

other merchandise, requires steamers, and with fast steamers it is believed a great future is in store for this branch of British Columbia's trade. Of course, the fastness need not be that of the ocean greyhounds, but it will be as that of a greyhound to a tortoise compared with the dilatory and unreliable movements of the sailing vessels.

The *North-Western Miller*, of Minneapolis is (not unnaturally) among the American journals that looks with uneasiness to the working of the McKinley tariff. There is not, we believe, much ground for its apprehensions of reprisal on the part of the British Government. Free Trade principles are held by the great majority of English public men, and, having stood out against all the tariffs of Europe, those who believe in those principles are not likely to swerve into inconsistency for fear of the major's Chinese wall. What the *Miller* has to expect, however, is that Great Britain will endeavour to exist with as little of the agricultural products of the United States as she can conveniently put up with. She will seek her supplies from other sources, at least to a large extent, and by so doing she can inflict a much greater injury on United States trade than the operation of the tariff can inflict on hers. That course has already, indeed, been advised in some of the English magazines, even by free traders; and the *Miller*, looking at the question from the standpoint of neither Republican nor Democrat, but purely in the capacity and as representing the interests indicated by its name, counsels the Washington authorities to be-think them of possible consequences and to allow England some of the benefits of Mr. Blaine's reciprocity. Mr. Blaine, as the *Commercial* points out, would balance trade by forcing other nations to buy from his own country in proportion to its purchases from other parts of the world. As Great Britain has been wont to bring from the United States a great deal more than the amount of her sales to that country, it would be only taking the secretary at his word to establish an equilibrium. The *Miller* would anticipate such a movement by showing some consideration to England in the tariff regulation. The suggestion is noteworthy as revealing the spirit in which a most important section of American exporters regard the McKinley ultimatum. And that spirit reflects the feeling of the country, as the elections have shown.

The last report of the Commission on the Herd Book for Canadian Cattle, signed by the secretary, Dr. J. A. Couture, V.S., and published in the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture and Colonization for this Province, shows that 266 animals had been registered, of which 152 are entered as Canadian (28 males and 124 females) and 114 Jersey-Canadian (24 males and 90 females). The report states that the movement inaugurated some six years ago for the regeneration of the small but valuable breed of native cattle is constantly assuming larger proportions; that applications for registration have been made from all parts of the Province, and that for purposes of inspection, thus necessitated, the secretary has visited a considerable portion of it, and that, owing to the labours of the commission, Canadian cattle are beginning to be appreciated as they deserve to be. Their milking qualities have been recognized, and herds of Canadian cattle are becoming more and more numerous. Even those, adds Dr. Couture, who were wont a few years ago to deny the existence of such a race, now admit its superiority as a milking breed, and the day is looked forward to when the cows belonging to it will be regarded as the milkers *par excellence* of North America.

THE SITUATION.

There seems to be a pervading desire all through the Dominion to make the present stage in our economic history a fresh starting-point in the development of our resources. During the last ten years Canada has made remarkable progress in many directions. The extension of our railway facilities has been extraordinary. It seems only the other day, to middle-aged men, when a great part of Ontario, all that is now known as the northern lake country, was entirely destitute of means of communication; when the great north, as it has

been called, of this province was isolated from all the world; when the Maritime Provinces were separated from what was then called Western Canada by an interval of virtual wilderness, and beyond Windsor, Ont., no rail had yet been laid. The contrast between that period and the present is so marked that the younger generation would find it difficult to imagine that the former could ever have been a reality. We may be disposed to repine at times that the settlement of our North-West (as we still name the vast areas of Western Canada) has not advanced more rapidly, and we would certainly like to see a vigorous and far-reaching impulse given to colonization there as elsewhere. But when we thus complain we forget that, until a few years ago, Canada was practically unknown as a destination for the great majority of emigrants who crossed the Atlantic. It is not more than twenty years since the subject was taken up in earnest, and it is only within about half that length of time that we could direct the new comers to our great prairie region. One of the chief advantages of Canada for emigrants of slender means is its nearness to Europe, and it must be considered that, until railway facilities were created, the Fertile Belt was practically as far away as South Africa. But the great drawback to the filling up of our vacant spaces lay in the successful rivalry of our pushing neighbours. Of Canada comparatively little was known. There is still, notwithstanding all that has been done by the Federal and Provincial Governments to draw attention to it, urgent need for sound information touching its advantages as a home for the surplus population of Europe—of the United Kingdom especially. It is not enough to distribute pamphlets at stated times, or to depend on the services of commissioners and emigration agents. To gain settlers of the right stamp, to place them where they are most wanted and are most likely to thrive and to make sure that every intelligent and industrious immigrant will be an evangelist to his kinsmen and fellow-countrymen at home, are tasks that call for constant thought and effort. A mere boom is useless. If we have faith in our resources and ourselves, we should set about this work with no half-hearted and in no niggardly spirit. Instead of vain repining over the larger market across the frontier (of which we shall always have a share) let us try to increase our own home market by peopling our still uninhabited solitudes. Then as to European, West Indian, Oriental and South Pacific markets, there are a few among us who have studied the question and know exactly what the demand is and what the requirements are in the case of each class of merchandise. But this knowledge is a sealed book to the bulk of our manufacturers and traders. How many in Canada, from the Pacific to the Atlantic, have studied, or had an opportunity of consulting the great report of the Ontario Agricultural Commission—one of the most instructive publications ever issued by a government? There is not a point, directly or indirectly, related to agriculture that is not dealt with there with a fulness and clearness most admirable, the witnesses in every instance being experts in the special industry treated of. Under the heading of general farming, every class of crop, every kind of live stock, from Durham bulls to bees and less known insects favourable to agriculture (as being the foes of its enemies) are enumerated, and their uses and qualities are described with reference to the farmer's interests. Durham, Hereford, Devon, Galloway, Polled Angus, Ayrshire, Jersey, Holstein and other breeds of cattle are weighed in the balance and their profitableness or otherwise is pointed out. The folly of trying to save by persistently declining to make use of thoroughbred bulls, deterred by the expense, is insisted on and proved by abundant examples. The meat of different cattle is illustrated by different coloured plates and their respective capacity for taking on fat made evident at a glance. Then what a wealth of suggestion about pasture and byre fodder and general treatment of milch and meat cattle, calves, markets, modes of shipping and other matters, not one of which can be disregarded without peril of loss! The same plan is pursued with respect to horses, sheep (all the best kinds being specified,

and those most prized in the various markets indicated), hogs (to the raising of which, out of which as yet only a few Canadians have made money, reference was made in our last issue), poultry and eggs (about which there has been of late so much discussion), and the advantage to be derived from different crops (wheat, barley, oats, peas, maize, rye); the benefits of scientific (that is, rational) farming: the use of manure, under-draining, sub-soiling and other processes; the work of the dairy, bee-keeping, grape culture, apple-raising, the culture of small fruits and all the subdivisions in which these classes are arranged.

Still more comprehensive (as taking in not Ontario only, but the entire country, from ocean to ocean) was the inquiry conducted by the Select Committee appointed nearly seven years ago by the House of Commons regarding the agricultural interests of the Dominion. The information and suggestions placed at the Committee's disposal by the witnesses examined covered every point embraced under the term agriculture. Nor were the Committee's labours destined to be fruitless. The recommendations of Dr. Sterry Hunt, Mr. John Lowe, the late Charles Gibb, Mr. William Saunders, and Messrs. J. X. Perrault, Barnard and other gentlemen, summoned before the Committee, have been most advantageously carried out, as far as it lay in the Government's power to adopt and adapt them. The Central Farm, near Ottawa, and the branch institutions in Eastern and Western Canada, have done and are doing a very appreciable amount of good, and are destined, it is to be hoped, to gradually leaven the whole farming community with sound principles. If we ask what has been done in the other provinces, we find that, although no such work as the Report of the Ontario Commission has as yet made its appearance, there is not a single Provincial Government that has not done something to gather data and spread sound knowledge as to agricultural operations. Some of the blue-books published contain excellent treatises on general farming, and on every branch of it. There are, besides, the reports of societies, the handbooks for immigrants, the instructive testimony of experts like Profs. Tanner, Sheldon, etc., and the reports of the farmer delegates from Great Britain. If any of our people perish in the midst of plenty, or the means of producing it, it certainly is not for lack of knowledge, for the mass of information that lies ready to their hand, in both French and English, forms no contemptible library.

It is the same with our mineral resources, with our forests (largely covered in the reports on agriculture), our fisheries, our manufactures, our trade. If the farmer and his work have, for obvious reasons, attracted most attention, the other resources and industries of the Dominion have not been neglected. Yet, every now and then we are astonished at revelations of widespread ignorance of some precious natural product, the value of which has been urged upon our people again and again. There is really, however, no need for surprise. The history of development in Canada follows the lines of development in all countries. England's enormous supplies of coal lay idle until a couple of centuries ago, but in due time their worth was recognized. Our own petroleum was locally known generations before it was put on the market. As for the reservoir by the Caspian, it was known since the dawn of history, while the same substance, as we learn from ancient writers, was quite familiar in Sicily and the Isles of Greece. Even in this Canada of ours, its presence in our rocks had been revealed before Champlain's disappearance from the scene. It is as well, perhaps, that such features in the world's economic resources should be slowly disclosed to the mass of mankind; for, judging by the manner in which forests, game, large and small (where are our herds of Buffalo?), and even the countless denizens of the deep, thin and disappear before the ravages of improvidence and greed, even such a check as ignorance is not undesirable. But for us the time has come when the bounties which Nature lavishes on our land should be known and developed, and it is only by persistently keeping the subject before the public that the vast treasures still hardly touched can be even realized.