

board during the period when the supplies by water from the west are cut off; and there is very little doubt that the farmer would receive as good prices for his products in winter as if he waited until nature draws her bolts and lets the flood of western produce in to bring down prices. The advantage possessed by the farmers of these counties is, that whereas the cost of even railway transportation, from the remoter agricultural districts of the west, will shut up their products until the opening of navigation—*they*, by their fortunate proximity, may command the markets of the east at all seasons of the year.

Lower Canada is a customer to the Upper Province of about 300,000 barrels of flour annually, for local consumption. After the close of the navigation, prices there are independent of those in Canada West. Montreal in less than six months will be connected with Boston and New York by a continuous railway from the south shore of the St. Lawrence—and the slightest advance in the Atlantic cities—whether for local demand or for exportation, will draw out her stored supplies received by the St. Lawrence. The home price then rises, and flour must be brought back by the same route at advanced prices for home consumption. Upon this movement Upper Canada must helplessly look on.

We need have no patriotic fears for our canals under this supposed action:—the impulse given to the whole country by the railway will increase the legitimate business of the canals; and if the latter get fair play, the business west of your road will be enough for them.

Hitherto we have viewed the operation of the road with respect to local business only; and without asserting that this would be sufficient (exclusive of through freight and travel,) to bring immediate dividends to the Stockholders, I think that in the broader sense of the term the road would amply re-pay its cost. We pave and light our streets—tin and paint our houses, and put springs to our waggons because we are satisfied this is true economy. The railway is