



ALFALFA AND PROS

If there is one crop more than another on which the prosperity of a country may be firmly established, it is alfalfa—the king of fodder crops. This wonderful crop has been the foundation of successful irrigation agriculture in the United States, and history is now repeating itself in Canada.

In Southern Alberta already an important alfalfa growing district—government reports show that there were 30,500 acres in this crop this year—farmers are using more and more of their irrigated lands every year for the growing of this valuable fodder, and it is only a question of time when the irrigable lands of Southern Alberta will rank among the largest alfalfa producing areas on the North American continent. Thousands of acres of irrigable land have not been touched by the plow. Thousands more have been broken during the last two seasons and are not yet ready for this crop, as it does not do well until the sod has been thoroughly integrated—a process which is best accomplished by the growing of one or two other crops beforehand. Then, too, during the last two years the most urgent call has been for wheat.

For the growth of alfalfa Southern Alberta is extremely well fitted. Alfalfa requires abundant sunshine and a warm summer temperature. Southern Alberta has both. During the summer months the days are much longer than they are farther south, and the sun shines almost continuously. Alfalfa does best on rich, deep, well-drained soil. These are special characteristics of the soil in Southern Alberta. Alfalfa thrives best under irrigation, in arid and semi-arid climates. The climate of Southern Alberta, and under irrigation alfalfa grows there to its highest perfection.

In the Lethbridge irrigation district, which is the oldest of the irrigated areas of Southern Alberta, alfalfa is beginning to be looked upon as the mainstay of the farmer. Yielding from three to four tons to the acre, and in some cases even more, it is worth \$20 a ton. Alfalfa has brought upwards in one season. It is no wonder that a visitor driving through this country recently and seeing the beautiful green alfalfa fields on every hand would pronounce it one of the most prosperous districts in the whole of Western Canada.

But besides these very satisfactory returns from the sale of the hay, alfalfa is of inestimable value on account of the improved condition in which it leaves the soil in which it has been grown. Numerous yields of other crops have been obtained on land previously growing alfalfa. In 1913, which was by no means an exceptionally dry year, 157 bushels of wheat were raised on an acre which had been in alfalfa the previous year. Wheat on similar land yielded on successive years 11 and 12 bushels to the acre. Since 1910, to the present, two

acres of land near Lethbridge that were planted to tomatoes this year after being in alfalfa for a few years produced 35,000 pounds of ripe fruit in less than two months after being set out.

And this is not all that can be done with these irrigated lands. To obtain the fullest revenue would require that no roughage be sent from the farms as such, but only in the form of butter, cheese, beef, mutton and pork. The plain food contained in alfalfa hay is often worth more than the money actually received for the hay itself, high though this is. If only unmanufactured products were sent away this valuable plant food would be left on the farm, giving it every year increasing fertility. It is held that for every acre of irrigable land at least one head of beef or a proportionate number of hogs or sheep, can be supported all the year round. This fact is beginning to be appreciated, and it means that many times the number of livestock at present kept can be maintained on these irrigable lands. And as the number of live stock increases, the prosperity of the country will grow correspondingly. There are already signs that the time is not far distant when the irrigable areas of Southern Alberta will become the home of the most closely settled and most prosperous mixed farming and stock raising communities in the Canadian West, and indeed, one of the most prosperous communities on the whole of the continent.

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RESULTS OF INFLUENZA.

Medical authorities have stated, "There is no knowing how far-reaching the results of the influenza epidemic will be."

From the nature of the malady it is feared many cases of tuberculosis will develop. If you have not fully recovered from the "flu," or you are run down in health from some other cause, seek a doctor at once. Consumption may have developed, but even that may be cured if taken in time. A case in point has recently been brought to our attention—a farm laborer with a wife and five small children. He had not been feeling right for some months, not sick enough to go to bed, or stay indoors, but always tired. His daily work about the farm had become a task to him. So of his own accord he went to the Muskoka Free Hospital, to try and find out what was the matter. He was found to be suffering from tuberculosis, and was immediately taken in and put to bed. The doctors say this man is making a good recovery, and that he will shortly be able to return home.

The Muskoka Free Hospital for Consumptives is now appealing for aid in fighting the Great White Plague. The money you give will help restore to health just such desperate cases as this, bringing happiness untold to re-united families.

Contributions may be sent to Sir William J. Gage, 14 Spadina Avenue, Toronto, or to Gen. A. Reid, Secretary-Treasurer, Gage Institute, 223 College Street, Toronto.

Alex. G. Gage
14 Spadina Avenue
Toronto

The great victory of the Canadian Corps in the battle of Vimy Ridge, on April 9, 1917, is a triumph for which the Canadian people will be forever proud. The success of this battle was due to the courage and determination of the Canadian soldiers, who fought with a gallantry and tenacity that has never been equalled in the history of the Canadian Corps.

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Entertaining Epitaphs.

In a search for the unusual, one would scarcely expect to come across it on a tombstone. But full justice can be done to those who have died in a single word.

There is a stone in Lenington Cemetery dedicated to the memory of one J. T. Burgess, who before laying aside the trammels of this mundane sphere edited the Lenington Spa Courier. His career and end are aptly summed up in one word—**"Resting."**

A general assistant who lived in the city of Worcester had inscribed on his memorial stone an epitaph, "Gene." Brief, economical, and retrospective. In a Sussex graveyard may be seen a stone on which are chiseled after the name and date of death of the deceased, just two expressive words—"He was." Surely a gem in a gemstone.

But two of the strangest as well as the briefest epitaphs are to be found on stones in Cane Hill Cemetery, Belfast. On one of them, erected in the memory of a lay fellow by one who evidently knew him well, are the words, "Asleep (as usual)." On the other, "Left Till Called For."

A certain photographer has this beautiful over his grave, "Here I Lie, Taken from Life."

No Apples for Australia.

That the Australian embargo will prevent the importation by Australia of any apples from British Columbia this year is the worst contained in a cable received by the Department of Trade and Commerce from D. H. Ross, Canadian Trade Commissioner at Melbourne. Medical advice from Mr. Ross, just received, explains that in a recent interview the Commonwealth Minister of Commerce expressed a desire to maintain the established trading connections between Canada and Australia, but the Minister held out but little prospect of the embargo being lifted during 1918. The embargo was first up to the time of writing had a single case of Australian apples had been exported, apart from a contract made with the Imperial authorities for 1,500 tons of evaporated apples.

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- Stamped Centre Pieces

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