

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine

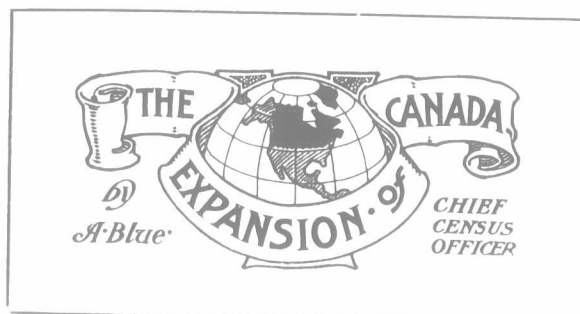
"Persevere and Succeed."

Established 1866.

VOL. XLI.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.
LONDON, ONTARIO, DECEMBER 13, 1906.

No. 742



Canada, under its old name, was a land of undefined extent. Eastward it was limited by the Maritime Provinces, but westward it went to the meridian of Fort William, on Lake Superior, or the waters of the Pacific, and northward to the height of land or the Pole—according to the point of view of contending interests. In recent years the Dominion's sole expansion has been confined to the assertion of authority over the waters of Hudson's Bay and the islands of the Arctic Sea; and this has in a measure been offset by the award of the Alaska Boundary Tribunal, which gave to the United States an area Canada had claimed as her own by virtue of long-established treaty rights.

We have been expanding in other and better ways: in revenue, in commerce, in agriculture, in manufactures, in banking, and in a score of other directions which mean nation-building.

In thirty-eight years, ending with June last, our revenue on consolidated fund account rose from \$13,687,928 to \$80,139,360, and our expenditure on the same account from \$13,486,093 to \$67,240,641. So buoyant has the revenue been, that, in face of the growing requirements of public service in a new country, aggregating \$1,315,000,000 in thirty-nine years, the last fiscal year shows a surplus of \$12,898,719. The yearly revenue has increased by 485 per cent., and the yearly expenditure by 400 per cent. In other words, the income of the Dominion is now about five times more than in the first year of Confederation, and the cost of all public services is four times more, which are fair indices of the progress made.

Another evidence of growth is presented in the commerce of the country. Thirty-nine years ago the value of our foreign trade was \$129,553,191, and last year it was \$546,947,437, which is four times more for 1906 than for 1868. This is for exports of home and foreign produce, and imports entered for consumption. Merchandise the produce of Canada, exclusive of coin and bullion, was exported in 1868 to the value of \$18,504,899, and in 1906 it grew to \$235,483,956, being in amount greater by nearly five times. From 1868 to 1906 our exports of agricultural produce grew from \$12,871,055 to \$54,062,337; of animals and their produce, from \$6,893,167 to \$66,455,960; of fisheries produce from \$3,257,510 to \$16,025,840; of forest produce from \$18,742,625 to \$38,824,170; of manufactures from \$2,100,411 to \$24,561,112; of mineral produce from \$1,276,129 to \$35,469,631; and of miscellaneous produce from \$302,280 to \$84,906—showing great increase in every class but the last.

The statements of chartered banks show more emphatically perhaps than anything else the growth of the Dominion in wealth and business affairs. In 1868 the paid-up capital of banks was \$30,507,447, and in 1905 it was \$82,655,828. But this increase in capital constituted only a small share of the capacity of banks to carry on operations, for in the same period the amounts on deposit grew from \$33,653,594 to \$531,243,476, and the assets of banks also grew

from \$79,860,976 to \$767,490,183. The rest or reserve fund of the banks, which in 1896 was \$26,526,632, was in 1905 \$56,474,124; and in 1884 (the first year in which this return was called for) it was only \$18,149,193. These are large figures, but the records of clearings are more striking. The business of the country is done chiefly through the banks, and practically every large transaction is settled by cheque. In 1901 the clearings of chartered banks in the Dominion showed a volume of \$1,871,061,725, and in 1905 \$3,335,530,600, being an increase of 78 per cent. The records of the clearing house are a safe gauge in measuring the strength and volume of the current of business.

Loan companies and building societies show a business which has increased from assets of \$3,233,985 in 1867 to \$176,885,012 in 1904. Life-insurance companies show a net insurance in force of \$85,009,264 in 1875, and \$636,324,240 in 1905. Canadian companies show in the thirty years, 1875-1905, an increase of life insurance from \$21,957,296 to \$397,936,902; British companies an increase from \$19,455,607 to \$43,809,211; and American companies an increase from \$43,596,361 to \$188,578,127. The premium income of all life companies grew in the same period from \$2,882,387 to \$22,080,717, and of this total increase of \$19,198,330 the share of Canadian companies is \$13,240,571. And in the business of fire insurance, the amount at risk in Canada in 1869 was \$188,359,809, which in 1905 was swelled to \$1,340,057,161, or more than 600 per cent. of increase in thirty-six years.

Progress in agriculture may be shown with a few figures. Taking the census records, the wheat crop of 1870 was 16,723,873 bushels, and of 1900 (which was a bad harvest) 55,572,368 bushels. For the same harvest years the barley crop was 11,496,038 and 22,224,366 bushels, while the oat crop was 42,489,453 and 151,497,407 bushels. For the present harvest year, the wheat crop of the three Northwest Provinces alone will much more than exceed the crops of 1871 and 1901 for the whole Dominion. In the same period, the number of horses grew from 836,743 to 1,577,493, and the number of horned cattle from 2,624,290 to 5,576,451. And in the production of butter and cheese at factories, the value rose from \$1,601,738 in 1871 to \$29,462,402 in 1901.

Comparison of growth in manufacturing industries is not so readily made, because for the census of 1871 all works were enumerated in the records without regard to the number of persons employed, while in 1901 the records were confined to works employing five persons and over. In 1871 statistics were obtained for 41,259 establishments, and in 1901 for only 14,650. But the value of products in the former year was only \$221,617,773, while for the latter it was \$481,053,375. In food products, the value in 1871 was \$56,680,227, and in 1901, \$125,202,620; in slaughtering and meat-packing, it was \$3,799,552 in 1871, and \$22,217,981 in 1901; and in textile products it was \$24,768,976 in 1871, and \$67,724,839 in 1901. Wages for labor in the 41,259 establishments of 1871 cost \$40,851,009, and in the 14,650 establishments of 1901 the cost was \$89,573,264. But though these figures show substantial growth in thirty years, it will not be surprising if figures now being compiled will show a growth fully as great in the last five years.

A few words remain to be said on the railways of Canada. In the first years of Confederation there was 2,278 miles of steam railways in operation, and in 1905 there was 20,487 miles, besides 3,632 miles of sidings and 793 miles of electric railways. The gross earnings of steam railways grew from \$72,898,749 in 1901 to \$106,467,199

in 1905, and the total expenses from \$50,368,726 to \$79,977,574, while the gross earnings of electric railways grew from \$5,768,283 to \$9,357,126, and the expenses from \$3,435,162 to \$5,918,194.

One line across Canada, from ocean to ocean, built since Confederation, the Canadian Pacific, has been running for over twenty years. It consists of main line and branches, owned of 5,095 miles, and lines leased of 3,202 miles, being a total of 8,297 miles operated by one management. The Canadian Northern, another transcontinental line, own 788 miles of main line and 738 miles of branches, and operates in addition 354 miles. During the present year its main line has reached Edmonton, and is pushing forward to the mountains and the coast. A third transcontinental line, the Grand Trunk Pacific, is also under way. It will traverse the hinterland of Quebec and Ontario, through a tract of rich clay land many millions of acres in extent, capable of sustaining 2,600,000 people, and possessing great resources of timber and water-power, and probably of minerals also. To these Provinces it promises to give a depth of five hundred miles back from the American frontier, and to the Dominion a solidity of settlement from the Atlantic to the Pacific. Being a railway, too, with a maximum grade eastward of only four-tenths and westward of only six-tenths of one per cent. throughout the country east of the Rocky Mountains, no other line on the continent can cut under it in the matter of traffic rates.

Population is increasing well in nearly all the Provinces of the Dominion, but the only ones for which actual figures are available are Alberta, Manitoba and Saskatchewan. There, a census taken this year shows a population in round numbers of 808,000, being an increase of 388,000, or 92 per cent., in five years.

The Coming Christmas.

Heap on more wood! the wind is chill,
But let it whistle as it will,
We'll keep our Christmas merry still. —Scott.

Were the spirit of Christmas universal, this would be a much more beneficent, generous and mutually helpful world than sometimes appears in human relations. But, no matter how far away the ultimate realization may seem to be, let us hold fast to the idea that it is the possible spirit of human society. In its essence, the Christmas spirit is that manifestation of self-sacrifice and service which dates back to the pivotal day of all the ages, nineteen centuries ago, when the sublime revelation of peace on earth, good will toward men, was made to human consciousness. It has permeated customs, literature and art. It is impossible to estimate what the world owes to those great artists whose lofty conceptions have been embodied in beautiful windows, bas reliefs, frescoes and paintings. Nations, communities, and individuals, have their red-letter days, but this day, which dawned out of a manger, transcends all others in the good will which it promotes, the recollections which it revives, the sundered lives which it reunites, and the dormant sympathies which it awakens. You cannot cut Christmas out of the calendar, nor out of the world's heart. It fits in well with our northern Canadian clime, and could not be better placed. No land in all the world has a better right than Canada to be joyous at this season, for bounties of every kind have been poured into her lap with a lavish hand; and, of all classes, none enjoy a greater share of its general beneficence than the farmer and his family, to whom we tender, as a slight token of our humble esteem, this Christmas Number of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine."