

Two years in a British colony, especially enterprising one like Canada, are marked great strides, and several events of prominent importance have to be chronicled. Among these are the completion of the magnificent way bridge of two miles crossing the St. Lawrence, of the gigantic works of the Grand Trunk Railway of Canada, upwards of 1,000 miles in length, connecting the American railway system west of the Great Lakes with the Atlantic at Portland in winter, and at Montreal, Quebec and Riviere du Loup in summer. This is probably the most complete and comprehensive railway system in the world; and, in connection with the unequalled inland navigation of the St. Lawrence, it cannot fail to attract a large share of the vast and increasing traffic of the west, while it affords to the whole province of Canada the greatest possible facilities for inter-communication. The route is now traversed by upwards of 2,100 miles of railway. By means of its canal and navigation, vessels drawing ten feet water be taken from Fond du Lac in Lake Superior to the Gulf of St. Lawrence, a distance of twenty-two hundred miles. The plank road, which had pushed the venerable "corduroy" into the woods, has retired before the roads, with which the province is now traversed. The lakes and rivers are covered by steam-boats, and every year is adding to their strength and beauty.

The towns and cities are something more than mere colonial villages now; and their public buildings will compare favourably with those of any of the European States, while the improvements that will be made in the new capital, Quebec, will draw population thither, admirably as it is in the centre of the two provinces, and readily accessible from all quarters. Canada may properly be said to have but three seasons—summer, autumn, and winter. Were it not for the change of the appearance of the foliage, it would be difficult to divide these summer ends and autumn commences. Usually, as soon as the snow disappears, warm weather sets in; and vegetation is exceedingly so much so, that, although the spring is a month later than in England, by the middle of June vegetation of all kinds is as far advanced as it is here. Corn, on an average, is ready for cutting about a fortnight or three weeks earlier than in this country, and the grain once ripe dries so fast, that it is not at all difficult for corn to be cut and carried on the same day.

In many years the agriculture of the province generally was at a very low standard, but the last few years it has made great advances and is beginning to keep pace with the improvements introduced into England and Ireland. The emigration to the colony of skilled agriculturists, with the extended establishment of agricultural societies, has been instrumental in producing this great

change. Stock of a different and better description has been imported, and much land that was previously considered by the old proprietors worn out, has been improved and brought back, by means of judicious treatment, to its old capabilities.

The following shows the exports of wheat and flour for Canada for three years:

1855 . . .	3,193,748 bush.	. . .	643,936 brls.
1856 . . .	4,997,656 "	. . .	878,775 "
1857 . . .	2,762,654 "	. . .	743,949 "

The productiveness of the soil, and the high price of wheat in some years, have tended unduly to encourage the growth of this cereal to the neglect of other products of the soil. Hence by the rapid fall in the price of wheat the value of the agricultural exports from Canada fell from £4,384,083 in 1856 to £2,747,516 in 1857.

The farmers of Canada ought certainly to turn their attention more to the raising of live stock, particularly in those sections of the country where the risk of the wheat crop is the greatest. We have seen on the bleak hills of Scotland several thousand sheep in a single flock, and while the long winters of Canada may present a great obstacle to the successful raising of cattle, there can be no doubt, from the success of some of the most intelligent Canadian agriculturists, that sheep farming could be largely and profitably engaged in. We have no late returns of the live stock; but in January, 1852, there were but 1,697,633 sheep in the whole province, and 1,336,111 horned cattle. There were in Upper Canada in 1842 575,730 sheep, and 504,963 cattle, and in 1848 833,807 sheep and 565,845 neat cattle. In Lower Canada there were 602,821 sheep, and 469,851 neat cattle. The decennial increase was, therefore, 519,082 sheep, and 361,297 head of cattle.

Canada, and especially Western Canada, is essentially an agricultural country. Three-fourths of her people are engaged in agriculture, and the other fourth is mainly dependent upon these. Whatever, therefore, contributes to the prosperity of the former tends to advance the interests of all classes in the community. The facilities afforded to the agriculturist by the introduction of railways into Canada have added to the value of real estate in the colony an amount almost incredible. In many parts of the province land has risen from six to forty dollars per acre. This increase in value, however, can only be rendered profitable by a fuller development of the various products of the soil. The experience of the past eight years shows the risks to which the wheat crop is exposed. The chances of the crop itself, and the fluctuations in the price, are greater than those of any other commodity. The labour of the mechanic yields a certain return, but the return of the farmer is dependent on many contingencies.