

PRIZE ESSAY ON CANADA.

We have received a copy of the Essay which obtained the first prize from the Paris Exhibition, Committee, and find it as was to be expected, a very interesting and succinct history of this noble province, its natural resources, and the character and condition of its inhabitants. The author is Mr J. Sheridan Hoan, a young gentleman connected with the political press, and for some time a resident of Hamilton, U C. We notice some omissions and a few not very important errors, but as a whole the essay is a very creditable performance. We select a short chapter:—

AGRICULTURE AND ITS PROGRESS. THE SAME COMPARED WITH THE UNITED STATES.

Canada, but especially the Western Province, is and has been essentially an agricultural country. Acting upon a policy which it is neither necessary to explain, nor to discuss the merits of here, England has always desired to make Canada, and indeed all her North American colonies, markets for the consumption of her manufactures. The consequence is, that Canada's energy has been chiefly directed to agriculture. It is true that she has valuable minerals, but it is only recently that public attention has been directed to them, and that capital has been applied to their production. Whatever prosperity the Canadian people enjoy, it is emphatically to the soil, the use they have made of it, and the timber they found upon it, that they owe it. To follow the plough, therefore, is to follow what has led to Canada's wealth. To count her stacks of corn is to tell what she has to show for her labour. The statistics which mark her annual production are the mile stones on her road to prosperity; and if the reader has a fancy for well-stored granaries, rich harvest fields, farm yards teeming with plenty, and beautiful animals—for they are not the less so for being domestic and useful.—I would invite him to take a short excursion upon this pleasant road of Canadian prosperity.

The value of all the vegetable productions of Canada in 1851 was estimated at £9,200,000,—grain being £5,630,000, other products £3,570,000. The wheat crop of that year in Upper Canada was 12,682,550 bushels, or nearly  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels for every inhabitant, while that of the United States in the same year gave only about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  bushels to each inhabitant.

It would exceed the limits of an Essay to trace the large increase in the vegetable production of Canada. The progress of the American States, unexampled perhaps in the history of the world, afford, by contrast, the best proofs of the agricultural advancement of Canada. Ohio, the best of these States for agricultural purposes, and where land is held, on an average, at double the price of that of the whole Union, produces, with nearly acre for acre under wheat cultivation, one-seventh less in quantity than Upper Canada, there being one and a half bushels less to each inhabitant.

In the last ten years the growth of wheat in the whole United States increased 48 per cent., and that of Canada, in the same period, increased 400 per cent. Even in Indian corn the production of Canada compares most favorably with the States, the increase in the States, for a period of ten years, up to 1851, being 56 per cent.; and for nine years, up to the same period, that of Canada was 163 per cent.

Of oats, the growth in Upper Canada has, in nine years, increased 133 per cent., and in Lower, seventy,

against 17 per cent. during the same period in the United States.

The amount of live stock is justly considered one of the most important features in agriculture, and one of primary consideration in good farming, as without it the properties of the soil could not be sustained, the expense and difficulty of introducing Guano, Nitrate of Soda, and other costly manures pressing too heavily upon the farmer in a young country. In addition to this, stock is a source of wealth, as affording butter, cheese, wool, and other marketable produce.

In 1851, Canada possessed 592,622 milch cows, being two to every 64 persons, and 46,939 more than the State of Ohio, which had in this year about an equal number of inhabitants. In sheep, Upper Canada had ten, and Lower Canada eight to every one hundred inhabitants, whilst the whole United States had 7 1/6th. In ten years the increase in the States of the latter animals was equal to 10 per cent., and in the weight of their fleece 32 per cent. In Canada, for the same period, the increase in animals was 35 per cent., and in wool 64, the quality of Canadian wool being declared, at the Great Exhibition, to be nearly equal to the finest samples of German.

Canada possesses one horse to every five inhabitants, and the increase in ten years has been 50 per cent. The best cattle increased 64 per cent. in six years, and the total live stock, according to the Census, in 1851, was 4,249,314 head. The increase since that period must have been very large; and the importation of the finest European breeds, carefully selected, has enabled the Canadian farmer to compete, in stock, with any part of the world.

From a summary of the facts elucidated by the last Census of Canada and the United States, taken within a year of each other, it appears that Canada far exceeds the most productive State of the Union in wheat, peas, rye, barley, oats, buckwheat, hay, hemp, flax, hops, maple sugar, and potatoes, Ohio largely exceeding Canada in butter, cheese, grass seed, wool, tobacco, beef and pork; and if the produce of the forest be added, of which Canada exported in 1851 to the value of upwards of a million and a half of pounds, the relative wealth is greatly in favor of Canada.

Already the population of Canada is more than one-thirtieth of the United States, the area in square miles, exclusive of territories, being one-sixth; her growth of wheat is one-sixth that of the American Union, and possessing, as she does, the great highway of the St. Lawrence to the West, her resources present an unrivalled field for energy and enterprise.

As a wheat exporting country Canada has made great progress; and as the improved methods of agriculture are more generally adopted, and her rich territories in the west become better settled, her exports of breadstuffs will be immense. It would appear that the United States, on the contrary, during the last twenty years, have been unable, even with the temptation of famine prices, to increase their export, for in 1831 their export of wheat and flour was equal to 9,441,091 bushels, and the value \$10,461,715. In 1851 the export was 11,028,397 bushels, the value \$11,543,063, the increase in twenty years being only 1,587,306 bushels.

In 1838 Canada exported 296,020 bushels of wheat, and in 1852, 5,196,718 bushels, thus increasing eighteen times. Her exports in grain have doubled our times in fifteen years, or more than once in every four years. They are now equal to one-half the entire exports of the United States.