

If the grain crop of the North-West cannot be sent to Europe via Hudson's Bay the year it is harvested, neither can it be by the St. Lawrence ; and if sent by rail to Halifax, St. John or New York, the price which could be paid for the grain would necessarily be so low that it could with more profit be stored in elevators and exported the next summer by way of Churchill. Owing to the coldness of the climate, there would be no risk of damage to the grain by thus storing it over winter. Even should grain in the North-West prairie country always bring lower prices than in the older provinces of Canada, it may still be grown at greater profit, owing to the saving of years of time and the great labor necessary to clear the land of timber in the latter ; and, as Colonel Dennis remarked in his pamphlet : " Should there prove to be even a four months navigation on this (Hudson's Bay) route, and especially should such period extend sufficiently into the fall to permit of moving to market the preceding harvest, it would be difficult indeed to take an over-sanguine view of the future of the magnificent territories now lying dormant in the North-West.'

The comparatively new business of exporting live stock to Europe may in future be largely carried on in the North-West, but, in order that this may be successfully accomplished, an easy route to the seaboard is almost indispensable. The great system of inland navigation formed by the rivers and lakes of the Winnipeg basin seem as if they had been destined by nature for carrying down live stock to the head of the Nelson Valley, from which the animals could be driven along a common road, or carried by a comparatively short railway to Churchill Harbor. This business, or even the export of dead meat by the cool northern route, is probably destined to give great additional value to the north-western prairies and the stock-raising country northward of the region in which wheat may be grown. Apart from the difficulty as to the great distance for sending live stock to Europe through the older provinces or the United States, should any of the diseases which occasionally afflict