

in the prairie regions in the Far West of America and in Europe. The value of all the vegetable productions of Canada in 1851 was estimated at £9,250,000, of which grain and flour constituted nearly two-thirds, at the present time this value has probably been doubled, for the exports alone of vegetable products are about £6,000,000 in value.

The agricultural produce of Canada consists chiefly of cereals and fodder, and the raising of live stock could coequequently be carried on on a very large scale. In 1859, the exports included 2,635,000 bushels of oats, 1,766,000 of barley and rye, 690,863 of peas, nearly 2,000,000 bushels of wheat, 427,007 barrels of wheat-flour and other articles the produce of the soil, to the aggregate value of £1,468,000.

In 1820, the total assessable property of Western Canada was estimated at £2,500,000: in 1854 it amounted to £50,000,000, exclusive of the value of public lands, public timber, and minerals. Nothing, however, tends more to illustrate the rapid growth of Western Canada than the difference between its exports of wheat at different periods.

In 1838, the quantity of wheat exported from Canada West amounted to only 296,620 bushels; in 1852 it reached 5,500,000 bushels.

In 1850, the number of bushels of wheat produced in Western Canada was 12,675,603, an average yield of 16½ bushels per acre—nearly as much as was grown in Ohio, the most fertile and productive of the American States, and an average yield of one-third more per acre. In 1856, the gross wheat produce of all Canada was 26,555,000 bushels.

According to the official statement of the Agricultural Bureau of Canada, the average yield of wheat in some townships exceeds 22 bushels per acre; and where an approach to good farming prevails, the yield rises to 30 and often 40 bushels to the acre. On new land, 50 bushels is not very uncommon; and Canadian wheat, grown near the city of Toronto, won a first prize at the Paris Exhibition. The quality of Canadian wheat is so superior, that the American millers buy it for the purpose of mixing it with grain grown in the United States, in order to improve the quality of their flour. The agricultural portion of Canada, which comprises four-fifths of the inhabited portion, and a vast area still in the hands of the Government, and now open for settlement, is unexceptionable; and when deterioration takes place, it is the fault of the farmer, and not of the soil.

The products of the forests in Canada are second only to those of agriculture in importance; and including the ships built and sold, are nearly equal in value.

Among the monarchs of the forest may be found white and red pine, the former of which is frequently met with 100 feet high to the first branch, and will occasionally reach 200 feet in height. The average size of the timber cut for the Quebec market will be in logs of about 20 inches square and 60 feet in length: white oak will cut to about 18 inches square and about 50 feet in length, although sticks of both timbers are occasionally cut considerably larger. Of both these kinds of timber immense quantities are annually sent to England; and large quantities of white oak are split up into staves for the manufacture of puncheons, hogsheads, barrels, &c., for the supply of the English and West Indian markets.

The quantity of the timber exported is as follows:—25,000 to 30,000 tons of elm; 35,000 to 40,000 tons of oak; about 400,000 tons of white pine, and 50,000 or 60,000 tons of red pine; about 1,000 sticks of timber suited for masts; about 3,000 M standard staves, and 5,500 M other staves; 50,000 standard hundred of deals, and 350,000 M feet of planks and boards.

The white ash is valuable for making oars. The prickly or black ash, as it is sometimes called, is an ornamental wood, some of which is very handsome, and used for making furniture. Among the other useful cabinet woods are the butternut, which is highly ornamental; the well known bird's-eye or curled maple; and the black walnut, which furnishes the most beautiful wood for cabinet work grown on the American continent. This wood is less known and appreciated in Europe than it deserves to be. Much of it is most beautifully veined, and some of it is richer in colour and far more handsome in appearance than the finest specimens of rosewood. The wild cherry and the cedar are hard and durable woods for many purposes.

In the process of clearing the wood-lands for settlement, the ashes obtained from burning the trees felled often goes a long way towards enabling the settler to meet the first cost of his land. Thus, in 1859, there were exported from Canada 25,598 barrels of potash, and 12,221 barrels of pearlash, of the aggregate value of £221,000. Our direct imports of these wood-ashes from Canada in the five years ending with 1860, averaged 115,000 cwts., which may be valued at £180,000.

Many of the indigenous plants may yet become available in medicine and the arts. Gingseng root, which is considered a sove-

reign remedy for most diseases by the Chinese, and fetches a high price, was at one time an article of considerable export from Canada, but, owing to neglect in the preparation the market was lost. The introduction and growth of chicory might be carried on with profit, and would prove highly remunerative. Attention could also be given with advantage to the growth of flax and hemp; and Canada should grow more tobacco, and be less dependent on foreign imports. Agricultural seeds, grass, clover, &c., and Indian corn, are very much neglected.

There are no recent statistics which furnish the number of live stock in Canada. By the census of 1851, it appears there were in the colony—horses 385,377, sheep 1,597,849, horned stock 741,106. These numbers, it is probable, have all nearly doubled since then. The Canadian horses are celebrated for their hardihood and useful paces, and especially as trotters.

Dairy produce must increase with the growth of the country, and embrace no inconsiderable part of the profitable labor of the farmer in Canada. Exclusive of the home consumption, the value of the butter, pork, wool, hides, &c., exported exceeds £300,000 per annum.

The fisheries of both Upper and Lower Canada are valuable, although not developed to anything like their full extent. The value of the fish production in 1860 was stated at £300,000.

On a coast line of a hundred miles in Lower Canada, the cod, herring, mackarel, salmon, and other fisheries are carried on successfully. There are about 70 salmon-fishing rivers in Lower Canada, which the Government are now fostering, with a view to enhance the commerce in this valuable fish. From the Bay of Chaleur above 10,000 barrels used to be exported. Much remains yet to be done in smoking and drying choice fish for the British market.

Passing now to mineral products, we may state that no man has done more than Sir W. E. Logan to develop the subterranean treasures of Canada, which are scarcely yet fully appreciated in proper quarters. The large masses of magnetic and specular iron ore, and of the rare silicate of iron, the blocks of limestone and marble and other minerals and building stones shewn at Paris, and those which will be exhibited in London in May, will serve to convey a fair impression of the economic value of the mineral resources of the province. The north-west, extending from Georgian Bay to the western portion of Lake Superior, presenting a range of coast of about 1,000 miles, which is washed by the waves of the largest lakes in the world, is rich in copper ores—rich to an extent which cannot be yet estimated, simply because it has not yet been explored. It is in no sense inferior to the American side of the lakes in this respect, so far as slight examinations have proved.

The mineral oil-springs of Western Canada, which now furnish in abundance an important article of commerce, have developed a new source of wealth.

The following statement gives the gross value in dollars of articles of Canadian Produce and Manufactures exported in—

	1855	1860
Produce of the Mines	\$125,835	\$558,306
“ Fisheries	459,920	832,646
“ Forests.....	7,947,923	11,012,253
Animals and their products.....	1,595,184	4,221,257
Agricultural products	13,030,400	14,259,225
Manufactures	476,077	502,037
Other articles, and Ships built at Quebec	1,288,107	1,475,736
Estimated short returned	3,265,014	2,270,430
	\$28,188,460	\$34,631,890
	£5,637,692	£6,926,378

The value of the direct exports of British Produce and Manufactures to Canada now averages £2,250,000 sterling, whilst the computed value of the imports from Canada is over £4,000,000.

Canada made one of the best displays of colonial produce at Paris: 348 exhibitors occupied 3145 superficial feet of space. Improving upon the experience of 1851, when there were 220 exhibitors, and satisfied that the exhibition of its products on that occasion had been of immense value to its commerce, the Colonial Legislature voted a large sum of money. Very great exertions were made by the province to be properly represented at the Paris Exhibition of 1855, and the sum of £12,000 was expended with this view. It was thought by the colonists that this expenditure was not so judiciously made as it might have been, and that there was much unnecessary outlay on commissioners and their expenses, prize essays printed, and other payments; and instead of the products being sold to defray some of the incidental expenses, they were handed over to the directors of the Chrystal Palace at Sydenham.

In consequence of the exhausted state of the finances of the province, and the feeling prevalent respecting the large outlay incurred at Paris, although a most influential Commission was