

ing the richest herbage, pea vine and vetches found in great abundance, in addition to a great variety of other grasses, furnish the most nutritive grazing that can be desired. While the pure spring water, dry atmosphere and cool nights supply all the accessory requirements for the growth and development of this most important and profitable industry. With the facilities for transport now afforded this district by the building of the Calgary and Edmonton Railroad and the ever augmenting markets now opening in the mining districts right at hand, it is safe to predict that in the near future the dairying industry will be one of vast proportions and corresponding profit.

#### FUEL SUPPLY.

The fuel problem is solved by the fact that in addition to this district being fairly well wooded in all parts, and the upper waters of all the rivers being lined with dense forests extending far up among the foot-hills of the Rocky Mountains, the entire district is reported by the Geological Survey to be underlain with coal of excellent quality. Some banks through which the river has cut its channel showing a depth by actual measurement of 52 feet to the water's edge and continuing under the water. Though no coal is as yet operated, partly from the fact that as yet wood has been so abundant, there is little doubt that the Calgary and Edmonton Railroad will shortly develop these mines to supply the country south of 49.

#### VACANT LANDS.

Throughout this entire district there is yet abundant land open for homestead within a few miles of the rising town of Red Deer, which will constitute a central shipping point as well as the various stations along the railway now in course of construction, making a convenient market for the products of the country. The soil is everywhere of the best quality, and the climate offering upon the whole no more serious obstacle to successful agriculture than are to be found in some form or other in all agricultural countries old or new. It is a suggestive fact that no improved land is offering, so that a market price is difficult to fix, but it may be put down from \$2 to \$5 per acre for unimproved and from \$5 to \$20 for improved farms.

#### BUILDING MATERIAL.

There are vast supplies of timber for building, fencing, &c., in or adjacent to the district. Lumber of local manufacture can be had from \$14 to \$20 per thousand feet rough, and from \$22 to \$26 dressed. Shingles, \$3.50 per thousand. Unlimited quarries of splendid building stone (blue and grey) sand-stone all along the principal rivers and creeks.

#### WATER SUPPLY.

In not a solitary instance has there been a failure in obtaining an abundant supply of the purest spring water at an average depth of 23 feet.

For stock there are numerous small lakes and creeks, and in many places springs cropping out on the side of hills, running a short distance and disappearing.

These, with the main rivers, constitute an abundant supply of water for stock and domestic purposes.

#### MARKET PRICES.

Wheat, \$1; oats, 60 to 65c.; barley, 65 to 70c.; potatoes, 60c.; beef, 6 to 8c.; butter, 20 to 35c.

The local demand, by reason of influx of settlers: freight traffic on the northern trail, stage line, and mounted police, has been sufficient to consume the products, hitherto as the settlement of the district has only fairly begun, but the completion of the Calgary and Edmonton roads will open the markets of southern territories of the mountain region, besides affording easy access to the Pacific Coast from whence, *via* C.P.R. steamers, we may reach with our surplus products, the vast Empires of the East.