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The Grain Grower's Guide

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Agricultural Demonstration in the Bow Valley of Alberta

IT IS said and truly, that those who make two blades of grass, or two ears of corn, or two heads of wheat grow where only one grew before are public benefactors.

Such in a sense, is the task that the Canadian Pacific Railway Company has taken upon itself in operating its demonstration farms which are located at various points in the Bow Valley, chief among these farms being those located at Strathmore, Cassils, Lathom, Brooks, Bassano and Tilley.

A number of farms which have been recently established in the eastern and central section of the irrigation block are located in sections where irrigation is not available, and a soil culture system will be adopted which is calculated to

our experimental stations will be tried each year. The various acre plots will be carefully labelled so that visitors to the farm may readily compare the different varieties of growing grain. Apart from our 26-acre plot of alfalfa we will, in addition, prepare seventy-five acres for alfalfa this year, but it is not our purpose to sow same until the spring of 1911, as it is absolutely necessary to have this ground in the best shape possible."

While the staff employed upon the various demonstration farms are there primarily for the development of these farms and to demonstrate the best system

others, at length decided that some action must be taken that would permit of the securing of supplies from some central depot. This resulted in the Canadian Pacific Irrigation Colonization Company purchasing, for the Strathmore Farm, a large dairy herd, erecting a cow barn of the most approved type and the building of a dairy of a size and equipment permitting of their handling all their own cream which they may be able to secure from the farmers residing in the Strathmore district. A poultry department was also established together with a truck garden. The success attending

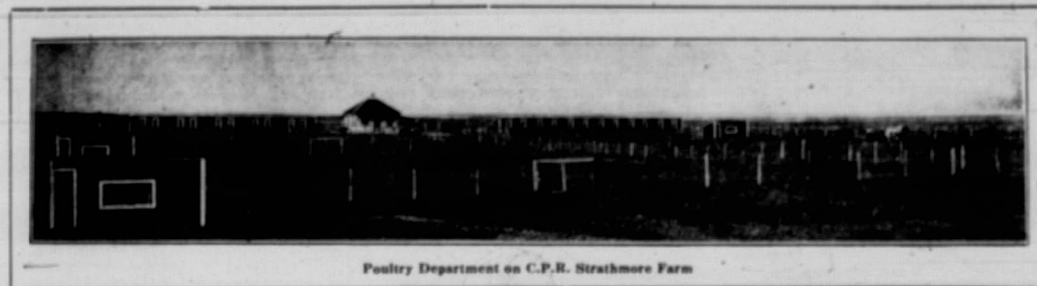
this venture has been very pronounced and the convenience so great that it has been decided to operate the supply farm, during the 1910 season, on a much larger scale than hitherto.

During the summer some twelve acres will be devoted to the production of all manner of vegetables and in this way the dining car and hotel department will be enabled to secure a supply of fresh vegetables at all seasons.

The equipment of the poultry department consists of a group of buildings of the most approved design. The main laying house is 120 feet long, 12 feet wide and divided into six pens, each to accommodate 50 laying hens. These houses all have a southern exposure. The birds selected were chosen with the double object of obtaining a good-sized brown egg and at the same time providing a high class table fowl. For this purpose White and Barred Plymouth Rock, White Wyandotte, Buff Orpington and Light Brahmas have been selected. The hatching of chicks will be continued throughout the year so that when one lot of birds is disposed of, another will take its place in the fattening crate. The large incubator house will have a capacity of 3,000 eggs weekly.

With a view to assisting settlers in the Bow Valley to create a home surrounded with beautiful trees the company has, in their nursery on the Strathmore farm, some 150,000 young trees and they have on order at the present time, 10,000 white pine, 10,000 white spruce, 10,000 native larch, 10,000 European larch. These trees will be planted in carefully prepared ground with a view to distributing among settlers desiring same.

The operation of these farms, therefore, serves many purposes. They give the farmer an opportunity to beautify his home, they demonstrate the possibilities of irrigation and the most approved method of dry farming. In fact, it is generally admitted that these farms will very materially increase the returns that agriculturists will secure, and in this way the Canadian Pacific will meet with success in the completion of their self-imposed task.



Poultry Department on C.P.R. Strathmore Farm

conserve the moisture resulting from natural rainfall. In this way the wonderful possibilities of the non-irrigable areas in these districts will be intelligently demonstrated. The company is, by this means, demonstrating to the residents of the Bow Valley just what methods should be employed in order to secure maximum crops. The Strathmore Farm now named the Canadian Pacific Railway Demonstration and Supply Farm is the most extensive of these farms and consequently demands the attention of the writer.

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company attach very great importance to this farm, which fact was proven when it was announced that, last year, over \$25,000 was expended in adding to its equipment. This expenditure has equipped a farm which, it is admitted, will influence the entire agriculture of southern Alberta. On the first of January Prof. W. J. Elliott, of the department of dairying, Montana Agricultural College, gave up his chair in that institution and took charge of this farm, arranging at the same time to act in an advisory capacity to the superintendents of the various other demonstration farms that the company is operating.

In speaking of the experimental work to be carried on, Prof. Elliott says: "This year we will have experimental plots, each an acre in extent, and on each of these plots will be grown a particular variety of wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, etc. The seed for each of these acre plots will be carefully handpicked during the winter. In addition to this, each acre will have our most careful attention during the growing period so that all weeds are completely eradicated. By this means, each year, we will have an acre of pure seed of the varieties most suited to the district. This seed will be used for the purpose of sowing our larger fields, and in this way we will be able to supply seed that will be as nearly weed free as it is possible to produce. Only the very best varieties, as gathered from



Part of Dairy Herd in Alfalfa Field on C.P.R. Strathmore Farm

of agriculture applicable to the district, it is well to draw the attention of the reader to the fact that the company desires all settlers to realize that part of the duty of the employees on these farms is to give information and to offer any assistance to incoming settlers, provided they can do so without interfering to any extent with their duties on the farm.

It may be well to draw attention to the fact that the company has attached to their staff a competent irrigationist whose duty it is to assist resident land owners in the laying out of their farm water distributing system. It was only after a very lengthy search that the company secured a man competent to handle this work, but in their present instructor they have one who has had life long experience with irrigation. His services may be obtained by the settler and at no charge.

Besides operating the demonstration farms the company, last year, found it necessary to lay their plans for the building up of a large supply farm on their Strathmore holding. The company regretted that such action was necessary but the management of the dining car and hotel departments in the west, after an earnest endeavor to secure the required supplies from dealers, farmers and



Oat Crop of 1909 on C.P.R. Strathmore Farm