

Western products, the estimates of traffic must not be confined to them, seeing that there are other large and increasing items of produce such as Ores, Metals, Lumber, Provisions, &c., and when these are taken into account, we have only the Eastward movement of freights, leaving the entire Westward movement still to be considered.

TIMBER TRADE.

The construction of this canal will, by providing an outlet for a region hitherto shut out from means of access to a market, open up an immense district of well timbered land north and west of the Georgian Bay. The Honorable James Skead, M.L.C., in a paper read at the Mercantile Convention, at Detroit, in 1865, stated that the "The portion of Canada lying north of the River Severn, and east of French River, a district well provided with streams discharging into Georgian Bay, contains 12,800 square miles of timber lands; and that another portion lying west of French River and east of Pigeon River on lake Superior, contains 48,000 square miles, well stocked with white and red pine, oak, elm, maple, birch, spruce, tamarack, ash and white cedar." If to these area of supply be added the extensive region of forest lands in Michigan, we have, around the head of this canal, an extent of timber country four times as great as the area exhausted, in Canada, during the whole history of the timber trade since 1806.

The statistics of the lumber trade of Buffalo, chiefly supplied from these sources, shew a steady progressive increase, amounting in 1862 to three times the quantity of 1846, and represent, for the former year, a total of 300,000 tons. This quantity, large although it be, is small compared with what may be looked for in the trade in clear lumber and staves, if the Canadian Government succeeds in establishing satisfactory trade relations with the West India Islands. Their consumption of these commodities is enormous and is considered sufficient to furnish full employment for 500,000 tons of shipping, a very large portion of which would inevitably be drawn from these regions, for which returns would be made in molasses, sugar, rum, &c.