

THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC AN AGRICULTURAL COUNTRY.

The Argentine students at the Ontario Agricultural College this year number seventeen. When you consider that a distance of seven thousand miles is between Canada and the Argentina, and the shortest time in which this distance can be covered is twenty-four days, you will realize that that number is quite large, and you will be curious to know why they came here and what for. You may also want to know the idea of it, that the majority of you have, is very vague. I have talked of Argentina to many Canadians and they have asked me questions which showed the little they knew about the country, and many times I found it a hard task to convince them that Civilization and Progress in that part of the American continent are quite as far advanced as anywhere else.

When speaking of or writing on one's own country a person is inclined to praise it a little. To prevent me falling into this natural temptation I shall present statistics, and facts based upon them, which may suggest to you that in South America there are countries whose Progress has reached a degree not generally known.

The Argentine Republic, with an area of 1,419,000 square miles, lies at the very south of South America, and has a population of about five million inhabitants. A fifth of these are foreigners, of whom 25,000 are English. As my space is very limited I shall say no more of its geography or people and shall dwell on Argen-

tina only as an agricultural and stock-raising country.

From north to south of Argentina there is a range of 34 degrees of latitude, from the 22d parallel to the 56th, along which is found a great variety of climates. It is due to its exceptional climatic conditions that Argentina can raise within its borders almost any breed of domesticated animals and can grow all kind of agricultural products, from the coffee and sugar cane of the tropics to the pine and apple of the colder zones.

The area best fitted for the different cultivations is the zone contained between the parallels 28° and 40° and the meridian 66° 30'; that is, about 237 million acres. The climatological and soil conditions of this area, irrigated in part by great rivers, have been the object of careful and complete studies. Of this arable area but a comparatively small part is used as yet. In 1901 the plowed land was 17,569,000 acres, distributed among the following crops: Wheat, maize, barley, oats, rye, flax, turnips, alfalfa, canary seed, peanuts, sugar cane, grapes, tobacco, rice, etc.

In 1899 the production of wheat was 2,700,000 tons, of which, after having supplied the home market and saved the seed necessary to sow nearly nine million acres, two-thirds were exported. This export alone represented a value of forty-five million dollars. The exports of all agricultural products in 1901 amounted to nearly two million tons, and repre-