



Barley under the "Crop Insurance Plan."

" Crossing the railway track, we drove to the Company's Farm (Sec. XV.), and inspected the soil at a number of points upon it and as far south as the Secondary Irrigation Canal 'A.' The surface soil, apparently similar in all respects to that north of the railway track. * * * Following east from Langdon along the Blackfoot trail the soil was examined in four places between Langdon and the canal, between Sections 6 and 7, Tp. 23, Rg. 25. The soil throughout was extremely uniform in character. * * * After crossing the ditch an examination was made in N.E. Quarter Section 6, Tp. 23, Rg. 25, where the same heavy black loam prevailed.

" * * * Driving north-east towards Strathmore an examination was made on Sec. 29, Tp. 23, Rg. 25, and no change of mark could be noticed either in soil or subsoil.

" One examination was made east of Gleichen, on a breaking about half a mile from the village. Here there was a depth of fully eight inches of heavy black soil underlaid by a chocolate colored clay.

" Bearing in mind the lighter character of the soil in the neighborhood of Strathmore, it will be observed that the surface soil along the whole route travelled presented a certain well marked uniformity, more particularly noticeable in humus-content (as judged by the color) and depth. This con-

stitutes a distinguishing feature of prairie lands. A more detailed and extended survey might show a greater variation than was noticed, and possibly analysis might disclose differences not otherwise detectable, but as far as our examination allows a judgment, it would appear that the whole area traversed is overlaid by a surface soil rich in humus and plant food and bearing all the signs of a highly productive soil if provided with adequate moisture."

(Signed),

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Chemist.

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The following extracts from a report by Prof. Shaw, Editor of the "Orange Judd Farmer," considered one of the foremost agricultural experts of America, will be of interest:—

" The first foot of soil in Western Canada is its greatest natural heritage. It is worth all the mines in the mountains from Alaska to Mexico, and more than all the forests from the United States boundary to the Arctic Sea, vast as these are.

" And next in value to its heritage is the three feet of soil which lies underneath the first. The sub-soil is only secondary in value to the soil, for without a good sub-soil the value