

sion of cultivation. This is in accordance with experience elsewhere. Increased attention to immigrants cannot be without result, though the demand for men to cultivate the soil comes from many countries and is competitive. The farmers of Manitoba and the North-West will find their condition greatly improved as a result of the good harvest and fair prices. This will brighten their life and give a general tone of cheerfulness to their homes. It is agreeable in this connection to learn that a good deal of attention is, in various parts of Great Britain, being directed to Canada, and that more immigrants than usual are expected this season. The heavy harvest of the West will compensate for any deficiencies there may be in other parts of the country. The chances are that there will be no serious block in moving the large crop to market. It will not be well to build too much upon the foundation of one exceptionally large harvest, for when the exceptional is treated as if it were the rule somebody generally suffers. In the meantime let us be thankful for the blessing received.

In the New Zealand budget speech it was announced by Mr. Ward, the treasurer of that colony, that a Free Trade treaty between Canada and New Zealand was almost consummated. The tariff is mainly free trade in respect to many classes of natural products and manufactures, but on a few lines of goods there are ad-valorem duties of from 10 to 25 per cent. One of the chief items is long wool, of which Canada imported from New Zealand last year upwards of 8,000,000 pounds. The duty on this was three cents per pound, and the remission of this impost will likely mean an increase in the export to Canada. Among the other goods dealt with are lumber, flour, fish, flax, machinery, tools and implements, furniture, etc. It appears, from an official announcement made at the same time and place, that the expected additional subsidy from Great Britain to the Canadian-Australian line will not be forthcoming. Mr. Ward was told by Sir Arnold Morley, the British Postmaster-General, that the policy of the British Government is to maintain in the utmost possible efficiency the service *via Suez*, on account of British interests in the East, and India being paramount to all others.

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Now that the harvest is so well advanced, there seems to be an assurance of a good crop of wheat in Ontario, and a really splendid yield of all kinds of grain in Manitoba. At this present time there can be no doubt that a large part of the harvest of the North-West has been safely gathered in. The danger of frost is diminished to an almost inappreciable point, and the only remaining uncertainty is that of price. Upon this we shall offer no opinion.

The crops of Manitoba are now bulking so largely in the exportable power of the Dominion that they cannot fail to be a matter of constant anxiety until realized. The monetary value of the crop must be largely in excess of that realized for a considerable time back, and this, with the economy that has been practiced for the last year or two, can hardly fail to put the farmers of that province in a sound position, enabling them to pay old debts, such as overdue implement notes, storekeepers' notes, overdue interest on mortgages and such like, of all which there have been a vast accumulation for sometime back. The cloud that has rested on Manitoba and the North-West during the last year or two ought to be in a considerable measure now removed.

Ontario cannot boast generally of superabundant crops, but the whole of her productions in grain, cattle and lumber can hardly fail to be at least as valuable as those of any average year. It is true that some districts were

sorely afflicted with drought in the early summer, and it is probable that quite sufficient of an outcry was made with regard to this matter at the time. Indeed, we have heard on pretty good authority that at one of the meetings held to proclaim the destitution and poverty of the farmer, in a certain district, most of those who attended and took part were men known to be in comfortable circumstances. Be this, however, as it may (and we do not vouch for it, as it may have been mere gossip), there can be no doubt that later rains put a different face upon matters generally, and turned what appeared to be a somewhat dismal prospect of short crops, or no crops at all, into the promise of an average or even bountiful yield. This prospect has been fully realized; and all over the Province, during the monetary season commencing with a new harvest, and extending to the next harvest, there can be no doubt that merchants, storekeepers, bankers and all who are interested in business and financial operations will reap the benefit. And it was certainly opportune for such a change of affairs to take place, for scarcely in any branch of business was the outlook favorable a year ago.

Matters are looking quite as favorable in the Province of Quebec and in the Maritime Provinces. Indeed, in the old Province of Quebec a very perceptible change is gradually making itself felt in the farming districts. Instead of the old style of non-improvement and quiet stagnation, which so generally characterized the class of cultivateurs, there has arisen of late years, with the incoming of a new generation, a spirit of enterprise, a desire for improvement, and a readiness to fall in with new and better methods, which augurs the best results for the future. The development of the dairy industry is a very striking feature of the position, and any person travelling through the province who can remember its condition twenty years ago, must be struck by the remarkable evidences of improvement and change.

All this has its reflex influence on mercantile and banking business, and its effects can be seen in the growth and improvement of nearly all the centres of population, and especially of Montreal.

One of the staple crops of this Province will have rather an unfortunate destination on the whole. Instead of being a matter of export to foreign countries, it will largely be required to supplement the deficiencies of the sister Province of Ontario, and at far higher prices than customary. Quebec Province will be undoubtedly benefited by all this, but the Dominion at large will not. Both Ontario and Quebec were very large exporters of hay a year and two years ago. By this operation all parts of the country were enriched, which cannot be said of the present condition. However, even with this drawback in Ontario, what we have said with regard to the general value of its products will hold good. And this we think will apply to the whole Dominion, with perhaps the single drawback of a very stagnant demand for our lumber in the United States.

In regard to the prospect of a revival in this quarter, matters look hopeful enough. But lumber is proverbially a slow commodity to move, and improvement in it generally lags behind improvement in other commodities. But we are safe in saying that the time for a revived demand at good prices for our lumber in the United States is not far off. When the effects of the large crops of grain now being reaped are fully felt, a solid revival of business is almost sure to follow, and with this will come an increased use of the products of Canadian forests.

Meantime financial affairs move on with comparative quiet. The solidity of the general banking and financial position could not have been more strikingly demonstrated than in the entire absence of disturbance or excitement