

but increased facilities of transport will do much to supply the want: and we notice with pleasure that one iron company has secured 20,000 acres of land for a fuel reserve.

The rapid increase of population has created a demand for houses and for many of the necessaries of life which this country is unable to supply: and Hamilton, Toronto, and other Canadian cities have lately become large importers of butter, cheese, and vegetables, from the United States. The high price of wheat has doubtless given an undue preference to its cultivation, as farmers who once brought to market large quantities of butter, cheese, eggs, and vegetables, now raise little else but wheat; and at the present time there is an excellent opening for a large number of market-gardeners in the neighbourhood of most Canadian cities.

It is not our province to discuss with the farmers the propriety of such a course; but they may be reminded of two things,—that continued cropping will most certainly deteriorate the soil, while they will have nothing to fall back upon in case of a failure in the crop. In 1771 there were 471,000 bushels of wheat exported from Canada, of which it was computed two-thirds were made in the Sorel District. Forty bushels to the acre were raised in the Richelieu Valley, where they can now scarcely raise sufficient to supply their own wants.

While there are many obstacles to be removed to obtain the full development of our manufactures, there is even now an encouraging field for the profitable employment of capital and skill; and to this subject we shall endeavour to direct attention in the next number of this Journal.

INFLUENCE OF RECENT GOLD-DISCOVERIES ON PRICES.

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The general rise in the price of commodities in the old as well as the new world, within the last four or five years, is one of the most striking and important economic phenomena of the present century.

June, 1848—the date of the first discovery of gold on the Sacramento River in California—may be taken as the commencement of the era of high prices. California and Australia, when they became the centres of cheap gold for the world, became of necessity, at the same time, the centres of high prices. From these centres the tide of gold has flowed over the civilized world in all directions, and wherever it has flowed it has raised in a greater or less degree the level of prices.

Looking to the statistics of prices for the sixty years preceding 1848, we find that the former half of that period is marked by a high, and the latter half, say from 1819 to 1848, by a low level of prices. The causes, however, which kept up a high range of prices during the thirty years preceding 1819, will, I think, be found to differ in some essential features, from those which, since 1848, have operated to produce a similar result.

In the former period, the high prices (as Tooke has conclusively proved in his elaborate work on the History of Prices,) were due to the combined effects of the great war in which Europe was then involved, and of a series