

THE WHEAT-GROWING CAPACITY OF CANADA.

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ALTHOUGH the United Kingdom is obliged to import over £200,000,000 of food products for annual consumption, it is satisfactory to know that in the outlying portions of the Empire almost everything that she requires can be produced. The great capabilities of India as a source of supply for wheat, and of Australasia for both grain and meat, are well known; while these, and many other parts of the Empire, are also contributing, in other ways, to the food supplies of Great Britain, and their exports of this character are certain to largely increase. I have been requested to say something as to the wheat-growing capacity of Canada. Canada covers a larger portion of the continent of North America than the United States, excluding Alaska, and comprises one-third of the area of the British Empire. A considerable portion of it lies within the wheat zone, and is admirably adapted for the growth of cereals and cattle. The average yield of wheat in Manitoba and the North-West Territories, may be stated at from 20 to 25 bushels to the acre—a much larger yield than in the United States. This great undeveloped granary has only recently been rendered accessible by the construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The farmers now there are chiefly immigrants with but little capital, working under the disadvantages that attend the opening up of a new country, and many of them are inexperienced; but notwithstanding these adverse circumstances the estimated crop of last year, raised by 19,000 farmers, in Manitoba was 23,000,000 bushels of wheat, over 14,000,000 bushels of oats, 3,200 bushels of barley, and 2,200 bushels of potatoes. The wheat crop of 3,000 farmers in the North-West Territories was 7,000,000 bushels. As only the fringe of this great wheat-field has been cultivated, some idea may be formed from these figures of what population and capital could accomplish at an early day. The import of wheat and flour into England in 1890 from foreign countries, represented about 130,000,000 bushels of wheat, and of this the United States supplied about 78,000,000 bushels. The average yield per farmer of wheat in Manitoba and the North-West of Canada being over 1,350 bushels, it will be seen that, with an export of but 1,000 bushels from each farm, it would take only 130,000 farmers to supply the whole demand in this country, and but 78,000 to provide all the wheat and flour that came from the United States. In the United States the total area under cultivation in 1889 was 146,281,000 acres, of which about 38,000,000 acres were under wheat.