

may be fixed, but the actual productiveness is the result of cultivation and feeding.

Many will not agree with the Director that the crops raised by our farmers are as good as they should be. The reports of the yields on rejuvenated English lands point to such possibilities that one is inclined to ponder more carefully the remarks of the Commissioner in this particular.

Canadian Sheep for South America

A shipment of sheep is being made ready by the firm of W. C. Edwards & Co., of Rockland, Ont., for Buenos Ayres, South America. Mr. W. C. Edwards, M.P., writes us to the effect that the shipment will be made up of part Lincolns, a fair lot, and part Shropshires. The Shropshires of the firm's own raising are exceptionally good, but those secured from some other breeders are not what they should be. A gentleman who spent some years in South America, and who knows something of the kind of live stock which breeders there require, saw the shipment last week and corroborates what Mr. Edwards says in regard to them. Part of the Shropshires are an exceptionally fine lot and should command good prices in the La Platte.

The South American breeders in the live stock they import aim to secure only the very best animals to be had. In their importations of purebred cattle and sheep from Great Britain they have been accustomed to pay the highest prices going, with the expectation of getting the very best that is to be had. Because of this any shipments of purebred stock to that country should be of the very best quality, and breeders are standing in their own light in sending any inferior animals. Only the pick of the flocks should be sent if good prices are expected and a market opened up for Canadian stock.

In regard to the preparation of the shipment Mr. Edwards says: "All have been taken the oest of care of and every care has been taken in fitting them, but the foundation not being what it ought to be the finished article falls short of the mark. The market is a distant and uncertain one and the risk is considerable, and even with good market conditions the stock must be first-rate. We ship our own sheep with good hope of success, but for the other two lots we fear we stand to lose unless the market when the sheep reach their destination is in an exceptionally favorable condition."

This is the second venture which this enterprising firm has made in sending Canadian purebred stock to South America. Two years ago they made a shipment of six Shorthorn bulls and cows and some thirty sheep, but the venture was not a very profitable one, excepting it being in the way of experience. But such enterprise and perseverance as is shown in the fitting out of a second shipment after losing on the first one deserves to succeed, and we trust that this new venture will be a more fortunate one and bring results far beyond the expectations of the company, not only in good profit, but in the opening of a new market for Canadian purebred live stock.

San Jose Scale Commission

At the recommendation of the Minister of Agriculture the Ontario Government has appointed a special commission to enquire into the harm done by the San Jose scale. A wise choice has been made in the *personnel* of the commission by the selection of Dr. Mills, President of the Ontario Agricultural College, and Mr. John Dearnness, Inspector of Public Schools for the east riding of Middlesex. A third commissioner may be chosen. This commission, which is empowered to take evidence in the different fruit-growing districts, will begin the investigation forthwith. Though the scope of the commission seems to be limited to investigating the scale in Ontario, valuable information might be obtained by an enquiry into the harm done in places

outside the province and the efforts put forth to combat its ravages. We are assured, however, from the character and experience of the men appointed that a thorough investigation of the question will be made insofar as their powers extend.

(Since writing the above, which was left out of last week's issue by mistake, we have learned that Mr. W. H. Bunting, a prominent fruit grower of St. Catharines, has been appointed as third Commissioner. The Commission is now at work in the Niagara fruit section.)

A Well-Merited Honor

At the last session of the Royal Society of Canada, Mr. Frank T. Shutt, chief chemist of the Dominion Experimental Farms, was elected a fellow of the society on the recommendation of the section of mathematical, physical and chemical sciences. This is a well-merited tribute to Mr. Shutt's ability as a scientist and to his splendid services to Canadian agriculture.

Mr. Shutt took his degree of M.A. at Toronto University

in 1885 and was fellow in chemistry at his Alma Mater when appointed to his present position in connection with the Experimental Farms. He is a fellow of the Chemical Society (England), a fellow of the Institute of Chemistry (Eng.), and a fellow of the American Chemical Society. He was British (professional) juror at the World's Columbian Exposition in 1893 — the only foreign chemist, and was there engaged on an analytical examination of cereals sent in competi-



Prof. F. T. Shutt

tion from all parts of the world.

Mr. Shutt has contributed many valuable papers in previous years to the Royal Society and is well worthy to be elected to the honorable position of one of its fellows. Mr. Shutt's work at the Experimental Farm has been characterized throughout by accuracy and thoroughness and he has furnished many results of immediate and practical importance to Canadian agriculture.

Selection of Seeds

A Summary of Dr. Saunders' Reply to Professor Robertson

We have received a lengthy statement from the Director of the Experimental Farms setting forth the position he took before the Committee on Agriculture on the selection of seeds and dealing more particularly with his reply to the statements made by the Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying on the same subject. But as it would take more space than we can spare just now to publish the whole of this statement we will confine ourselves to the summary contained in the latter part of it and which has been prepared by Dr. Saunders himself. It is as follows:

When expressed in plain language, the statements made by the Commissioner may be divided into two groups: 1st, Those which are well known and almost universally approved and which most good farmers have long believed in and practised. 2nd, Some more or less new ideas, broadly