



W. D. TREGO'S 1900 OAT CROP NEAR GLEICHEN (110 BUSHELS TO THE ACRE).

garden truck, or other expensive crops, but the feeding and finishing of live stock and the development of dairying in all its branches. This has been the history of irrigation expansion everywhere in the United States. The proof of this contention is that out of the total irrigated acreage in crops in the United States at the time of the last decennial census, 64 per cent. was in hay and forage crops.

## SPECIAL FORAGE CROPS UNDER IRRIGATION.

**ALFALFA.**—The modern popularity of alfalfa lies in the fact that it is perhaps one of the oldest known forage crops, and yet it may be justly regarded as the agricultural revelation of the latter part of the last century, at least, on the Continent of America.

The most instructive data in regard to alfalfa that is applicable to Southern Alberta, may be obtained by studying the records of the State of Montana. The climatic and soil conditions of Southern Alberta are so much like those of Eastern and Central Montana, that it may almost be taken for granted that any plant growing successfully in those parts of Montana will be equally suited to the southern portion of the Province of Alberta.

Professor Emery, for many years Director of the Agricultural College of Bozeman, Montana, is responsible for the statement that alfalfa fields there have been cropped for sixteen consecutive years, and that this plant has been tested in almost every irrigated county in the State of Montana, and, as a rule, succeeds remarkably

well. In the lower parts of Montana, three crops are cut each season, and this has also been done in Southern Alberta. The yield runs from two to seven tons of hay per acre, depending on the condition of meadow, the stand, the water supply, etc. Four tons may be considered a fair estimate of the yield per acre. The average cost for cutting and stacking runs from 75 cents to 90 cents per ton.

The certainty of the irrigated lands of Southern Alberta producing alfalfa as a leading crop opens up a vista of possibilities in many directions. During the early years of settlement in this province, the claim was made that Alberta possessed all the natural conditions to make it one of the greatest live-stock countries of the world. When farmers invaded the ranchman's domain later on, and numerous crops of winter wheat and other coarse grains were successfully harvested, year after year, Alberta's fame as the foremost stock country faded, and the world henceforth knew it only as a great grain-producing district. The advent of irrigation and alfalfa growing will again bring the live-stock industry to the front rank in Southern Alberta; history thus repeating itself.

Where irrigated lands command the highest value per acre, and where the climate admits of the tender fruits being grown, alfalfa is still one of the leading crops, and greatly outranks in importance fruit growing and truck farming. It is not at present claimed that Southern Alberta will grow the more tender varieties of fruit, but it has been demonstrated beyond doubt that the irrigated lands here can and do produce alfalfa, which is regarded as being the more valuable and profitable crop in those states