

With the above figures before us we cannot be surprised at the depression which has existed in Western Canada, depending as she does, almost entirely on her agricultural productions. Nor is it difficult in view of these facts to discover why public attention is so earnestly directed to the appearance of the growing crops.

The chief source of our prosperity being thus dependent upon circumstances beyond our control, we can form after all, but a very imperfect idea of our immediate future. If crops are good and our merchants exercise due caution in the purchase of stock, we may expect a speedy return of better times. If, on the other hand, another failure take place, the return of prosperity will be painful and slow, and only acquired by a fuller development of our agricultural and other resources. The risks to which the trade of this country is, and must continue to be exposed, so long as the same dependence is placed on a single crop, is of itself a subject well worthy of serious consideration. To be in doubt is to be in danger, and to feel that not only our prosperity, but even our individual and national credit is dependent upon the yield of a single crop, and that crop the most liable to failure, may well cause serious alarm.

We admit that Canada does not possess in an eminent degree the elements of national greatness, and that her people must follow such pursuits as they find remunerative, and cultivate such crops as will reward their industry. They must not, however, abandon themselves to the production of a single crop, simply because it is *sometimes* the most profitable, or because it is too much trouble to turn their attention to anything else. They must not abandon the raising of stock, because the winters are long, nor the cultivation of fruit because the young trees require to be protected. The machinery must not be allowed to rust because we have no coal, nor the water-wheel to stand still because we cannot grow cotton, or do not raise the finer kinds of wool.

The same dependence on the wheat crop which now characterises agricultural operations in Upper Canada, once obtained to an equal extent in the Lower Province. In spite of the warnings of such men as the late Joseph Bouchette, the people continued to depend upon their wheat crop alone, till the almost total failure of the crop compelled them to abandon its cultivation.

It is true the system of farming in the western section of the Province is superior to that which obtained in Lower Canada thirty years ago; but it cannot be denied that the same dependence upon the wheat crop still exists in many sections of the country. While, therefore, it is impossible to form