

of a good surface soil is neutralized in proportion as the sub-soil is inferior. The worth of a soil and sub-soil cannot be measured in acres. The measure of its value is the amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash which it contains; in other words, its producing power. Viewed from this standpoint, these lands are a heritage of untold value. One acre of average soil in the Northwest is worth more than twenty acres of average soil along the Atlantic seaboard. The man who tills the former can grow twenty successive crops without much diminution in the yields, whereas the person who tills the latter must pay the vendor of fertilizers half as much for materials to fertilize an acre as would buy the same in the Canadian Northwest, in order to grow a single remunerative crop."

Climate

Climate is a matter of vast importance to every person looking for a new home. Some will brave the rigorous winter of the Klondike or the parching desert of the "Death Valley" in the hope of quickly amassing sufficient wealth there to leave these inhospitable conditions behind and to settle down to enjoy life amidst more congenial surroundings. These, however, are not homeseekers.

Climate is very much a "matter of opinion," and it is a blessing that opinions differ. Otherwise the whole population of the earth would attempt to crowd into a few favored spots, and those who could not find room to dwell within the scope of the "ideal" climate, would have to be content with unhappiness elsewhere. Contrast is the spice of life. Human beings, and crops as well, for their own best good, must have a variable climate, an agreeable interchange of sunshine and cloudy weather, warm and cool weather. Such a climate has Southern Alberta, which is located further south than London, The Hague, Amsterdam, Cologne, Berlin and Dresden.

The colonization campaign of Western Canada has been fought largely on a basis of climate. Such was likewise the early history of the New England States when, in centuries gone by, the large British and Dutch trading corporations opened up these states for colonization and encountered all sorts of absurd superstition and prejudice in regard to the nature of the climate. History repeated itself further west, as it does in all new countries, and Southern Alberta is no exception to the rule. The most grotesque ideas are often entertained by people who do not know the country, and these erroneous impressions must be removed.

Some seven or eight years ago, Calgary had a population of perhaps three or four thousand souls. Three banks were



Oats in the Irrigation Block.