

Ranching, in Southern Alberta, is carried on without much labor; horses graze all winter, but cattle in stormy weather require to be rounded up and fed to avoid loss. Horses seem perfectly indifferent to the weather. I have seen them, with the thermometer a long way below zero, gallop off with their tails over their backs, kicking, jumping, and playing like school-boys let out for a holiday. Cold does not affect them in the least.

The seasons vary a good deal. In 1900, Spring came in very early: grass in the beginning of April was fetlock deep and was more forward than in June last year, but there is never any shortage. The old grass holds till the new comes in, though the stock do better when the Spring is early.

The climate and soil of Northern Alberta are better adapted to mixed farming. The land is very fertile, moisture abundant: 120 bushels of oats have been grown to the acre, though, of course, that is not an average. Edmonton and vicinity will become a great dairy country. I believe better butter and cheese can be made in Alberta than in any part of this continent. The air being so dry and pure, and the feed so nutritious, roots of all kinds can be grown to perfection without manure and with little cultivation. In Southern Alberta roots are successfully grown and winter wheat is a safe and plentiful crop, 60 bushels to the acre with good cultivation is common, and if this ever becomes a farming country it will be through the cultivation of this cereal.

TO BE CONCLUDED NEXT MONTH