

Lake Superior and the Height of Land was the virtual limit of operations. Under the Federal régime it has comprised the whole continent (save Alaska) north of the International boundary. For years, moreover, a great proportion of that immense region was without any means of communication except the most primitive. To reach British Columbia, there was no alternative to the alien route but a transcontinental tramp. Some idea of the results achieved from stage to stage of progress from the establishment of the Survey to the present may be obtained by consulting the several catalogues of economic minerals published in 1855, 1862, 1876 and 1886. There is probably no more accomplished or energetic corps of scientific workers in the world than the director and officers of our Geological Survey, and if the new arrangements make it more practically useful the public will not welcome the change more heartily than they.

The demand by members of Parliament of returns already made suggests the advisability of adopting in Canada the British usage of placing important reports within reach of the public at a moderate price. British blue-books of all kinds can be purchased immediately after issue for comparatively trifling amounts. If important statistical reports, compiled at great trouble and expense, were announced to be for sale, intelligent persons would buy and read them, and would be able to appreciate the absurdity of public men treating them, on the very floor of the House, as non-existent.

FRUIT-GROWING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

The progress that Canada has made in the industry of fruit-growing during the last twenty-five years has been considerable. Last year the total export from the Dominion of fresh and dried fruit had a value estimated at \$1,635,800. In the previous year the value of the fruit export was only \$878,347—so that it has nearly doubled in a single year. The bulk of the export consists of green or ripe apples—\$1,528,449 being set down to that item last year. There is hardly a country in the world that does not consume its share of our Canadian apple crop. Last year Great Britain received from Canada 619,217 barrels of apples, valued at \$1,277,577; the United States, 144,618 barrels, valued at \$230,108. Canadian apples were also sent to France, Germany, Belgium, South America, the West Indies, China and Japan. The exporting provinces were Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. Quebec exported most to Great Britain; Ontario, to the United States; the Maritime Provinces, to the West Indies, and British Columbia, to China and Japan. This last commerce is just beginning, but it promises to grow into a business of no slight importance. It was long since recognized that British Columbia had every advantage of soil and climate for becoming a fine fruit-producing country. Years ago Prof. Macoun wrote favourably of the pomiferous value of Vancouver Island, and Mr. Elliott, of the Smithsonian Institution, said that the excellence of the mainland apples, pears, plums, cherries, etc., was not surpassed in any other part of North America. During the last five years an impulse has been given to orcharding in British Columbia, the results of which were set forth at the recent meeting of the Provincial Fruit-Growers' Association.

The good work achieved by the Fruit-Growers' Association of Quebec and Ontario suggested to enlightened and patriotic Columbians the formation of a like organization on the Pacific Coast. The British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association—which is affiliated to that of Ontario—held its first annual meeting on the 15th ult., our old friend, Mr. J. M. Browning, the first president, in the chair. The proceedings were of interest, and the presidential address, reports, communications and discussions were, on the whole, marked by an assured hopefulness that is not likely to be disappointed. Mr. Browning sketched the origin and progress of the society, which was organized on the 1st of February, 1889, and said that although all the anticipations with which it had started had not been realized, enough had been effected to justify self-congratulation. The difficulties to be overcome were very great, owing to the fact that the members were settled in localities far apart and could only come together at considerable inconvenience and cost. But the extension of railway communication would soon greatly diminish that drawback. An exhibition of fruit had been held at Vancouver in August last, and had been in every respect successful. Mr. Browning availed himself of the opportunity of testing the Pacific nomenclature by sending specimens of twelve kinds of apples and four kinds of pears to be submitted to experts connected with the Montreal Horticultural Society. With one exception, the naming was correct. The specimens were considered very fine by Montreal fruit-growers. A bottled collection of fruit exhibited by Mr. Cunningham, of New Westminster, and Mr. Henry, of Port Hammond, was sent to Toronto, and was much admired at the Provincial Exhibition of that city. Mr. Browning called attention to the subject of canning fruit and to the handling and marketing of fruit, and recommended the publication of annual reports.

Mr. Henry, as chairman of a committee appointed at a former meeting, read a report, which contained some important suggestions. This report was discussed clause by clause, and was eventually referred back to the committee for further deliberation. The recommendation to appoint an inspector and instructor, whose business it should be to look after the packing and shipping of fruit, was, however, repeated in the second report. This inspector (who should be paid by the Provincial Government) was to be empowered to appoint salesmen in various localities, where auction marts were to be organized. This clause was ultimately withdrawn, the president and others disapproving of it as inopportune. As for the auction marts, the duty of fixing them was left to the municipal authorities of the province. A committee was appointed to attend meetings and collect information on subjects connected with fruit-growing. It was also determined to adopt a standard set of packages for all varieties of fruit. In connection with this question and other points of interest, an important letter was read from Messrs. Chipman, Morgan & Company. This enterprising firm had much valuable information to impart regarding the fruit trade with the East, of which there was no reason in the world why British Columbia should not obtain a considerable share. The Columbian apples were pronounced hardier and better flavoured than those of Oregon and California. Some of them had gone as far as Vladivostock and Corea, as well as China and Japan, and the prospects for

a large and profitable trade were excellent. But the closest attention must be paid to the packing if Canada is to compete successfully with the Pacific States. As British Columbia is now in the way of learning all that can be learned on that point, the establishment of an extensive and highly remunerative trade with the East is only a matter of time. That thriving province will be represented at the approaching Dominion Convention of Fruit-Growers at Ottawa, on which occasion we shall probably hear something more of this phase of British Columbia's development, as well as of the progress of the industry in other parts of the Dominion.

THE QUESTION OF THE CLERGY RESERVES.

To the Editor of THE DOMINION ILLUSTRATED:

SIR,—There is a misstatement of historical facts, apparently endorsed by you, in the letter of Mr. S. E. Dawson, to which you refer in your editorial on "Current Topics," in your issue of the 25th of January last (doubtless unintentional on his part,) which ought not to be allowed to pass without correction. Mr. Dawson, in his letter to *The Week*, referring to the proposed establishment of the English, Scotch and Roman Catholic Churches by the Imperial Statutes, and the subsequent agitation here for the repeal of the Clergy Reserves Law, says: "The intention was to establish and endow, 'first the Church of England and then the Church of Scotland as Protestant churches, and in a lesser degree the Roman Church for the French population. The first part of the plan was not possible upon this continent at that period. The Protestants united to frustrate it. They broke down the establishment and destroyed the endowments intended for themselves. Whether they were right or wrong is not in dispute. They fact is that they did it, while the French stood aside, seeing that the quarrel was none of theirs. But the Roman Catholics would not break up their own quasi-establishment, and, therefore, it remains to this day.'" Now, Mr. Dawson is in error in stating that the Protestants united to frustrate it. Had he said that the various Protestant denominations united against the English and Scotch churches, he would have been in strict accordance with the facts, for the Clergy Reserves Act, or rather the principle upon which it was based, was most strenuously opposed for many years, and successfully, too, more especially by the members of the Church of England, and, therefore, the Protestants did not willingly destroy the endowments intended for themselves, but it was rather the Protestants who were not endowed that united with the Roman Catholics to destroy the endowments intended for others.

Then again, the assertion that the Roman Catholics stood aloof when the measure was passed, is certainly not in accordance with the facts of the case, but exactly the contrary. By reference to pp. 220, 221 of the Journals of the Legislative Assembly, 1854-5, it will be found that when the principle of the disendowment of these Protestant churches was voted upon at the second reading of the Bill to this effect, the principle of disendowment was carried by a vote of 93 to 15. In the majority were 39 French names, including Cartier and Dorion, that is to say, nearly all the *Rouges* and *Bleus*, as they were then called; and only two French voted in the minority, viz., Cauchon and Taché, and if the Scotch and Irish Roman Catholics in the House were added to the French, it would be found that the Roman Catholics exceeded more than half the majority in favour of the Bill, and, consequently held the balance of power. Then again, at the third reading of the Clergy Reserves Bill (p. 365), for some reason or other the *rouge* element did not seem to approve of the Bill as a whole, and although it was carried by 62 to 39, we find 15 French names in the minority, including Dorion, and 24 in the majority, a greater number than the majority in favor of the Bill. If