

ful maturing of the finest products, and at the same time, affords facilities for their cheap transportation. The climates of the western part of Canada, although they vary much in character in different districts, are in the main favourable to the growing of wheat and other cereals of high quality and to the raising of stock, while on the Pacific coast there are exceptional advantages for pasturage and fruit growing.

Altitude.

Altitude also has an important bearing on agriculture, and in this respect the Dominion has advantages when compared with many other countries. While Europe is said to have a mean elevation of 671 feet above sea level, and North America 748 feet, that part of North America occupied by Canada is placed at 300 feet.

To form some idea of the immense agricultural resources of this country, some reference must be made to the area and productions of the respective provinces and territories of which it is composed.

Area of Canada before Confederation.

Prior to 1867 Canada included a region of about 1400 miles in length and from 200 to 400 miles in breadth, extending west to the watershed beyond Lake Superior and eastward to Labrador. Alongside of it were the independent British Provinces of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, and beyond it, to the north and west, were the vast regions given up to the use of the Hudson Bay Company.

Area after Confederation.

By the confederation of the provinces and the acquisition of the Hudson Bay Company's territory, the area of Canada has been immensely enlarged, and the Dominion now contains about 3,500,000 square miles, exclusive