

or sale of spurious butters in Canada. A definition of the grades of butter is hereby established which safeguards the reputation of, and trade in Canada on butter.

A new division, for the investigation into the sale of agricultural seeds and improving of their quality, has been established.

The tobacco growing industry was stimulated.

Provision was made for efficient inspection of Binder Twine in the interest of the Farming community.

### POSTAL REFORMS.

Postage rates were substantially reduced thereby effecting a saving of about a million dollars per annum to the people.

Many Postal Reforms were instituted such as Decentralization of Dead Letter Branch—adoption of Postal Note system—and special delivery system.

The Post Office Department which in Conservative days had annual deficits amounting to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a million dollars, has been made self sustaining. Last year a surplus of \$292,702 was recorded—notwithstanding reduced postage rates.

In his Budget speech of 1896 the Conservative Finance Minister, Hon. George E. Foster, spoke as follows :

“ There is now a deficit of somewhere near \$800,000, between the total receipts and total expenditures of our Postal service : and this, I fear, makes the time somewhat distant when what otherwise might be fairly asked for can be granted—that is, a