

labour is much greater than it has been since 1857. Real estate, which has been almost unsaleable for years past at almost any price, begins to be inquired for, and sales are effected at fair prices.

“The quantity of fall wheat sown is large; the sowing was early and the tillage excellent, and the young wheat looks strong and healthy. But our farmers no longer rely, as in former times, almost exclusively on their fall wheat crop: unusually extensive preparations have been made for spring sowing, and for these preparations farmers have been much favoured by the mildness of the weather.

“I am, however, opposed to holding out encouragement to any class of settlers, except farmers with means sufficient to enable them to buy or stock rented farms. There are plenty of such to be had on favourable terms, and the parties are sure of doing well if they and their families have a reasonable amount of prudence and industry.’

“I am, Sir,

“Your obedient servant,  
(Signed) “A. C. BUCHANAN,  
“Chief Agent.

“To W. HUTTON, Esq.,  
“Secretary, Bureau of Agriculture.”

#### FREE PORTS.

A Proclamation appeared in the *Canada Gazette* of the 31st December, 1860, declaring, in pursuance of an Act of Parliament passed last session, that the ports of Gaspé and Saut Ste. Marie shall be free ports on and after the 1st of January, 1861, and defining the limits thereof as follows:—

*Gaspé.*—“The limits of the free port of the harbour commonly called Gaspé Basin, and the district to be attached thereto, shall extend three miles inland from low water mark, around the shores of the said Gaspé Basin; within the limits of the free port of Gaspé Basin so constituted, goods, wares, and merchandize of every description, except articles prohibited by law to be imported, may be imported without being liable to the payment of any duties of customs, and landed at the said port for consumption or exportation, provided always that the said goods, wares, and merchandize shall, upon arrival, be duly reported and entered at the Custom House at the said port, and that the importers conform in all respects to the existing Customs and Navigation Laws of the said Province, save and except the payment of duties attached to such importations into other ports of entry of the said Province, from the payment of which duties they are hereby relieved; all goods, wares, and merchandize that shall have