

further misunderstanding of the relations of Dominion and province as to ownership of all the natural resources within Ontario. The Government of the province must for all time to come administer the same.

What will be the bearing of this decision upon other questions in which the Dominion has interfered with provincial rights, it is difficult to tell. Since Confederation took place, every Government at Ottawa has pursued an aggressive policy with regard to the provinces generally, and Sir John Macdonald's has grown overbearing in their application of it. This is no doubt due in a great measure to the fact, that the natural resources at their command, from which returns in cash can be quickly secured are now rather slender. As soon as they layed hands on Manitoba and the Northwest Territories there was a general scramble among their following for plunder out of the newly acquired country, and as each natural resource of wealth became available for immediate money production, it was as a rule swallowed up by the insatiate following from Ottawa. The history of this continent furnishes no parallel to the reckless and corrupt manner in which the resources of this great country have been squandered, and while all this squandering has been going on, the debt of the country has been increasing in an equally reckless manner. At present the Ottawa Government find themselves short of the wherewithal to satisfy their hungry following from Dominion resources, and they accordingly attempt to purloin those belonging to the provinces. They have in this decision from London secured what should be a check, but they cannot afford to be checked, for they are feeding the wolves, and they must have something to throw, to keep them quiet if not satisfied.

Let us in Manitoba congratulate Ontario upon its just success, and hope that our turn may come round soon.

AGRICULTURE IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Complete returns of agricultural operations in Great Britain for 1888 have recently been issued. The area of land sown to grain crops shows an aggregated increase in comparison with last year of 50,297 acres. Notwithstanding the belief in some quarters that the British agriculturalists cannot make wheat a profitable crop, the returns show that a considerable increased area has been

given to wheat, as compared with last year. The total wheat area is placed at 2,668,226 acres, or an increase of 280,708 acres as compared with last year. In barley, 2,264,448 acres were sown, being an increase of about 9,000 acres over 1887. Peas cover 242,414 acres, or an increase of about 12,000 acres. There is also an increase in the acreage of rye of about 23,000 acres, the total acreage of this crop being 89,176 acres. The oat crop is apparently the most important grain crop, as 4,177,121 acres are given to this cereal. Oats, however, show a decrease in the acreage of 241,826 acres. About 344,000 acres were devoted to beans, a decrease of about 33,000 acres under 1887. But while the total acreage in grain was greater than in 1887, there is a decrease in the grain area, as compared with 1878, of about 1,250,000 acres, and a large portion of this decrease is in wheat. Ten years ago the wheat area was 3,381,701 acres. Thus while there was an increase in wheat this year, the last decade has shown a very considerable shrinkage in the area of this crop. Barley, next to wheat, shows the greatest shrinkage in ten years. The area given to roots and vegetables also shows a decrease in the ten years, of about 100,000 acres. Turnips and potatoes are the principal root crops, the acreage of turnips being nearly equal to that of wheat, and the acreage of potatoes 1,406,384 acres. The grand total area of land under cultivation is placed at 47,876,814 acres, but this includes pasture land, to the amount of 26,700,000 acres, the balance being given to grain, roots, vegetables, hay, flax, hops, fruits, etc. Live stock show a considerable decrease in numbers as compared with last year, though for the ten years there has not been much change. The total figures for 1888 are: horses, 1,936,702; cattle, 10,268,600; sheep, 28,938,716; pigs, 3,815,643. The number of sheep has decreased 3,632,000 in ten years, while cattle have increased about 500,000. This brief article will give some idea of the agricultural wealth of the United Kingdom. The figures given include Ireland and the Channel and other islands.

THE EMERSON MAIL.

Up to the time of the recent change in the C.P.R. time table, Emerson, Manitoba, was supplied with a daily mail. Formerly the through trains between

Winnipeg and St. Paul went over the Emerson branch daily, but since the transfer of all through traffic from the south to the Greta branch, the Emerson branch has only been served by a local train from Winnipeg, three times weekly each way. This local train makes the run from Winnipeg to Emerson and return the same day, and as the stop at Emerson is short, there is no time to answer correspondence between the arrival and departure of the train. For instance, the mail arriving at Emerson on say Saturday afternoon, could not be answered until Tuesday afternoon, and would not be delivered in Winnipeg until Wednesday morning. The Emerson people complained of this postal service to the department, with the result that a daily mail has been promised; but the way in which the mail is to be furnished is the cause of surprise. Trains run daily over the Red River Valley road, and there is a station on this road just across the Red River from Emerson. Of course every one supposed that the daily mail would be furnished over the Red River Valley road. The cost of conveying the mail from the R.R.V. depot to the Emerson post office would be about the same as from the C.P.R. depot at Emerson to the post office. The post office department however, does not always do things in a common sense and businesslike manner. Instead of sending the mail by the R.R.V. road, the Emerson mail is to be carried by the C.P.R. to Greta, and thence across the prairie a distance of twenty miles by stage. In the face of the existing facilities this roundabout way of conveying the mail is certainly ridiculous. For cheapness, convenience and despatch there is nothing to favor the C.P.R. route via Greta. Indeed, in bad weather the stage trip between Greta and Emerson will occupy several hours and will frequently cause great delay, and the service can never be as efficacious as if arranged for over the R.R.V. road. The trouble is the C.P.R. is in favor with the Government, while the Northern Pacific, which operates the R.R.V., is not. There are now ten or a dozen post offices along or in close proximity to the line of the R.R.V., and these offices could be best served by a mail over this road. Little towns are already growing up along the road, and these will also require better postal facilities. The efficiency of the postal service, therefore, demands that a mail route be established over the Red River Valley road, and the department should not allow favoritism for the C.P.R. to impair the usefulness of the service.