

where it is grown side by side with fruits. Hence it is reasonable to say that the rich virgin lands of the Canadian Pacific Railway Irrigation Block are fully equal in value, acre for acre, to the average high-value irrigated lands in the Western States, which generally sell at from \$100 to \$300 per acre.

**TIMOTHY.**—Alberta soil has proven itself particularly adaptable to the growth of timothy, and returns large yields in this crop. Under irrigation it has a fine head and a sturdy stock and grows to a good height. Three tons to the acre is no unusual crop, and timothy hay finds a ready market at from \$12.00 to \$18.00 per ton. Last year a farmer at High River raised under irrigation a crop which realized \$52.00 an acre. Owing to the ever-increasing mining development in British Columbia and the Yukon, these sections will afford a sure market for the timothy crop of Southern Alberta.

**SUGAR BEETS.**—No industry lends itself more readily to profitable development under irrigation in Southern Alberta than sugar-beet production. With a view to encouraging beet growing, the Canadian Pacific Railway has arranged to reduce its transportation charges on beets from points in the Irrigation Block, east of Calgary, to the nearest sugar factory, located some 200 miles from that city. The Provincial Government pays a bonus on beets through the sugar companies, and other industries contribute as well toward the rapid development of this important industry. The result is that the price paid to farmers for sugar beets at the nearest railway station in the Irrigation Block is about \$5.00 per ton f.o.b. cars. The average price paid for beets for the whole of the United States, according to the last census, was only \$4.18 per ton. In the State of Minnesota a minimum price of \$4.25 per ton has been established by law. The price paid for beets in Utah, one of the foremost of beet-growing States, was \$4.25 a ton, with an average yield of 11.4 tons an acre. It is generally considered that 15 to 16 tons to the acre is a fair crop. It is only a question of a year or two until factories will be established within the Block itself; the transportation cost will then be saved to the farmer and the beets will net him from \$5.50 to \$5.60 a ton at the station.

**FIELD PEAS.**—The field pea grown in the Bow River Valley, owing to the climatic conditions and long hours of sunshine in Alberta, is a small, hard, round pea. It makes a splendid crop under irrigation, and excellent feed for live stock when cut green and fed as hay.

### GRAIN CROPS UNDER IRRIGATION.

**WINTER WHEAT.**—Sufficient has been said in the preceding pages to convince the most sceptical reader that winter wheat can be and is being most successfully produced on the non-irrigable lands of Alberta. Winter wheat in Southern Alberta is essentially a non-irrigated crop. Nevertheless, while we are anxious that no misrepresentation should exist in the mind of the prospective colonist in regard to the fact that the non-irrigable areas of Southern Alberta are undoubtedly the most productive and cheapest winter wheat lands on the Continent of America to-day, we desire to

maintain that the production of winter wheat under irrigation is a still better paying proposition, especially should a dry year occur.

**SPRING WHEAT.**—Spring wheat is most successfully grown anywhere in the Irrigation Block; but it is not as popular a crop as the former. Yields of spring wheat reaching over 45 bushels per acre within the Irrigation Block were recorded during 1908.

**OATS.**—Oats give large yields under irrigation, and are of first quality. Not a few instances are recorded in which irrigated oats weighed from 40 to 48 lbs. to the bushel; Oats are always in demand and at prices ranging from 30 cents to 60 cents a bushel.

**BARLEY.**—Conditions for the raising of barley are almost perfect in the Irrigation Block, and the quality and yields are of exceptional character. In fact, irrigated barley from the Bow River Valley is of such a superior quality that the farmers in the Irrigation Block have a standing offer from the grain buyers of ten cents a bushel in excess of the prevailing market price for barley. The greatest yield was that of John McEwen, at Gleichen, who raised 91 bushels to the acre in 1907. This was an exceptionally heavy crop, but 50 to 60 bushels to the acre is no uncommon yield in this district.

### THE VALUE OF IRRIGATION IN SOUTHERN ALBERTA.

The following article, taken from "The Farm and Ranch Review," the leading agricultural paper of Alberta, will be of interest to prospective settlers:

"The wisecreases who infested the country some years ago and who missed no opportunity of informing the new comer that 'irrigation was not needed,' are now, we are thankful to say, largely conspicuous by their absence. The fact that millions were being expended on the construction of irrigation systems all through Southern Alberta, and that there were 272 individual irrigation systems in operation in Southern Alberta, with almost 1,000 miles of ditches capable of irrigating over 3,000,000 acres of land, was powerless to influence the preconceived notions of the individual who thought that because irrigation was being made available, erroneous impressions would go abroad and Southern Alberta would be classed as an arid desert.

"Irrigation should be recognized as an agricultural art of very wide application and importance. Its association with the idea of desert reclamation has blinded the eyes of the public to its value for regions where the task of reclamation is not required. Irrigation is not a mere expedient to flood the ground because it will not rain. The farmer suffers losses as great because it rains too copiously at the wrong time, as he does because it does not rain when the crops need it most. Rarely does all his ground need water at the same time. Some crops thrive under moist conditions; others are destroyed by moisture. Irrigation is a system of improved culture to be applied, like other means of improvement, when the soil needs it. No one questions the wisdom of the saving and storing of matures, nor, with the worn-out soils, the generous