

tribute to, the business of the Georgian Bay Canal; the amount of land under cultivation in 1860; its present commerce and rapid growth;—all of which may tend to give you some fair estimate of the traffic of the proposed canal.

Were the increased facilities for transit to the ocean which the Georgian Bay Ship Canal, especially if it were constructed as recommended, to pass ocean-bound vessels of a thousand tons burthen, afforded to the commerce of Lake Michigan, trade would certainly be attracted from points as far south as St. Louis. The territory west of Lake Michigan and north of a line running east and west through St. Louis, and east of the Rocky Mountains, and capable of sustaining a dense and prosperous population, consists, in round numbers, of seven hundred thousand square miles. In this statement ample allowance is made for whatever of the "great American desert" lies within the limits under consideration. The report of H. U. Hind, Esq., geologist of the recent Canadian exploring expedition, shows that there are four hundred thousand square miles of territory lying within the valleys of the Saskatchewan, the Assiniboine, and of the other rivers that flow into Lake Winnipeg. So that it is safe to say that there are one million one hundred thousand square miles of the richest land upon the globe, for whose commerce the Georgian Bay Canal would compete with the Erie Canal and the great lines of railway between the West and the seaboard. There is, therefore, territory enough within the limits of the United States, between Lake Michigan and the Rocky Mountains, to form seventeen States as large as Ohio, and whoever has studied its climate, soil and resources, knows they would be vastly richer and more productive. In addition to these, there is a country west of Lake Winnipeg, and east of the mountains within the British Possessions, rich in everything that can give wealth and prosperity to a people, amply sufficient to form ten more States as large as Ohio. And yet, in all this vast fertile country, west of Lakes Michigan and Winnipeg, there are but little more than half as many square miles of land under cultivation as there are in the single State of Illinois.

If we go back for figures previous to 1850, showing the growth of the territory west of the Lakes, more marked results are obtained than we find since, for, comparatively speaking, the