

## RANCHING AND FARMING IN CANADA'S PRAIRIE PROVINCES BEFORE WORLD WAR I

Immigrants from many nations thronged to western Canada before World War I, drawn by the fertile soils, rich prairies and the government's offer of free land to homesteaders. This exhibit focuses on ranching and farming in Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan, as well as the former District of Assiniboia during the first two decades of the Twentieth Century.

The routine activities of ranch and farm life are developed from views of roping, branding, plowing, seeding, reaping and threshing, all unusual topics on early Canadian post cards. The evolution of farming is shown from horse-drawn plows to steam-powered threshing machines.

Most Canadian postcards printed before 1907 have undivided backs. Cards with divided backs were permitted in the domestic mails as early as 1904. However, such cards could not be mailed to international destinations. Thus, most publishers produced cards with undivided backs in the interim. Cards in the exhibit have divided backs unless otherwise stated. The cards are printed in Canada unless otherwise indicated.

In this exhibit, historical and social information is given in Roman type and deltiological data, such as publishers and countries of origin, are in *italic type*. Cards of particular rarity or significance are matted in blue.



*Propaganda postcard showing the nations of the world flocking to Canada's prairies. Stereotypes of ethnic groups are standing in a field of tall wheat. Card reportedly published by King's Printer of Ottawa, Ontario. The artist is unknown. Postmarked 1908. Number nine of a series of 12 cartoon cards promoting Canada.*