

Canadian

IRRIGATED LANDS IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA

The Lethbridge Plains, or that portion of them brought under cultivation by means of irrigation, are about 40 miles square, and immediately adjoin the town of Lethbridge, Alberta.

CLIMATE.

The climatic conditions are most favourable, the district being marked by an equable temperature, with freedom from rapid and extreme fluctuations in the growing season. The predominant feature is the great dryness and clearness. The absence of rainfall in the summer months accounts for the application of irrigation to agriculture, and a certainty of crops is assured by reliance on the steady, uniform and abundant supply of water in the St. Mary's River.

With the exception of that portion of British Columbia situated along the Pacific Coast, Southern Alberta enjoys the mildest climate in Canada. What might be termed "Winter" rarely sets in before the end of December, lasting about six weeks, during which period the snow, seldom exceeding a depth of four inches, often disappears two or three times, caused by the warm "Chinook" winds from the Pacific Coast, which are prevalent in Southern Alberta. As a consequence wagons are used during the entire year, and it is only occasional seasons that sleighs are necessary, even for a few weeks. In January and the early part of February the district is sometimes visited with short periods of sharp cold weather.

SOIL.

The soil of the plains is generally rich and deep, and varies from a rich sandy to a clay loam. All of it is