

Much of our enormous territory, it must be frankly admitted, is unavailable. We have our Siberia, over portions of which the foot of civilized man has never trodden, and which, from its coldness and sterility, will never be fruitful or habitable. But after making due allowance for these inhospitable regions, the Dominion still embraces an area of fertile territory sufficiently large, with resources sufficiently varied and inexhaustible, to be able to furnish homes for at least 100,000,000 of the human race.

The natural resources of the Dominion are abundant and varied. Prominent among these are our forests, which for extent, wealth and beauty, are unmatched. It is estimated that the timber districts in the valleys of the Saguenay, St. Maurice, Ottawa, Trent, and on the shores of Huron and Superior—all in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec—cover no less than 297,711 square miles\*. As regards the wealth of our forests, statisticians have set down the annual value of the lumber and timber produced by the whole Dominion at \$30,000,000. This estimate is in all probability below the mark, for our exports of lumber in 1868-9 alone, amounted to \$19,838,963, which would leave only a little over \$11,000,000 worth for our entire home consumption†. Beauty is but a secondary consideration; but we may be pardoned for mentioning it, when poets have sung the glories of Canadian woods, and begged language to depict the gorgeous colouring of the dying foliage.

Of our Agricultural capabilities, the extent of our annual exports afford satisfactory evidence. The farming lands of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick are much like those of the New England States, those of Ontario produce crops second to none on the continent, and the extensive prairies of the North-West are now known to be unsurpassed for depth and richness of soil. Some idea may be formed of our agricultural resources, when properly developed, by an estimate of the present cash value of our farms, live stock and implements, and of the value of their annual produce. Taking the census of 1861 as a basis, the value of the farms of the four Provinces cannot now be much, if anything less, than \$672,000,000, the horses, cattle, and other live stock, \$150,000,000, and agricultural implements, \$31,000,000. During the decade from 1851 to 1861, the last census returns show that the average increase in production, taking all the products of the farm, was over 150 per cent. Estimating the increase since 1861 at the moderate rate of 50 per cent., the total annual quantity and value of our farm products will (in round numbers) now be as follows:—

Articles.	Quantity.	Price.	Total Value.
Wheat.....	41,700,000 bush.	\$ 1.00	\$ 41,700,000
Indian Corn .....	3,900,000 "	0.60	2,340,000
Peas.....	18,400,000 "	0.70	12,880,000
Barley §.....	8,200,000 "	0.70	5,740,000
Rye.....	2,900,000 "	0.60	1,740,000
Oats.....	65,100,000 "	0.35	22,785,000
Buckwheat.....	5,400,000 "	0.60	3,240,000
Potatoes.....	53,900,000 "	0.30	16,170,000
Turnips.....	30,300,000 "	0.12	3,636,000
Hay.....	3,300,000 tons	10.00	30,300,000
Wool.....	10,400,000 lbs.	0.30	3,120,000
Butter.....	77,700,000 "	0.14	10,878,000
Cheese.....	6,000,000 "	0.11	660,000
Pork.....	182,000,000 "	0.05	9,100,000
Mutton.....	250,000,000 "	0.05	12,500,000
Beef ¶.....	200,000,000 "	0.05	10,000,000
Miscellaneous.....			10,000,000

Total annual produce of our farms.....\$1,678,000

These facts furnish conclusive testimony in regard to the agricultural importance of the Dominion, and the fertility of its farming lands. And when it is remembered that in 1861

\* From a paper read by Senator Skead, of Ottawa, at the Detroit Commercial Convention in 1865.

† It is believed that the home consumption must at least equal the exports, which would bring our total yearly produce of the forest to nearly \$40,000,000.

‡ The census returns of 1861, adding some omitted Nova Scotia returns, make the cash value of farms \$337,845,330, live stock, when valued, say \$120,000,000, and implements, \$25,000,000. We have added to the statement given above, 25 per cent. for the increase during the nine years which have since elapsed.

§ This is evidently much below our present barley crop. Our exports of that grain in 1868-9 were over \$5,000,000 alone. But wheat has probably not increased so much as the figures above, so the one will balance the other.

¶ The figures for beef and mutton are estimates. The dietary of prisons averages about 1 lb. of fresh meat or its equivalent to each person, and to asylums for the insane, 2 1/2 lb. per diem. Mr. David Wells, revenue commissioner, estimates the meat food of the people of the U. S. at \$20 each per annum. Taking the population of the Dominion to be 4,000,000 souls, this would give \$80,000,000. Deducting from this one-half for hay and grain consumed by animals, which we have already allowed for in the above table, the estimate would be \$40,000,000. Considering the quantity of fish, however, which is consumed in the different Provinces, in the table above we place the total consumption and production of meats at a little over \$30,000,000.