

Rural Quebec's Wealth.—

It is a recognized fact that a country prospers in proportion to the wealth of its farming communities. The tiller of the soil always has been, and always will be, the backbone of the nation.

Money may be the root of all evil, but it is what most of us are after nevertheless, and it is certainly the thing that counts most when discussing trade possibilities. The question which should be answered before discussing ways and means are :

What is the wealth of the people as a class ?
What about the wage earner ; is he well paid ?

The most satisfactory way to answer these two questions, is to give facts published by the Government, which speak for themselves and which leave no room for argument as to the wealth of Quebec's rural population.

According to the Census figures, we find the following increases in values were made in ten years from 1900 to 1910 : Value of land buildings, stock, etc., over 100% ; field crops 43.76 p. c. ; vegetables, fruits, etc. 177.14 p. c. ; live stock sold 206.84 p. c. ; dairy products 133½ p. c. ; animals slaughtered 7.76 p. c. ; other products 73.24 p. c. These figures range from 50 p. c. to 100 per cent ahead of the increases made by Ontario for a like period.

The Quebec farmer has become a big factor, and is one of Canada's best producers, as the