

A PLEA FOR THE EARLY DEVELOPMENT OF OUR RESOURCES.

There is no necessity so clearly seen, nor any the import of which is more fully recognised by the people of this Province, than the necessity of developing, without delay, our available natural resources. It is conceded upon every hand that production in the main branches of natural industry is essential, not only to any permanent prosperity which may characterize the future of this country, but to our very and immediate existence as a Province. The disparity which exists at present between our exports and our imports is striking in the extreme. The latter may well be considered excessive for a much larger population than we can number, while the former, consisting chiefly of raw furs, appears almost insignificant. It need hardly be remarked that the difference between the sum we pay for goods brought into the country, and that which we receive for goods sent out of the country, is almost so much money lost to the Province, and, up to this time, the drain of money flowing into the hands of our neighbors across the line, for provisions, freights, etc., and to the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, for dry goods, groceries and hardware, has both been incessant and on the increase. This state of matters is, no doubt, characteristic of all new countries at the outset of their career: but if Manitoba is to become the great and prosperous Province which nature seems to have intended, and which it is the hope and belief of those who are best affected to the Dominion, she shall become, this drain of our life-blood, so to speak, must speedily cease, —the adverse balance of trade must first be reduced, and finally turned in our favor, and in order to achieve this desirable result it is plain we must have recourse to the development of our principal natural resources.

The pecuniary requirements of the Province have hitherto been supplied chiefly by the money taken into