

AGRICULTURE.

The general opinion of statesmen is that when the balance of trade is in favor of any country—that is when it is exporting more than it is importing—it is on a fair way for commercial success. Under such circumstances, British Columbia has been on the road to eventual success from an early date in its history, its exports having long since exceeded in value its imports; and the indications are it will grow more and more so every year. It will always be a heavy exporter of minerals, and later, as manufactures become more developed, of their products; and will, when its agricultural resources become more developed, raise sufficient of nearly all the necessities of life to make the country self-sustaining. Under such auspices no country can help becoming wealthy and progressive. With the readiness with which farms can be put under cultivation in Manitoba and the Territories, the surface being for the most part prairie, those parts will naturally attract the attention of farm settlers for some time to come, but the peculiar advantages of this province must tell in the end. Large farms can be put in shape on many portions of Vancouver Island, the Valley of the Fraser and other large rivers on the mainland, the Okanagan, the Similkameen, Windermere, Chilliwack and many other portions of the mainland; but it is not yet a settled fact that large farming requiring a large expenditure for help is always the most profitable in this or any other country. When size alone is sought after the mixed principle, that ever ends in the best profits, is always neglected. Even in Manitoba and the Territories, with all their advantages for grain growing on an extensive scale, it has ever been found most profitable to cultivate cattle raising, dairying and the other branches of mixed farming as well. In this province, as far as experience goes, no farmer hopes to realize the best results from farming operations without recourse to the mixed enterprise, adding fruit growing as well. There are wrecks of attempts in this province as well as all corners of the Canadian Territories; but investigation proves this is no fault of the industry either here or elsewhere. Thousands of young Englishmen, and even young men of other countries, educated for the professions, come to this province as well as to other parts of Canada, or are sent here by experimenting parents, to cure them of idle habits, and