

most healthful countries in the world. There is an entire absence of malaria, and there are no diseases peculiar to the country. The central and southern parts of the province have a continental reputation for healthfulness, and are peculiarly favorable to persons with a tendency to weak lungs. Many who have lost hope of ever again being blessed with good health have found it in Alberta.

CEREAL CROPS IN ALBERTA.

WINTER WHEAT.—This cereal is the leading crop of Southern Alberta, and is also grown in the central part. The expansion of winter-wheat production in Southern Alberta constitutes one of the most far-reaching Canadian agricultural developments of recent years. Never in the history of Canada has any single crop in any part of the country come to the front with such giant strides as has winter wheat in Southern Alberta. In 1900 the area seeded to winter wheat was less than 500 acres. In 1901 it was very little over 1,000 acres; 1902, 3,500 acres; 1903, 8,300 acres; 1905, 32,000 acres; 1906, 43,660 acres; 1907, 84,000 acres; and in 1908, 104,500 acres. Taking as an example the district around Calgary, which is fairly representative of the whole of the winter-wheat area of Southern Alberta, we find the average yield of winter wheat since 1902 has been:—1902, 24 bushels per acre; 1903, 23½ bushels per acre; 1904, 28½ bushels; 1905, 32¼ bushels per acre; 1906, 26 bushels per acre; 1907, 21½ bushels per acre; 1908, 31.45 bushels per acre; and 1909, 27.30 bushels per acre. The average yield per acre for the whole of the United States is as follows: 1902, 14½ bushels per acre; 1903, 13 bushels per acre; 1904, 12½ bushels per acre; 1905, 14 bushels per acre; 1906, 15½ bushels per acre; and 1907, 14 bushels per acre.

In regard to quality, Southern and Central Alberta fears no competition. "Alberta Red" wheat is gradually becoming a standard. Wheat of this variety took the Gold Medal at the famous Portland Exhibition, in competition with the very choicest winter and spring wheats produced in the United States.

Alberta Red has secured many other awards, and we wish to call attention to the fact that for the last two years this premier wheat has carried off the championship at the Trans-Missouri Dry Farming Congress, and in a class open to the world.

Speaking of the 1908 wheat which secured the world's championship, Superintendent Fairfield, of Southern Alberta's Experimental Farm, has this to say: "When the sample was sent to Cheyenne, I had no idea of its being entered in the competition. I merely sent a sample of our Alberta Red, grown on non-irrigated land, to Dr. V. T. Cook, Chairman of the Exhibit Committee, as he wished Canada to be represented. The sample was not prepared for competition, but was taken at random from a 2,000-bushel bin that had been once put through a fanning mill since being threshed. The field yielded at the rate of 54 bushels to the acre."

W. C. McKillican, of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, seed branch, in speaking of 1909 Alberta Red securing the world's

championship, at the recent Congress held at Billings, Mont., said: "The wheat was a very ordinary sample, weighing only 64 lbs. to the bushel, and was not in any way equal in quality to the wheat securing the first prizes at our various local seed fairs."

The reader will, therefore, realize that the quality of our wheat must be vastly superior to wheat grown south of the line.

In 1909 the Alberta Provincial Seed Fair was held in Calgary, and the championship and Farm Crops Trophy for wheat was awarded to John C. Buckley, of Gleichen.

Winter wheat in Southern and Central Alberta is one of the safest crops grown, and gives uniform and satisfactory results. Winter wheat is produced on summer-fallowed land only, which ensures economy in time and labor. The crop ripens earlier than spring wheat, and its culture can be systematically pursued with the certainty that nothing will intervene to hinder each particular farming operation in good season.

By way of conveying information on the possibilities of winter-wheat production, it may be mentioned that Mr. C. Nathe, of Macleod, threshed 3,700 bushels from 60 acres of land, being at the rate of 64¼ bushels per acre. A. E. Burnett, some forty miles south of Calgary, recently threshed 4,280 bushels of winter wheat from 71 acres of land, or at the rate of 60¼ bushels per acre; and P. A. McAnally, near Crossfield, some twenty miles north of Calgary, threshed 596¼ bushels from nine acres, or at the rate of 66¼ bushels to the acre. Crops of from 48 to 55 bushels per acre are common, and a winter wheat crop of less than 35 bushels to the acre is not considered at all satisfactory. The price this year ranged from 92 cents to \$1.30 per bushel, delivered at the elevator.

SPRING WHEAT.—The prize wheat of the province at the Provincial Seed Fair in 1907 came from Southern Alberta, and the wheat which won first place at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893, was grown in the Peace River Valley, in Northern Alberta. When we consider that grain of such high quality can be grown at the extremities of the province, it speaks well for the possibilities of the crop throughout the whole land. It is grown successfully in all parts of the province, and each year sees a great increase in the area sown. The increased acreage sown to this crop for 1908 over 1907 was 52½ per cent., while for 1907 over 1906 it was 63½ per cent. The yields have been uniformly good, and when compared with those obtained in the neighboring states to the south of the line, have been uniformly higher. 21.27 bushels per acre over nine consecutive seasons is no mean average for the whole of the Province of Alberta. In 1898 the average yield was 25.27; in 1899 the average yield was 23.74; in 1901 it was 24.58; and in 1906, 23.07 bushels per acre.

OATS.—There is no section of the province where oats of the very highest quality cannot be produced successfully. The prize-winning sample of oats at the Paris Exposition was produced in Alberta. While the southern portion of the province has become famous as a section admirably adapted to growing a high quality of winter wheat, the central portion of the province has become equally well known as a district that grows large crops of a superior