

Alberta.

The District of Alberta has a total length from north to south of about 430 miles, and an average width from east to west of about 250 miles, containing an area of 106,100 square miles. The District is bounded on the east by the Districts of Assiniboia and Saskatchewan, on the south by the international boundary, on the west by the Province of British Columbia, and on the north by the District of Athabaska. Alberta comprises within its limits two divisions, showing marked distinctions in topographical and climatic conditions. The southern is an open, rolling country, devoid of timber, except along the streams and in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, while the northern half is more or less timbered throughout, the belts of timber being broken here and there by prairie openings, some of which are of considerable extent.

during the late summer months causing the native grasses to become cured on the ground, retaining their nutritive qualities in such a manner that stock pastured thereon remain fat all winter. Cold and stormy weather is, of course, experienced at times during the winter months, but the prevailing warm winds which blow from the west, locally known as Chinook winds, rapidly disperse any snow which falls, and for days at a time cause a rise in the thermometer to almost summer temperature.

RANCHING AND DAIRYING.

Southern Alberta is essentially a ranching and dairying country and offers unequalled opportunities for effort in these directions. The District is composed of high, open plains, broken by the valleys of numerous large streams which rise in the Rocky Mountains and flow to the east, the country becoming more or less rolling and hilly as the heads of these streams are



A Ten-Mile View in a Prairie and Wooded District of Western Canada.

The advantages which the northern and southern portions of the District offer to the intending settler are so diverse in character that it is customary to speak of them separately, as "Northern Alberta" and "Southern Alberta."

SOIL AND CLIMATE.

The soil of Alberta is, as a whole, a rich, alluvial loam. In places gravel and sandy ridges occur, but in the valleys the accumulated silt deposit of ages has produced a soil of the richest kind and of great depth.

The climate of Southern Alberta is one of its most attractive features, the winters being mild, with very little snow, and the summers hot and dry. The rainfall in this section is small, averaging about twelve inches in the year, and while this amount of precipitation is not sufficient to insure good crops in the majority of years, the aridity of the District constitutes its chief factor of value as a grazing country, the absence of rainfall

approached. The valleys and bench lands produce a most luxuriant and nutritious growth of native grasses, chief among which is the far-famed "bunch grass." Cattle, horses, and sheep graze outside during the whole year, and hay is easily and cheaply secured for weak stock. With good management, the profits to stockmen are large, \$40 and \$50 per head being paid for steers on the ranges last year. Large bands of young stock are annually brought in from Eastern Canada and some of the Western United States, to be fattened on the ranges, the profits being sufficiently large to amply pay for reshipment, after fattening, to European and other eastern markets. Mixed farming is successfully carried on somewhat generally.

Dairying is carried on with great success, the country being pre-eminently fitted for it. To a wide range of the best wild pasture are added an abundant water supply and shading and sheltering groves of trees. During the summer season the averages are for each cow, four and one-half gallons of milk per day, and six and one-half pounds of butter per week.