

● Prosperous Quebec.

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FEW people realize the extent to which Quebec has prospered during the last ten years. That the war should have given an impetus to the natural progress of the Province was inevitable, but this war-prosperity being based upon the solid foundations of industrious habits, natural resources of enormous extent, and a public administration showing yearly surpluses, it possesses the element of permanency which augurs well for the future. Quebec's economic wealth will continue to increase so long as there exists a world-wide demand for foodstuffs and manufactured products of the highest standard of excellence.

One has been accustomed to class Quebec amongst the agricultural countries of the world, and it has been so until a few decades ago, when manufactures began to grow in importance, until to-day they are powerfully established, and their products are exported to all parts of the world.

Amongst the most prominent goods made in Quebec the following may be mentioned with their annual value: boots and shoes, £8,000,000; wood products, £6,000,000; meat packing, over £7,000,000; paper, £6,000,000; flour-mill products, £6,000,000; cotton goods, £5,000,000; railway car-building, £4,500,000; electric appliances, £3,000,000; tobacco products, £7,000,000; iron, steel, and foundry products, over £2,000,000; paints and varnishes, £2,000,000, etc. etc. These represent only a fraction of the lines manufactured in Quebec suitable for home and foreign markets.

In Montreal two large ship-building yards have been established by Messrs. Vickers-Maxim and Whitworth-Armstrong, and hundreds of ships of all kinds have been launched from these yards for the Allies during the war, and they are still in full activity, working under pressure to execute orders; whilst at Levis, opposite Quebec, and at Sorel, ship-building is growing yearly in importance.

Nowhere else in Canada or the United States is industry developing under more favourable conditions. Agriculture and the dairy industries have progressed enormously during the last ten years, under the energetic guidance of the present Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. Mr. Caron, himself a practical farmer. His zeal for the advancement of the rural community is contagious, and under his all-pervading inspiration and enthusiasm, Quebec is now producing nearly the whole of her wheat requirements, whereas she used to buy practically all her breadstuffs from the Western Provinces. Stock-breeding has progressed steadily, and a textile industry, based largely upon local wool production, may eventually become a possibility, whilst meat-packers will more and more secure locally the meats required for their business. The dairy industry of Quebec leads Canada in many respects, and its products are of the highest standard of perfection. Quebec cheese already enjoys a huge sale in Great Britain, and it has now become firmly established in the habits of the workers of France and Belgium, and will continue in strong demand.

No community in Canada is so prosperous and,

withal, so thrifty as the French-Canadian rural population—and thrift, as all economists aver, is the safest brake against economic and political upheaval. Thrift provides a sound foundation for industrial enterprises, and the natural thrift of the Quebec people is reflected in the policy of their Government. Of all the Canadian provinces Quebec alone, I believe, went through the war without a budget deficit, and this was achieved without stinting any of the great public services—educational, public works, agricultural development, etc.—all of which received increased grants. Hundreds of agricultural colleges, agricultural schools, good house-keeping schools, travelling lecturers, keep farmers fully acquainted with the latest ideas in scientific agriculture. This vast educational organization is developed and extended in every direction. Hence the steady and continuous progress made by the agricultural and dairy interests of Quebec.



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The Quebec Government does not neglect other education. Our classical colleges—which have no rival anywhere in Canada or the United States—normal schools, high schools, and thousands of primary and secondary schools, are reinforced by technical schools and commercial colleges in every district. In these the very highest training is given in commercial science and all the arts and crafts. Here commerce and industry obtain labour of the highest skill, which in time will be reflected in the superior quality of the goods made in Quebec.

Quebec offers to the importer from Great Britain a valuable market from which to obtain a large variety of goods at present in demand everywhere in Europe; and the capitalist will find in this Province numerous opportunities for profitable investments in new industries. Here are to be found, in this Province, one-half of the total water-powers of Canada. From Montreal, Quebec, Chicoutimi, Three-Rivers, and other ports, goods can be exported by water to every part