

Canadian Pacific Railway

and substantial farm buildings. Speaking of her experiences, Mrs. Gorrell said:

"I consider this the best country on earth. We have had three crops and never had a single failure. We would not go back to Washington on any account. Of course we miss the fruit, but we are experimenting with small fruits and feel sure that they will grow here. I, for one, am perfectly content to spend the rest of my life here."

In the Ponoka district, Jacob Beck relates a similar story of increasing prosperity. He came a few years ago from Minnesota, having also farmed in Indiana and Dakota. He has now 250 acres of land under cultivation, and two years ago threshed over 7,000 bushels, his oats on new breaking, going over 100 bushels to the acre. He says:

"Although I started with very little, I have cleared, apart from my living, over \$1,000 a year for every year I have been here, which is more than I could do in the Western States, although I worked hard.

"This is a fine country for vegetables. I have taken prizes at the Ponoka Fair for cabbage for the past few years, this year's prize cabbage weighing forty pounds."

Records such as these are repeated from every district in Central Alberta. In the district of Lacombe, Mr. P. A. Switzer tells of having come from Ontario several years ago with less than \$1,000. To-day he owns a section of land, well fenced, and nearly all under cultivation. His farm buildings are models of neatness and comfort and he owns a fine herd of registered Shorthorns. He estimates his holdings as being worth at least \$25,000.

The Lacombe district is famous as a centre for pure-bred cattle, and has annually captured an enviable proportion of the prizes awarded at the Dominion and Provincial exhibitions. A sale of pure-bred stock is held annually at Lacombe under the joint auspices of the Alberta Department of Agriculture and the Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association.

Part IV.

INFORMATION CONCERNING THE "IRRIGATION BLOCK."

In the year 1894, the Dominion Government withdrew from sale and homestead entry a tract of land containing some millions of acres located in Southern Alberta, east of the City of Calgary, along the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The object of this reservation was to provide for the construction ultimately of an irrigation system, to cover the fertile Bow River Valley. It was realized that such a project could only be successfully accomplished by so administering the lands embraced within the tract in question that the promoters would not be hampered by any vested interests created by transfer from the Government of any of these lands. This tract was transferred to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company as part of its land grant upon their undertaking to construct gigantic irrigation systems, which now utilize the waters of the Bow River to irrigate the land in this reserve. From the fact that the main and branch lines of the Canadian Pacific Railway traverse the tract throughout its entire length and breadth, it will be realized that these lands are amongst the most desirable in America to-day; not alone from a standpoint of quality, but also on account of location, proximity to markets, and to all the social and educational advantages to be found in big cities. The project, the greatest on the American continent, is now being pushed to completion, and comprises three million acres of the best agricultural lands in the Bow River Valley now open for colonization. The tract has an average width of forty miles north and south and extends for 150 miles to the east of Calgary. It is bounded on the southwest by the Bow River and on the north-east by the Red Deer River.

THE "COMBINATION" FARM.

While it has been clearly demonstrated that the winter-wheat land in Southern Alberta is of the richest soil to be found, and, without the aid of irrigation, is producing maximum crops, there is, taken in connection with the production of winter wheat on non-irrigable lands, a still more attractive and profitable opening for the new settler—the purchase of a "combination farm."

The Canadian Pacific Railway Company's Irrigation Block contains about equal proportions of irrigable and non-irrigable areas, and offers to the purchaser an opportunity to engage in mixed farming under almost ideal conditions. Here can be secured in the same quarter section, side by side, land lying above the canal system for the production of winter wheat and the grazing of live stock, and irrigable land for other crops, such as alfalfa, barley, vegetables, etc., requiring abundant moisture. For farm purposes there is a never failing supply of water, which ensures crops when the seed is placed in the ground, while the problem of a constant supply of water in every pasture for the use of the live stock is also solved.

The irrigated portions of the land will raise all kinds of grain and root crops and a sufficient supply of fodder for winter feeding.

The non-irrigated sections will grow winter wheat or furnish the finest pasture for live stock to be found in the world.

Combination farms in this block may perhaps be regarded as one of the best agricultural propositions on the North American Continent.