

East, there is a growing conviction that this part of Canada is at the moment a land of neglected opportunity, largely owing to the easy success of those who have taken up the cheap lands and virgin soil of the West. While many think that more effort is necessary to success in the East, facts gathered from recent experience show that in no part of Canada can a larger return be obtained in proportion to the intelligence employed than here in Ontario. We have one of the best and most famous of agricultural colleges, and wherever one of its students is farming, the effect of his knowledge on his own farm and the influence of his example on those of others are most marked, but there are many parts where no such examples of improved methods exist, and the Government has now adopted the plan of taking the college to the farmer. The Farmer's Institute lectures and the Agricultural Fair prizes have done and are doing much good, but the new effort is of a much more effective and practical nature. It is sought by demonstration farming actually carried on by experts acting for the Government, and by visits paid to various parts of the Province by experts who are able and willing to give advice, gradually to break up that condition of contentment with the farming of our fathers which is so great an enemy to progress. If young men can be shown the results of a thorough knowledge of stock raising as compared with not knowing, of caring for orchards instead of not caring for them, of systematic manuring and of proper drainage, of a knowledge, indeed, of the many things which bring about the enormous difference in results between old-fashioned and up-to-date farming, we may hope that more farmers' sons will stay on the land and that many city men will settle there, and that increased wealth and happiness will be the result. But actual results are more powerful arguments than mere preaching. An orchard in Ontario which yielded prior to 1909, \$100 worth of apples, annually, produced in 1909 in new hands fruit worth \$1,437, the net profit on which was \$974, in addition to apples not suitable for eating, worth more than the whole crop before the orchard was properly cared for. In other cases eight acres of orchard produced \$2,489 gross and \$1,890 net; 5½ acres produced \$2,231 gross and \$1,720 net; 1½ acres produced \$339 gross; and many cases of yields in money from \$150 to \$300 per acre could be shown, the result varying of course with the age of the trees, but mainly with the practical knowledge of the fruit-grower. In vegetables one man with 17 acres raised 127 tons of cauliflower which he sold for \$30 per ton, a return of about \$225 per acre. We know that for years large profits have been made in Ontario growing fine roses and other flowers for New York and other United States markets, but we now hear of one experienced hybridizer, who is also a banker, who has made himself famous as well as prosperous as a producer of innumerable species of gladioli, which are in demand in all quarters of the world. It must be remembered that these results are not due merely to the proximity of a market, but that in almost any part of Western Ontario similar things can be done. Too much credit cannot be accorded to the Department of Agriculture of Ontario for the effort it is making, and we can but hope that the number of lecturers and demonstrators will be increased and that they will be persistently kept at work as a permanent force working for agricultural improvement. In some parts already a new tone has been given to farm affairs, emigration to the West has nearly ceased, farm values are increasing, and intensive farming is a subject of general and keen interest.

That a more enterprising spirit is necessary may be readily gathered from the statistics of live stock in Ontario. From 1901 to 1907 the number of horses on hand grew from 620,000 to 725,000, but since that year there has been practically no increase. The number sold annually has, however, increased from 51,000 in 1901 to 98,000 in 1910, which is evidence enough of the difficulty of maintaining a stock on hand. The number of milch cows in 1901 was 984,000, in 1907 1,152,000, in 1910 only 1,052,000. The number of other cattle in 1901 was 1,523,000, in 1906 1,834,000 and in 1910 only 1,514,000. The number of stock slaughtered, however, rose steadily from 610,000 in 1901 to 817,000 in 1910. In sheep and lambs the story is one of steady decline from 1901 to 1910 in both the number of those on hand and those slaughtered. In swine the number on hand rose from 1,491,000 in 1901 to 2,049,000 in 1907, and fell to 1,561,000 in 1910, while the number slaughtered rose from 1,973,000 in 1901 to 2,267,000 in 1905, and fell to 1,844,000 in 1910. In poultry of all classes there has been a satisfactory increase in the number on hand and in the number

annually killed. It will be seen from these figures, which are mainly taken from reports of the Agricultural Department of the Province of Ontario, and do not agree very closely with those of the Census Department at Ottawa, that we are meeting a greatly increased demand by decreasing the stock on hand, and such a state of things cannot of course continue long. Many quite natural causes have led to this result, and others will tend to remedy it to some extent in the near future. Hay being scarce, high prices prevailing for coarse grains and the highest prices ever known for cattle, the farmer has in many cases sold both cattle and coarse grains, instead of feeding his stock as usual. But food crops are now more plentiful and we may look for an increase in the stock of animals on hand.

In all manufacturing centres the story is one of a general enlargement of plants, an increase of wages and a difficulty in filling orders, with prosperity to the local shop-keeper as one of the natural consequences. The output of pig-iron, steel rails, ingots, etc., at the important plants at Sault Ste. Marie and Hamilton show large increases over 1909 in all articles.

Building operations are being carried on at a pace which clearly reflects our prosperity. The farmer is spending more than usual on tile draining and on outbuildings. In the construction of which cement is now largely used, in towns and cities extensive municipal improvements are general; while ordinary building operations for business and other purposes exceed all previous experience.

Flour milling, one of our most important industries, has done reasonably well, but much less so than in the previous season of abnormal profits. Indeed, competition in the business has reached a rather unhealthy stage, and it would be well if there were no more expansion in this business for a time.

The conditions of the lumber market are not very different from 1909. There has been a ready sale for high grades, both abroad, and in North America, and a satisfactory market for intermediate grades, but the sale of low-grade lumber is still seriously interfered with by Southern pine, which has for the time being taken away our market in the United States and even invaded Canada. Just at the end of the year, however, there seems to be a better demand for low-grade lumber.

Although there has been no new development at Cobalt, and public attention has been drawn away from it to the new gold fields of the Porcupine district, the output of silver for 1910 will be about \$14,500,000, against \$12,461,000 for 1909. The larger result is due to an increase of about 3,000,000 ounces in the quantity mined, and a better price for silver. Up to the present, out of a total product of \$48,000,000 since the camp began, about \$24,500,000 have been paid in dividends. The world's production of silver in 1909 was worth \$107,000,000, and of this Cobalt's percentage was 11.6. The value of the total production of minerals in Canada for 1909 is estimated at \$90,400,000—just about half metallic and half non-metallic. This amount is of course the largest in our history, and compares with \$19,234,000 ten years ago and \$14,013,000 twenty years ago.

While it is our habit to turn to cities in the prairie Provinces or in British Columbia for evidence of unusual growth, it may be well to note that in a list of Canadian cities, recently compiled in order to exhibit growth of population, Fort William and Port Arthur exceed all others, showing an increase in ten years of 350 and 300 per cent., respectively.

MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA.

Considerable disappointment, as we all know, accompanies the record of what is nevertheless another year of progress in the prairie Provinces. The wheat, oats and flax reaped in the previous year were the highest in grade and the whole crop was the largest and produced the largest sum of money ever known. Under such conditions the acreage for 1910 was naturally increased, not merely by older farmers but by new settlers preparing their first crops. With an early spring everything promised well, but because of many adverse conditions a smaller and less highly graded crop was the result. Our estimates in August were:

Wheat	88,000,000 bushels.
Oats	90,000,000 bushels
Barley	17,000,000 bushels
Flax	4,000,000 bushels

Other estimates are as high as 104,000,000 bushels for wheat and 128,000,000 bushels for oats, but we do not expect either wheat or oats to reach 100,000,000 bushels.