

Extension
of trade
between
Great
Britain
and her
colonies.

311. Seeing, however, that one-half of the foreign trade of British Possessions is carried on with Great Britain, and that over one-fourth of the vast foreign trade of the United Kingdom is absorbed by her Colonies, and considering that, with scarcely an exception, these Colonies are all yet in their infancy, with incalculable resources waiting for development, and that among them they possess almost all the known products of the world, the question arises, why should not this trade be so extended as to make Great Britain and her Colonial possessions mutually self-supporting and self-reliant on each other, and comparatively independent of foreign countries. More especially is this applicable to the question of food, for Great Britain is yearly becoming more dependent upon other countries for her supplies, and "the food must be had, and must be had cheaply, and therefore the more rapidly the resources of the Colonies can be developed, the better it must be for England."

Food sup-
plies for
Great
Britain
from the
colonies.

312. It is estimated that Great Britain annually imports, at the present time, food supplies from other countries to the value of \$625,000,000, of which \$150,000,000 worth, or about 25 per cent., is furnished by the United States. It has been shown previously (paragraph 284, *ante*) that the United States no longer control the wheat markets of the world. The wheat grown in the North-West is acknowledged to be the finest in the world, and will always be able to hold its own position in the market on that account, and when the Hudson's Bay Railway, now in course of construction, is completed, Winnipeg, which is the outlet for the products of Manitoba and the Territories, will be almost as near to Liverpool as New York is at present. Canada and the Australasian Colonies can supply all the cattle and sheep that Great Britain can require, and it needs but the hearty co-operation of English capitalists in extending the railway systems and increasing the transport facilities to make it practicable for almost the whole of the vast amount now