

would grade number one in this market, which, commercially, is an almost unknown quality. Many here were aware that experiments in growing winter varieties of wheat had been made in the great Canadian North-West, but few were aware of the results. The samples excited a good deal of interest, and several parties expressed a desire to own land producing such a quality of grain."

In looking for seed wheat suitable to the climate of Southern Alberta "Kansas Turkey Red" was selected as the wheat best fitted for this country. A carload of it was imported, it was sown and a new variety of wheat was brought forth. The wheat grown here, under different climatic conditions, developed into a No. 1 hard, and has been given the name of "Alberta Red." That it is a superior quality of wheat is attested by the fact that wheat grown in Southern Alberta from this seed, in competition with winter wheat from all parts of the United States, received the highest award, the gold and the bronze medals at the Portland Exposition held in 1905.

Winter Wheat is now the leading crop of Southern Alberta's unirrigated lands. The expansion of winter wheat production in Southern Alberta constitutes one of the most far reaching Canadian agricultural developments of recent years. Never in the history of Canada has any single crop in any part of the country come to the front with such giant strides as has winter wheat in Southern Alberta. In 1901 the

area seeded to winter wheat was less than 500 acres. In 1902 it was very little over 1,000 acres; 1903, 3,500 acres; 1904, 8,000 acres; 1905, 32,000 acres; 1906, 61,500 acres; in 1907, 84,000 acres; and in 1908, 104,500 acres.

The district around Calgary is fairly representative of the whole of the winter wheat area of Southern Alberta. We find there that the average yield of winter wheat since 1902 has been: 1902, 24 bushels per acre; 1903, 23½ bushels per acre; 1904, 28½ bushels per acre; 1905, 32¼ bushels per acre; 1906, 26 bushels per acre; and 1907, 21½ bushels per acre. The average yield per acre for the whole of the United States for the same years are as follows: 1902, 14½ bushels per acre; 1903, 13 bushels per acre; 1904, 12½ bushels per acre; 1905, 14½ bushels per acre; 1906, 15½ bushels per acre; and 1907, 14 bushels per acre.

Average yields never do a country justice, because the short crop of the poor, shiftless farmer cuts down the average yield of his more wide awake and prosperous neighbor. And average yields are particularly unfair to Alberta, where not alone is the average greatly reduced by incompetent farmers (largely so through their ignorance of conditions and their calling), but because the country is new and much of the wheat is put in on first breaking and poorly prepared ground.

In the spring of 1905 Southern Alberta had an elevator capacity of 230,000 bushels, and a milling capacity of 450



Traffic Bridge over an Irrigation Canal