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#### CONCLUSION.

In seeking to arrive at some general conclusions respecting the present character and probable development of Canadian agriculture, it is necessary to bear in mind the fact that it is only within the last forty or fifty years that any agricultural progress worthy of the name has been effected in Canada. Still more important is it to remember that the work of clearing the forest lands, opening up the country, and bringing the soil under cultivation, was originally performed by men who had little else than their muscles and their native courage to rely upon,—by hardy pioneers with little or no capital, who left their native shores with the brave determination to hew out from "the forest primeval" the means whereby they might acquire wealth and independence. It is perhaps regrettable that the extension of agriculture in the Dominion should be inseparable from the destruction of its forests: this was, of course, to a certain extent inevitable, but I have endeavoured to show that under a proper system of conservancy much of the existing forest areas may be preserved as sources of revenue for ever. The establishment of such forest conservancy should be no longer delayed. Many of the pioneers, to whom I have just referred, have advanced to leading positions in the administration of the affairs of the Dominion, and it is only in accordance with natural law that their sons should be worthy successors of such sires.

The increase of population has, owing to immigration, been much more rapid in Canada than is generally supposed, and, in this connection, the Dominion compares favourably with the great English-speaking nation which has effected so remarkable a development of the southern half of the North American Continent. Thus, in 1776, the United States contained about 3,900,000 inhabitants, and in 1881 about 50,000,000, showing an increase of some 1200 per cent. Canada, at the census of 1784, did not muster 150,000 people, whereas in 1881 the number had advanced to 4,324,810, an addition of nearly 3000 per cent. Moreover, since 1830, when both countries began to experience the effects of the tide of immigration from Europe, Canada has shown an increase of about 480 per cent., while that of the United States has been about 390 per cent. In other words, Canada has in the space of the last half century