



The New Settler is Usually a Grain Grower. Less Capital is Required and Returns are Quick. Wheat on irrigated land, near Brooks, Alberta.

An Evolution in Agricultural Development

What Were Once Side Issues With Western Farmers Are Becoming the Main Issues

By R. J. C. Stead, Calgary.

MANY of our large industries have developed along lines altogether different from what may be called their main line. Through the utilization of by-products, or the adoption of some improved form of working, branch industries have sprung up, which have eventually assumed an importance far greater than that which brought the business into existence. Every day new uses for by-products are being brought to light and the adoption of newer machinery or methods leads to the establishment of branches that at first glance appear to be altogether foreign to the main industry, as witness the case of a packing firm building up a business in mattresses.

Though not an exact parallel, the agricultural development of Western Canada promises to be in many respects similar to the development of many of the world's large industrial concerns. Excepting the large cattle ranchers, the first real settlers of the Canadian West were engaged in one branch of farming which dominated everything else—the growing of grain. In time other branches gradually came into prominence, challenging the main branch in importance. The country began to export large quantities of beef, mutton and pork, of butter, cheese and wool; its pure-bred horses and cattle are beginning to create a name for themselves far beyond its borders. The improvement of conditions by artificial means—such as the irrigating of large tracts of fertile lands that were somewhat deficient in rainfall—is also increasing the possibilities of the country and opening the way to the practice to a larger extent of branches of farming that have hitherto been little followed. Under irrigation in Southern Alberta alfalfa is grown as successfully as anywhere on the continent. Experience is showing that other crops can be grown with equal success on a commercial scale under irrigation, and with its development will come a great change in the aspect of the country.

The production of wheat and other grains was, and is still, the dominant agricultural effort of the country. Because on the prairies of Western Canada larger and better crops of wheat can be grown than anywhere else on the American continent, thousands of settlers were attracted from all parts of the world. After a time, these settlers branched out into other lines. They went in for horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. They found that just as a superior quality of grain grew in this country, so a superior type of animal would thrive here. Dairying began to flourish; the packing industry to thrive. From being an importing country, drawing most of its needs from outside, Western Canada soon began to produce sufficient not only for its own requirements but to supply a large export demand as well. The dairying and the packing industries are still growing. There are signs that they will eventually assume an importance equally as great as that of the main industry—the growing of wheat. The production of wool is also an important industry, expanding steadily from year to year, and promising to take its place in the very forefront of the country, for the farmers of Western Canada now know that they can produce wool as profitably as farmers in any other part of the world, and they are increasing their output as fast as sheep can be obtained.

Irrigation Farming.

Some parts of the country, yielding moderate crops of grain in years of normal rainfall, were found to give exceptionally heavy crops in years of abundant moisture. At considerable expense these



Alberta Tomatoes on Irrigated Land.

These tomatoes were grown at Lethbridge, Alberta. From the end of July to the time when the photo was taken on September 17th, two acres had yielded an average daily picking of 600 lbs. How many hundred dollars was the crop worth for the season?



The Pioneer Live Stock Men of the West were the Ranchers. Now Cattle are Owned in Greater Numbers on Diversified Farms.

Cattle on range at Cochrane, Alberta.

districts were put under irrigation, in order that maximum crops of grain might be harvested every year. The faith of the originators of the scheme has not been misplaced. Now years of meagre rainfall have no tremors for farmers in these districts. They are assured of ample returns every year. Not only are large crops of grain grown regularly, but a greater variety of crops are being raised. The large crops of fodder—alfalfa, clovers, roots, and grasses—obtainable will maintain an enormous number of live stock. In the feeding of cattle and lambs over winter there are wonderful opportunities in the irrigated districts of Alberta. The lamb industry is one that has not developed so rapidly in Canada as it has in the United States, due, no doubt, to a large extent to the difference in taste of the Canadian people; but considerable development in this phase of farming may be looked for, since the success of those farmers who have followed the enterprise shows how profitably it can be practised. The enormous crops and the variety of vegetables grown will lead to the establishment of canneries. In the production of honey on the large fields of alfalfa and clovers only a beginning has been made, but this beginning shows how great the possibilities are in this direction.

Western Canada no longer carries all her eggs in one basket. Just as the development of additional branches of industry is a great advantage to the manufacturer, enabling him better to tide over difficulties in time of depression, so the adaptability of the Canadian prairies to a great diversification of farming, and the development of all these phases, will ensure unbroken prosperity to the country.

Satisfactory Results on Many Farms

With Two Illustrations—By T. G. Raynor

FEED producing and grain growing have been so very profitable this year on many farms that it is quite a common thing in the fancy pea and alsike seed producing localities to hear of farmers getting from \$500 to over \$3,000 for these crops alone. This has been made possible because of the yields and long prices. Yields of from 30 to 40 bushels of peas is quite common and from nine to fourteen bushels of alsike seed per acre. Peas at \$2 a bushel and alsike at \$12 to \$13.75 a bushel, as it comes from the machine, seems counts up. We wonder then that one man's alsike returned him \$161 per acre, and another \$155.

Just to give some idea of what good clay farms did this year under good management, there recently came to my notice a farmer living near Cobden, Ont., who bought a 100-acre farm seven years ago, or which the former owner could scarcely make a living. This year the present owner has for sale 505 bushels of peas at \$2.75 a bushel, \$1,387.50; 700 bushels wheat at \$2.12 a bushel, \$1,484; 1,000 bushels oats at 75¢ a bushel, \$750. Besides that he has six acres beans and a car load of hay to sell, besides his seed grain and enough for the stock he carries. This was grown on 50 acres of land and will figure out well over \$4,000, or an average of over \$50 an acre. A neighbor on 60 acres of land has 500 bushels of peas at \$2.75, \$1,375; 500 bushels wheat at \$2.12, \$1,060, and 900 bushels oats at 75¢, \$675, to sell, which amounts to \$3,110, or about \$52 an acre. At this rate of production farmers should gladly pay an income tax on returns of \$3,000 and over.

(Note:—It is net income over \$3,000 that is taxable. From the gross income must be subtracted all the running expenses of the farm with a suitable allowance for depreciation of equipment and buildings.—Editor.)