

in Alberta average from 40 to 48 lbs. per measured bushel; therefore, the yield of oats, if given by weight, would be at least one-fifth to two-fifths greater, bringing the average estimated yield for 1906 up to fully 50 bushels per acre."

Oats.

Oats give large yields and are of first quality. It is no uncommon thing for a farmer to harvest 90 and even 100 bushels of oats to the acre, and not a few instances are recorded in which the yield has been 115 bushels to the acre, weighing from 40 to 48 lbs. to the bushel. Oats are always in demand, and at prices ranging from 30 cents to 60 cents a bushel. British Columbia lumber and mining camps make large demands on Alberta farmers for oats.

The only oats raised in Western Canada last year that graded No. 1 White on the Winnipeg Grain Exchange were grown on the farm of John McEwen, in the heart of this company's irrigation block at Gleichen.

Barley.

Conditions for the raising of barley are almost perfect here, and the quality and yields are of an exceptional character. In fact, the grain is of such a superior quality that the farmers of this part of Southern Alberta have a standing offer from the grain buyers of 10 cents a bushel in excess of the prevailing market price. The greatest yield reported for 1907 was that of John McEwen, at Gleichen, who raised 91 bushels to the acre. This was an exceptionally heavy crop, but 50 to 60 bushels to the acre is no uncommon yield in this district.

The irrigated lands of the Gallatin Valley, Montana, have become famous for the quality of barley produced there, particularly for the high percentage of malt and the color and superior quality of the beer produced from this malt. For this reason the barley grown there finds a ready market in European countries, and is contracted for in advance of its harvest. The barley grown here is fully equal to that raised in the Gallatin Valley and commands an equally high price. While in the past it has been grown with great profit the production has been limited. As irrigated land furnishes ideal conditions for its growth and an absolute assurance not only of a high grade yield but of a uniform and thorough maturity of the germinating qualities of the grain, combined with light color, which is an essential qualification, there is no doubt but it will be one of the staple crops on this company's irrigated lands.

Flax.

This part of the Province is to-day the banner flax growing section of Canada; the soil and climate are exactly suited to the production of the maximum amount of seed, and of the tallest, cleanest and brightest straw. With the successful solution of a new process of making linen from flax straw, this crop promises to be one of great profit, as under irrigation the yield of seed and the quantity and quality of the straw reach their highest development and perfection. The Government report for 1906 gives the average yield in Alberta as 14.34 bushels to the acre. Compare this average with that of North Dakota, the State that leads in American flax production, and you will be convinced that Alberta is all right for flax. The average in North Dakota for 1905 was 11.6 bushels to the acre. The average yield for the district of Calgary is 28.64 bushels an acre.

Field Peas.

The field pea grown in the Bow River Valley, owing to the climatic conditions and long hours of sunshine in Alberta, is a small, hard, round pea; not at all like the "cow," "clay" or "whippoorwill" pea, grown so extensively in the South.

These peas can be fed to sheep in the field from the vine all winter and also make an excellent feed for hogs. They make a sweeter and firmer perk than does corn. Western Canada is absolutely free from the ravages of the pea weevil, and will be called upon to supply the seed for the farmers of the East.

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.

The most attractive feature of the alfalfa field is its lasting qualities. Near the city of Mexico fields are in existence that have been constantly cropped and never reseeded for upwards of three hundred years. Alfalfa has not yet reached the point in Alberta where it may be considered a leading crop. In fact, as this crop can be successfully produced only under irrigation, and as irrigation development on a large scale is of somewhat recent origin in Southern Alberta, it follows that our experience with alfalfa is limited. It has, however, been demonstrated beyond the slightest doubt, that alfalfa is a most successful crop in Alberta, and can be grown in abundance on the irrigated lands here.

The most instructive data in regard to alfalfa that is applicable to Southern Alberta, may be obtained by studying the