

Thus, while the value of the exports of cheese has more than doubled during the decade, the value of the butter export has fallen off nearly 40 per cent. in the same period.

Hitherto, agriculture has been the main industry of Canada, and, in so young a country, it will probably for some time remain so. The great lumbering trade of the older provinces is less than it was, and the decline in wooden ship-building must make itself felt in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The magnificent facilities for transport the Dominion possesses in its splendid rivers and lakes, have no doubt greatly accelerated the removal of the forests; but these facilities, supplemented by such great arteries of railway communication as are afforded by the Grand Trunk, Intercolonial, and Canadian Pacific systems, have resulted in placing the Canadian farmer, even though his dwelling may be on the distant prairie, in close contact with the great markets of the world. Indeed it is not too much to say that, but for the opening up of the great North-West by the Canadian Pacific Railway, the colonisation and development of the prairies of British North America must have been indefinitely postponed. Even now, more railways are needed out west, to tap the resources of the fertile valley of the great Saskatchewan, and to put Winnipeg in communication with the southern coast of Hudson's Bay. The western prairies of the United States have been accessible since 1840, while those of Canada were first reached by railway only about five years ago.

The pioneers in Canadian agriculture were, in most cases, men who possessed but little knowledge of farming, and their number has been steadily increased by the accession of others whose knowledge was similarly defective; and it is but fair, in passing judgment upon the present condition of farming in the Dominion, to bear this fact in mind. That some generally applicable system of instruction in the theory and practice of modern agriculture would exert a powerful influence for the better is beyond doubt. That the Canadian farmers recognise the weakness of their position in this respect is sufficiently evidenced by the tone of the replies obtained by the Select Committee on Agriculture, the majority of which were in favour of the establishment of a Central Bureau, of an Agricultural Experimental Farm, and of a department devoted to Agricultural Statistics, besides advocating the circulation of handbooks and reports, and the issue of crop bulletins. It is much to be hoped that before long these suggestions will be realised, and that the Central Bureau will be supplemented by a local one in each Province. The Canadian Government, however, has not been unmindful of the agricultural interests of the Dominion; and in a young, and therefore a poor, country it has, by subsi-