

import of wheat from Canada has been steadily falling off since 1879, while since the same year the import from British India has been rapidly increasing; for though the total quantity derived from India in 1884 was three million cwts. less than in the preceding year, yet the ratio to the total imports of wheat from all sources was in the two years practically identical; but this reservation applies, of course, with equal force to the United States and Canada, for it will be seen that the aggregate import of wheat from all sources into the United Kingdom in 1884 was less than in any of the preceding seven years. If, as is not unlikely, the home demands of the United States lead to still further restriction in the quantity of wheat she may have for exportation, the result may be not only a diminution in the power of the most formidable rival Canada has to meet in the English wheat market; but it is even possible, as statements made in the first part of this paper seem to suggest, that at some perhaps not far distant time, the United States herself may become a wheat-importing country, and Canada would be in the best position to meet such a demand. It is evident enough that in the Dominion the cultivation of wheat on an extensive scale is moving westward; the low average yield of, for example, the Province of Quebec—9 to 10 bushels per acre—cannot fail to be discouraging in the face of recent low quotations. To what extent the wheat-growing capacity of Manitoba and the great North-west will be put to the test depends very largely upon the prospective market which the prairie-grown wheat is likely to command; but I have already given my reasons why mixed farming rather than mere wheat-raising will probably prove to be the safer course for the prairie farmer to pursue. The variety of Red Fyfe Wheat, known as No. 1 Hard, which grows to such perfection on the soils of the Red River Valley and of more distant parts of the prairie, seems likely, on account of its excellent milling properties, which increase in favour as they become better known, to meet with an increasing demand; and as wheat of this quality cannot be raised in the more southern latitudes beyond the international boundary, the farmers of the Canadian prairies are in possession of a monopoly which is likely to remain undisturbed.

The rapid growth of the Canadian cattle-trade is remarkable, and though it has had the effect of cheapening meat in the English market, it must nevertheless be remembered, that breeders at home have been distinctly benefited by the steady demand for pedigree stock of all kinds; and this is a demand which is likely to continue. How potent and beneficent has been the influence of pedigree-stock taken out from Britain by Canadian breeders is sufficiently shown by the fact that the