

THE FARMERS' HOME MARKET

IF the Canadian farmer could always get for his products the price that the distant consumer pays for them, he would soon grow rich. The difference between the price the farmer gets and the price the consumer pays is partly made up of transportation charges and partly of middlemen's profits. The farther the market is from the farm the greater the cost of transportation and the larger the number of middlemen there are to share the profits. If there were no home market the farmers would be at the mercy of the middlemen. Fortunately a very large proportion of Canadian farm products are consumed within the Dominion. Few farmers realize how large the home demand for farm products really is. The three most important crops of the Canadian West are wheat, oats and barley. The exact crop returns for the year 1904 have not yet been published. The official figures for 1902 and 1903 in Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, as given in Government reports, were as follows: