

## ALBERTA IS ALRIGHT

SO SAYS J. W. HELMS IN A LETTER TO THE GAZETTE IN WHICH HE DENIES CHARGES THAT ARE BEING MADE AGAINST THE COUNTRY.

Milk River, Alberta, July 5, '09

I want to deny some of the charges that are being made against this large fertile section along side of the swift flowing Milk River. There is an old saying that a lie will travel forty miles while the truth is getting on its boots, and it seems that one or two homesick people can do a new country more harm than a dozen sturdy and industrious people can do it good, for the reason that so many skeptical people think it is such a terrible, unheard of thing to go into Canada; but to go into Montana that's all right, when the fact is my half section (which King Edward has promised me at the end of six years, of six months each, or in reality three years,) is just seven miles from Montana, and we could see snow on the hills of Montana six weeks after all snow had disappeared here in southern Alberta.

One accusation was that it is impossible to cut hay enough for stock. This may be partly true in some instances near the river—but there is a mighty good reason, because when thousands and tens of thousands of horses, cattle and sheep are herded along the river making the country for three to five miles each side of the river one "big pasture"—that's why. We are a mile and a half from the river and fenced some and have plenty to cut. Back away from the river, say six miles, you can cut hundreds of tons.

North Dakota is alright but so is southern Alberta. Our crops are looking fine and this is also a good vegetable country and we have no fault to find at all.

There are so many stories told as a joke along the railroad that people believe and circulate every kind of a story, but I believe if some of those people, farmers, who have their own horses, machinery, etc., and are renting farms and "getting in deeper" every year, could see some of this vast country and see what a nice half section they could grab by living on it, I can't understand why they don't prefer that to renting, not only in the United States but in Canada as well. That word "hardship" has frightened them away from the idea perhaps.

We will probably not be back working on a threshing machine this fall as many predicted—as we have them here.

Yours very truly,

J. W. Helms.