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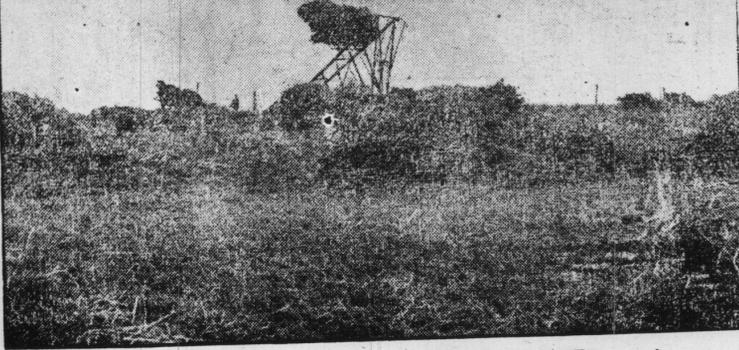
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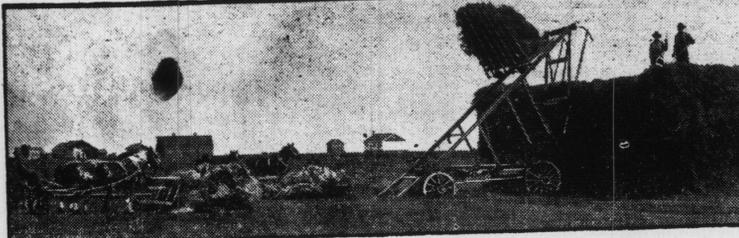
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Stacking alfalfa in the Central Farm, Van Horne Colony at Coaldale, Alberta. The Van Horne is one of the Colonies for returned soldiers established by the C. P. R. in Alberta.

It is no exaggeration to say that fortunes are being made in Southern Alberta to-day with alfalfa. With this crop selling at \$30 a ton and yields of four tons to the acre being harvested, it is easy to see that large sums of money are being obtained from this crop.

One farmer at Coaldale in the Lethbridge Irrigation District, this year harvested no less than 54 tons of alfalfa hay on twenty acres of irrigated land at the first cutting. This hay he sold at the price of \$30 per ton in the stack, realizing \$1620 to the acre. The second crop on this land was almost, if not quite, as good, and there is every probability that a third crop will be harvested. It is safe to say that the returns from these twenty acres of land this year will be between \$160 and \$170 to the acre.

The case quoted in the previous paragraph is not an isolated one. Other farmers in the same district have crops equally as good, though no doubt such yields are somewhat above the average. Most of the other larger fields, however, much larger fields. Altogether there are about fifteen thousand acres in alfalfa in the Lethbridge Irrigation District this year. Two cuttings had been made on most of the fields before the end of August. The average yield from the two cuttings for the whole of the fifteen thousand acres was well over three tons to the acre, and it is safe to say that with the third cutting the average yield will be at least four tons to the acre. The farmers in this district will, therefore, get a return this season from their alfalfa crops alone of nearly two million dollars.

But the Lethbridge District is not the only part of Southern Alberta where alfalfa can be grown. It is being grown equally successfully in various parts of the large irrigation block operated by the Canadian Pacific Railway east of Calgary. Both in the Eastern and Western sections of the block farmers are growing alfalfa and obtaining yields of four tons of alfalfa to the acre and more during the season.

One man north of Brooks, Alberta, has the whole of his 160 acre farm, with the exception of a small place for his buildings, in alfalfa. Last year he cleared between \$14,000 and \$16,000 from this crop. This year his returns will probably be greater because if anything, his crop is larger, and the price of alfalfa hay is ruling higher.

The growth of alfalfa in Southern Alberta is certain to have an enormous influence in the development of the Province. It has been proved that it will grow anywhere throughout the irrigated area. There are still thousands of acres of land suitable for the successful growth of this crop available, but settlement is proceeding very rapidly and gaining impetus every year. The irrigation systems at present in operation are designed to supply water to approximately 940,000 acres of land. This year about 150,000 acres of irrigated land were producing crops. These crops were mostly grain, wheat, oats, barley and flax—a large number of the settlers being new, and as yet their land is not in shape for growing alfalfa, which requires that the soil be thoroughly disintegrated for best results.

But when the development reaches the state of development that has been reached in the Lethbridge District, in which 15,000 acres out of 100,000 acres of irrigable land are growing alfalfa, there will be an enormous production of this crop. On this basis about 141,000 acres out of the 940,000 acres would be producing alfalfa. Taking an average yield of three tons to the acre, which is one ton less than the average this year, it means that 423,000 tons of alfalfa hay, worth at present prices \$14,690,000, would be grown.

Experts tell us, however, that we should develop our irrigated farms on a ten year rotation plan with one-half of the land in alfalfa each year. With the 940,000 acres developed in this manner, there would be upwards of 450,000 acres of alfalfa grown on this irrigated land. Averaging the yield of three tons to the acre we should have a crop of 1,350,000 tons of hay. This production would make Alberta one of the greatest winter cattle feeding countries on the continent.

The story is not finished, however. The fine crops that have been grown on the irrigated land throughout Southern Alberta have stimulated the desire of thousands of other farmers already settled in this part of the West to have irrigation for their lands so that they can grow alfalfa too. They are now organizing into irrigation districts for the purpose of securing water for their land. With the organization of these districts and the establishment of irrigation systems, it is estimated that there will be approximately another half million acres of land brought under irrigation. With half of these lands growing alfalfa, another 750,000 tons of hay would be grown in Southern Alberta, bringing the total to over two million tons a year.

Alfalfa has already made fortunes for many farmers on irrigated land in Southern Alberta. But its cultivation is still in its infancy. Before many years have elapsed with the severity of this crop grown increased manifold, many more fortunes will have been made. Its influence on the future prosperity of Southern Alberta and of the West generally cannot be estimated at the present time, but it will assuredly be very great.



Stony Indian Camp, Banff, where the Prince was made Chief of Tribe, named "Chief Morning Star"



Children Make Flower Path for Prince at Victoria

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