense of the word, by training, association or taste, inclined to farming. The calling of the "rancher," with its happy-go-lucky methods and free and easy life, would never be discarded for the more matter of fact existence of the farmer.

It is no exaggeration to state that Southern Alberta was discovered by winter wheat growers from the Western 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.

The first official notice which seems to have been taken of Winter Wheat in Southern Alberta was in a report of the Department of Agriculture of the North West Territories for the year 1901, where the following statement from Mr. C.