

In support of this view, I present figures showing the export of Canadian produce since 1890 under the heading "Animals and their produce," which comprises the provision and dairy departments of our exports, and "Agricultural products," which embrace grains, hay, fruits and vegetables.

	Animals and their produce.	Agricultural products.
1890	\$25,106,995	\$11,908,030
1891	25,967,741	13,666,858
1892	28,594,850	22,113,284
1893	31,736,499	22,049,490
1894	31,881,973	17,677,649
1895	34,387,770	15,719,128
1896	36,507,641	14,083,361
1897	39,245,252	17,982,646
1898	44,301,470	33,215,177

This steady increase of the export of animal provision and dairy produce amounting to eight millions in the last two years has been achieved in conjunction with a great development of the market for the same products in the mining districts of western Ontario, British Columbia and the Yukon, where a large population has been supplied with dairy produce, meats and provisions at profitable prices by the farmers of western Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, who have thus secured a near by market of great value for articles on which the export freight rates are so heavy as to seriously impair profits.

The present fiscal year will probably again show an increase in the export of "Animals and their produce," while the markedly lower range of wheat prices will cause a decrease of several millions in the export of field products.

No further evidence is required to establish the soundness of the assertion that the future prosperity of Canadian agriculture, and therefore of the Dominion as a whole, is largely bound up in the steady increase of the production and export of dairy produce and provisions. The market is practically unlimited. In the one item of butter, Great Britain imported 3,271,801 cwt. in 1897, of which Canada supplied only a thirtieth.

THE MILLING INTEREST

The form in which the bulk of our field produce goes to the foreign market, it seems to me, is capable of great improvement. The policy of shipping in concentrated form, so successful when applied to dairying, should be adapted to field products to a very considerable extent.

I am at a loss to understand why such a large proportion of our grain is shipped unground.

Ten years ago we exported 350,115 barrels of flour, and but 2,163,754 bushels of home grown wheat, while in 1897, the last year for which statistics are available, the export of flour was 421,758 barrels, and of wheat 7,855,274 bushels.

The milling interests of the country have not increased the flour export in anything like the same proportion as the export of wheat. A better showing is made in oatmeal, the production of which for export is a comparatively new industry, the output of the mills for export trade having increased from 13,849 barrels in 1888 to 152,019 barrels in 1897.

The millers say that the cause of the want of a proportionate increase in the export of flour is that special freight rates are made from