output of Cobalt alone may maintain this high level, or thereabouts, for a few years. Of the various other areas being either prospected or developed, little of a definite character can be said. Many millions have been spent in the work, but as yet practically no shipments have been made, although a moderate supply of ore awaits shipment at Gowganda. Lack of transportation facilities and the other great physical difficulties of work in the north country must make development slow, but eventually other camps of importance besides Cobalt will, doubtless, arise. There have been apparently important discoveries of gold in the townships of Whitney and Tisdale, about 150 miles north-west of Cobalt. In the mantime silver has become the mineral of second importance in Canadian production, having displaced copper, nickel and gold, and standing, according to the figures for 1908, in relation to coal as 13.5 does to 29.3. On the basis of our figures for 1908, we have now moved to the third position among the world's pro-ducers of silver, having displaced Australasia. This is the highest position we can hope to hold, as our production is still small beside that of Mexico and the United States, While the silver market was rather uncertain during the year, the price remained about the same until December, when the market showed a hardening tendency. The world's production has increased from 43 million ounces in 1868 to 109 millions in 1888 and 200 millions in 1908. This is not remarkable in comparison with other products, but the price has fallen from \$1.32 per ounce in 1868, to 94 cents in 1888, and 52 cents in 1908. The total value of all minerals produced in Canada in 1908, as shown by the preliminary government report, was \$87,323,000.

At the end of 1909 business generally in Ontario and Quebec, whether in manufacturing, ordinary trading in merchandise, building, dealing in real estate, mining, selling of bonds and securities, or otherwise, is distinctly active, and accompanied by increasing prices and larger volume in most articles. The legitimate basis for this state of affairs is our excellent crops and an easy money market. But the very activity of business will cause the easy money to disappear and the high prices are already causing a speculative tendency, which is sure, as usual, to end in loss and disappointment to many.

MANITOBA, SASKATCHEWAN AND ALBERTA.

We have, as you already know, another year of great prosperity to record for the Prairie Provinces. The spring in Manitoba was cold and backward, but good weather in May and June gave the crops as good a position at the end of June as in 1908, when the spring was early and favourable. In Saskatchewan and Alberta the spring conditions gave everything a good start, but July and August were very dry and the yield suffered because of too quick ripening. Southern Alberta suffered severely from winter-killing of wheat—as high as 60 to 75 per cent. in some parts—but this loss was largely repaired by re-seeding in the spring. In August there were further losses by frost and hail, and this part of the province did not bear out the first crop estimates, although the total results were fairly good. In August we published the estimate of our Supergood. In August we published the standard upon re-intendent of Central Western Branches, based upon re-intendent of Central Western Branches, based upon re-ports from pearly 400 correspondents. This was as folports from nearly 400 correspondents. lows:-

Barley..... 24,324,000 bushels

In this estimate allowance was made for shrinkage by rain, heat, hail, frost or other adverse conditions. country, however, had ideal autumn weather, and some carefully made estimates now put the wheat yield as high as 120,000,000 to 125,000,000 bushels. Our estimates for other grains seem likely to be confirmed. The flax crop, to which we do not always refer, is this year about 3,500,000 bushels, and because of the abnormal price will bring the bushels, and because of the abhoring crops are high in farmers about \$4,500,000. The grain crops are high in farmers about quality, 90 to 95 per cent, being suitable for milling. grain crops altogether are the largest in quantity and in value ever harvested in these provinces, and the total result in money will be from \$155,000,000 to \$160,000,000. The Census Department's estimate of the value of all field crops, cereals, roots, grasses, vegetables, etc., for the three

We cannot report very good prospects for the next season. It has been dry in the West for three or four

months, and in consequence the ground is hard, making fall ploughing difficult. Unless the spring is early and favourable we cannot expect as large an increase in acreage as would otherwise be the case. These conditions should result more adversely in Southern Alberta and Southern Saskatchewan than elsewhere, because of the greater need of moisture in these parts of the West.

As we have tried to emphasize regarding Eastern Canada, the country as a whole is deeply interested in the largest gross product from each acre of land, because every dollar not saved by the farmer is spent in Canada in labour and The average farmer, however, will not adopt new methods beyond the point which gives him comfort, merchandise. financially and otherwise. And so, because the pressure of population is slight and the rest of the world at the moment pays high prices for food-stuffs, we do not, except in a few isolated districts, raise from each acre nearly as much as we would if the pressure of necessity were upon us. When this means neglect of the land, as, indeed, it us. When this means neglect of the land, as, indeed, it generally does, we may be sure that some day we shall be trouble in preparing the ground for the crop, weeds are getting a hold upon the country which will in the next generation cause the children to say harsh things of their fetters. fathers, the land is not rested by changing crops or restored by fertilizers to any reasonable extent, and as yet the side profits from such useful adjuncts to grain crops as cattle, horse, sheep and hog raising, dairying, poultry farming, etc., are little in evidence, except in particular districts, where marked success has attended dairying and stock raising. Even if the present money result was no greater, mixed farming, in which the crops are partly used on the farm to feed stock, would so sustain the value of the land for grain growing as to pay handsomely in the

An adequate system of hall insurance should be devised long run. at once, and some plan should be worked out by the Provincial Governments which will afford some reasonable assurance of a sufficient supply of harvest labourers. The increase in the number of elevators and the improvement in facilities for handling the grain crops after they leave the farmers' hands should be very satisfactory from the farmers' point of view. Certainly competition was never so keen before, and profits to the grain dealers are likely to be disappointing in consequence. In the Prairie Provinces, and including the small number in British Columbia, there were in 1909 1,763 elevators, 37 warehouses and stations, 2,569 in all with a capacity of 54,234,900 bushels, as against 2,086 with a capacity of 43,037,400 bushels in 1908. Including the Ontario terminals handling Western grain, the total growth in capacity is from 63, 190,000 bushels in 1908 to 77,550,000 in 1909. The capacity of the Western flour mills, including those at Fort William and Keewatin, is now over 41,000 barrels daily, and as indicated elsewhere, they have enjoyed a year of unusual prosperity.

Cattle came through the winter in good condition, and practically without loss. Prices have been from \$5 to \$12 per head over the previous year. The number of export per head over the previous year. The number of expor-cattle passing through Winnipeg up to the middle of November was 61.638, the number of cattle for local con-sumption was 18.491, and of hogs 113,139. These numbers are considerably smaller than last year, but the prices realized by the producer are much better, and hides are selling for the highest price ever known in the West.

Ranching is probably doomed by the incoming of the grain grower, and this emphasizes what we have said regarding mixed farming in the West. The demand for beef is growing, indeed the price of all meat food is very high throughout the world, and it would be a ridiculous state of things if a country which is now actually importing sheep from the United States and Australia, and which is buying two-thirds of the bacon it consumes in the United States, instead of improving this very unsatisfactory state of affairs, should make it worse by the im portation of beef, a possibility not at all too absurd to consider. The number of cattle in the West is smaller this year than last, and there is really no time to lose. situation cannot be improved in a year, and the basis of stock raising by farmers on a larger scale should be laid at once. In any event it will take several years to produce a satisfactory situation. The prices paid for hogs and cattle in Winnipeg during the past few months should tempt any farmer to take up this branch of farming.