

## Introduction

**I**N the year 1894, the Government of the Dominion of Canada reserved from sale and homestead entry a tract of land containing some millions of acres located along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway, immediately east of the City of Calgary, in Southern Alberta, Canada. This reservation had as its ultimate object the construction of an irrigation system to cover the fertile Bow River Valley. It was realized that this could only be successfully accomplished by so administering the lands embraced in the tract that the promoters of the proposed irrigation enterprise would not be hampered by any vested interests created through the alienation from the Crown of any of these lands. This undertaking, the greatest of its kind on the American continent, is now being pushed towards completion. It is safe to state that if this wise precaution had not been taken early in the history of Southern Alberta, it would have been impossible to have carried out the gigantic undertaking which the Canadian Pacific Railway Company now has in hand, and which is not only now increasing the value of land tributary to Calgary on all sides, but is transforming this city into the most flourishing agricultural centre in Canada.

While subsequent events have amply justified the reservation of this enormous area of land, so fertile and so favorably situated, immediately adjoining the largest city in Alberta, and traversed by the main line of Canada's transcontinental railway, a hardship was no doubt inflicted upon the early colonists in Southern Alberta, who were thus prevented from settling in this favorable locality, and compelled to go further back for suitable locations. Their loss, however, is the gain of those who are looking for new homes at this time and appreciate the opportunity presented in this block of land, which is now being offered for settlement.

This pamphlet will deal specifically with the production of Winter Wheat in Southern Alberta, and in view of the fact that the winter wheat fields of the Trans-Mississippi and the Pacific States lie in fairly close proximity to Southern Alberta, it is natural that these pages should be directed especially to the winter wheat farmers of those areas. Such being the case, it would be almost superfluous to go exhaustively into the merits of Winter Wheat over Spring Wheat culture. Every winter wheat farmer in the Western United States is fully cognizant of the enormous advantages of winter crops over spring crops, and, furthermore, he knows what winter wheat means in regard to climate. He realizes that winter wheat is the safest crop grown in the United States, and gives more uniform and satisfactory results than

any other line of agricultural production. He appreciates the fact that he is not at the mercy of the vicissitudes of seasons. He does not have to wait with seeding until the frost is out of the ground. The seeding period comes during the warm summer season. He does not have to lie awake nights wondering whether he will get his wheat cut before any killing frost destroys the fruits of his labor. Winter Wheat ripens early and, with any sort of adequate equipment, can be handled comfortably and housed safely before adverse weather conditions have an opportunity of partly destroying the quality of the crop.

Again, where farming is carried on upon summer-fallowed land, the economy in handling the land is considerable, and a vast saving is effected. The winter wheat farmer starts in to summer-fallow as soon as he can comfortably get on the land. A week or two one way or the other makes no material difference to him. Surface culture follows summer-fallow, and seeding takes place before harvest. There is no expensive crowding of teams and hired help to get the spring work done in time, and, later on, to get the harvest completed within a few days. All the help can be engaged for the whole summer season, and the farm work can be systematically pursued with the certainty that nothing will intervene to prevent the completion of each particular farming operation in good season.

## "King Wheat"

It is a trite saying that "Wheat is the basis of all civilized existence." While there are more rice eaters than wheat eaters in the world, wheat is the chief grain food of the white man. There has been an almost universal increase in the individual consumption of wheat of late years. In 1871 the bread eaters of the world numbered three hundred and seventy-five millions; to-day they number five hundred and seventeen millions. In spite of the ever increasing crop area of wheat, the point is gradually being reached when the world's production of wheat will not more than keep pace with the demand. While the production in the United States has doubled during the past thirty years, the tendency at the present time is not towards any continued expansion. At the same time the population of the United States is increasing tremendously, and the point will soon be reached when this great country will become an importing instead of an exporting country. Less than a century ago New York State was the chief wheat producing area of the United States, a fact that enabled Rochester to acquire the name of the "Flour

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