

Agriculture.

Agricultural Progress of Alberta.

“THE Twentieth Century is to be Canada's Century,” someone has said. It might, indeed, be called the century of the Canadian West. Unless the indications are misleading, a development will take place in this country within the lifetime of the present generation, such as has seldom, if ever, been seen before in any country. The word “west” has always had a certain attraction; the west has been the lodestone for the adventurous and progressive spirits of every age. But the popular idea of what constitutes the west has greatly changed. A hundred years ago our great grandfathers looked across the sea to this continent, any part of which was to them the great unknown west. Fifty years ago, the central plains of Iowa and Illinois were very far west, indeed. Twenty-five years ago the Dakotas and Manitoba were the goal of those who responded to the call “go west, young man.” To-day these are no longer the west. They have become old settled country, and the seeker for new worlds to conquer, agriculturally, has come to the last west in the great plains of Saskatchewan and Alberta. Beyond are the Mountains, behind are the crowded districts with high priced land, and back of all the huge and growing populations of the Old Land

and the American Republic seeking an outlet. Am I not right in saying that we are about to see a development such as it is hard to exaggerate?

The Province of Alberta being the most westerly and northerly part of the great prairie region, has been the last to come under the plough. True, her ideal climate has for some considerable time attracted the rancher. And his droves of cattle and horses have wandered summer and winter over the prairie for quite a few years. But the amount of land under crop has, until recently, been an almost negligible quantity. This is rapidly changing.

The realization of the extent of the good country to the north has been one of the features of this development. There is as much arable land lying north and west of Edmonton as people supposed lay north and west of Winnipeg twenty years ago. And the development of the former district in the next twenty years will be as great as has been that of the latter in the past. If you will look at a map of Canada you will see Peace River Crossing marked as a Hudson Bay Company fort on the Peace River in Northern Alberta. This point is about five hundred miles distant from Edmonton, three hundred west and two hundred north. One would suppose that this must be a