

THE FUTURE OF CANADA

CANADIAN RESOURCES.

We have now in Canada the greatest area of undeveloped wheat land in the world. In our own Province of Ontario there is a much greater area of suitable land remaining to be cultivated than is at present under cultivation.

Even to the people in Ontario the suitability of large parts of New Ontario for agricultural purposes was not known until a few years ago, but it is now quite safe to predict that within a very few years the agricultural production of Ontario will be doubled.

The other day we read in the papers of the completion of the preliminary survey of the route of the Grand Trunk Pacific from Winnipeg to Abitibi. A few years ago the name Abitibi was little known even in Ontario and was associated with the great frozen north. We did not realize that it was south of the northern parts of Minnesota and Dakota, that it is considerably south of the great agricultural district of Midlothian in Scotland.

THE GRANARY OF THE EMPIRE.

Then in regard to Manitoba and the Northwest the case is much stronger. In Ontario the agricultural production can be doubled; in Manitoba and in the Northwest Territories it is now reasonably certain that the production will be increased tenfold and even twentyfold within the next few years. According to the Department of the Interior, the prairie country occupies a stretch of land from east of the Red River to the Rocky Mountains, about one hundred and fifty townships wide, with an average of fifty townships deep. In the Province of Manitoba the grain-growing area has not this depth, but farther west the depth is much greater, the isothermal lines running not east and west, but northwest and southeast.

From the information which the Department of the Interior have it is quite clear that there are known to be at least ninety-two million acres of land suitable for wheat-growing, of which the merest fraction has as yet been cultivated. Lord Strathcona, who knows the Northwest as few men know it, was, therefore, well within the mark when he said in London the other day that within ten years Canada can produce all the grain required by Great Britain.

CANADIAN DEVELOPMENT.

The best market for the surplus agricultural products of Canada is undoubtedly Great Britain, and therefore not merely on the ground of sentiment, but also of mutual interest Canada should cultivate to the greatest possible extent trade relations with the mother country.

Canada will be great not only as an agricultural country, but also as a manufacturing and commercial country. The mineral production of Canada has increased six hundred per cent. since 1886, and we are only at the commencement of the development of our mineral resources. The Canadian fisheries are unrivalled. When the advantageous situation of our water powers in relation to important raw materials is considered Canadians will realize