



HEADGATES ON MAIN CANAL ON BOW RIVER.

FARMING ON THE CROP INSURANCE PLAN.

An examination of the rainfall tables presented in this folder will reveal the fact that there is a sufficient precipitation every year to successfully mature cereal crops such as winter wheat. But with the increase of population and prosperity more scientific methods of farming were naturally discovered and utilized, and the general introduction of irrigation marks an epoch in the history of Southern Alberta. As a matter of fact, farmers are not satisfied with returns more or less in accordance with the accident of rainfall, but are aiming at perfection in the development and maturity of their crops. It would therefore appear to be a sinful waste not to utilize the means which have been placed at the disposal of settlers in districts favored with an adequate water supply to supplement the efforts of nature. Having water available in his ditch or reservoir, the irrigation farmer is able to distribute it on his crop at such season of the year and in such quantities as experience has taught him are the most propitious to favorable results. He is not at the mercy of the weather. The contention of the experienced irrigationist is, that those farmers cultivating without the aid of irrigation in any portion of the world where water supply by gravity can be economically secured are playing an unskillful game of hazard in trusting solely to the bounty of nature and omitting to take such precautions as have been placed at their command. The irrigation farmer, on the other hand, controls his water supply absolutely, and has, other things being equal, a crop assured beyond all peradventure. In Southern

Alberta the farmer is able to ensure his crop against drought just as effectually as he insures his life. Both are designed to protect the prudent farmer and his family against losses from uncontrollable causes.

SIMPLICITY OF IRRIGATION FARMING.

Irrigation farming is simplicity itself. The most successful community of irrigation farmers in Southern Alberta to-day is one composed wholly of settlers who never saw an irrigated farm before they came to the province. To irrigate land does not require any more skill than it does to plow or harvest a crop, and, contrary to the general idea, irrigation farming is not only scientific farming but "business" farming.

The great irrigation development in Western North America has been the result of the efforts of people who migrated from the East and the Middle West, with no knowledge of irrigation.

The sprinkling of a lawn, the watering of a plant, is irrigation in its simplest form. Without it the lawns and parks, which give to the city life a touch of nature's beauties, would be devoid of all that makes them attractive.

ANIMAL HUSBANDRY.

In studying the economic side of irrigation, the first fact that must be clearly grasped is, that the backbone and foundation of any irrigation enterprise is not the production of either fruits,