

## ***The Secret of Quebec's Wealth***

We have not far to look for the secret of Quebec's great wealth. We find that while rural Ontario has decreased during the last decade, the rural population of Quebec has increased. The French Canadian has solved the problem facing the average English farmer, viz:—"How can we keep our boys and girls on the farm?" How do they do it? I will try to explain.

As I have mentioned in another chapter, the French Canadian farms are long and narrow, a decided advantage from the community standpoint. Instead of having farm houses isolated right in the middle of a hundred-acre farm on the square plan, the French farm houses are close together and not far from the church and public buildings. The young people are therefore able to meet frequently and enjoy most if not all the social privileges that attract the children to the big cities in other provinces. Consequently there are not the same attractions for the farmers' sons and daughters to leave the farm, especially when in addition the social life they get as a community, they are able to secure comforts in the home, that many city dwellers lack. I was privileged to visit a French farm house where I found two bath-rooms and hot water heating throughout, and I understand this farm was not an exception.

Co-operation is understood amongst the French Canadian farmers and employed, and since the government of Quebec has taken up the question of agricultural schools, much waste has been eliminated and the farmers' energies directed into channels that produce the maximum results. Hence it is that the farmer of Quebec is willing to leave the growing of grain in large quantities to others, while he is becoming a past master in dairying and all that follows in its train, with the result that in 10 years Quebec has become the greatest dairying province in the whole of Canada. The number of pounds of butter and cheese produced by this province is astounding, for cheese-making and butter-making is now the watch-word of the majority of Quebec farmers. Quebec produces over 60% of the butter made in the Dominion.

Herein lies the secret of Quebec's wealth, and it is a