

Wheat growing has been termed the "back-bone of agriculture." When the vital importance of maintaining and increasing the production of a grain so essential to civilized man is considered, it cannot be assigned a less place in agricultural anatomy. Wheat is pre-eminently the food of civilized nations; and, perhaps, there can be no surer measure of their civilization than the culture and consumption of that cereal. History affirms its agency in shaping the power and character of nations. They have grown sturdy and progressive in the ratio of wheat consumption by all classes. Scientific analysis confirms the indications of History. Anatomy and Chemistry shew that food to be best, which gives toughness to muscular fibre, and tone to the brain.

England, who has long been the conceded mistress of the seas, and whose dependencies well nigh encircle the globe, has so stimulated and enlarged her capacity for wheat growing, that her annual average is twenty-eight bushels per acre; but her consumption so far outruns her production, that she lays the world under contribution for her supplies of bread. The grave significance of the question involved is not susceptible of concealment, when the fact is considered that while the consumption of wheat, as the choice food of the human race, is rapidly extending, the capacity of wheat growing regions for its production is rapidly diminishing. We are told that in New England, U. S., the entire wheat product of a year is barely sufficient to feed her own people for three weeks, and the State of New York for six months. In the ten years ending in 1860, the wheat crop of only four States decreased 6,500,000 bushels. In the light of these facts it is not difficult to foresee that the North-West of the Dominion of Canada must yet assume a proud pre-eminency in wheat growing.

The following facts are demonstrated:—

*First.*—That there exists a constantly and inevitably increasing foreign demand for breadstuffs, with a constantly increasing demand for domestic consumption.

*Second.*—That therefore the value of wheat, as a commercial staple, is advancing in a compound ratio.

*Third.*—That within this zone, the climate and other causes tend to concentrate the growth of wheat in the best districts.

*Fourth.*—That Manitoba and the North-West Territory is the best of these wheat districts, having the largest average yield, the most certain crops, and the best and healthiest grains.

*Fifth.*—That therefore the production of wheat must be thrown, with a constantly increasing pressure, upon the resources of this district, to supply the constantly expanding markets of Europe, giving a full development to its agriculture, and the highest value to its soil.

OATS, BARLEY, RYE, POTATOES, ETC.

The whole group of subordinate cereals follow wheat, and are less restricted in their range, growing five degrees beyond wheat, in the Mackenzie River Valley to the Arctic Circle. Barley is a favourite alternative