

by carelessly setting them on fire. We have suffered very much from the burning of our forests.

Q. What do you think of the establishment of a central bureau here, in Ottawa?

A. I think it would be of very great value, but I would urge strongly, as I have done already, that it should be carried on in connection with local branches, so that the proposal in reference to the employment of a public analyst, entomologist, and veterinary inspector, and the establishment of an experimental farm or garden, could be the better considered and carried out. I think the central bureau would be of very great value, but it should have branches to do the work you desire to aim at.

Q. Don't you think the branches should be established by the Local Governments?

A. The great difficulty is the lack of funds on the part of the local authorities to carry out such a work. I have been pressing upon our Provincial Government to do something in this direction, but they find a difficulty in the question of means.

Q. Would the dissemination of hand-books and reports containing the data thus collected, on culture, stock-raising, dairying, poultry keeping, &c., have a beneficial effect?

A. I should say, yes—most decidedly, provided the information afforded had consideration to local circumstances and did not attempt to prescribe what was desirable for all localities from experience obtained in any one only.

*By the Chairman.*

Q. Have you studied the working of the Central Bureau at Washington?

A. I have not.

Q. Would you recommend the formation of a section devoted to agricultural statistics?

A. I think it would be of very great advantage in keeping our farmers informed when to sell and when to hold; would check them from over producing particular crops and stock and glutting the market, and would keep prices steady and hinder fluctuation and speculation. It would enable them to know how best to dispose of their produce. As an illustration, the farmer would always be in a position to feed his grain crops when prices are abnormally low, and the statistical returns would inform him if the fall was temporary or from local causes, and whether or not it was likely to remain steady throughout the year.

Q. Would the issue of monthly bulletins and abstracts, containing such information, be of sufficient advantage to warrant their publication?

A. I think it would complete the services rendered by a statistical bureau.

Q. Have you any further suggestions to offer?

A. No. I think the questions that have been asked have covered the ground pretty completely.

*By Mr. Landry (Montmagny.)*

Q. Is there any agricultural industry in your Province in operation?

A. We have a number of cheese factories and a large condensed milk factory.

Q. Is there not a starch factory?

A. No, I don't think there is a starch factory in the Province in operation. We have some meat canning establishments, which are in operation in Cape Breton, and I know they are canning fruit in the Annapolis Valley, and also corn and tomatoes; but it has only lately commenced, and it has not attained to any large dimensions as yet.

Q. Have you any beet sugar factories?

A. No. We manufacture our sugar by catching fish; that is, we catch fish and send them to the West Indies, and bring back sugar in return.

*By the Chairman.*

Q. Have you only one condensed milk factory?

A. Only one, and it was started last year.

*By Mr. Massue.*

Q. Does it pay?

A. Yes; it is paying 8 or 10 per cent., which is pretty good for an experiment.

Q. Do you think it is better than cheese-making?

A. The condensed milk factory was started by a company, the shareholders of which are largely those who composed the company who were engaged in cheese-making. They have suspended operations to go into the condensed milk business, so that it must pay better.

*By Mr. McDougall.*

Q. I suppose there is less competition in the condensing business?

A. I think, from enquiries I have made, that the principal inducement was that there was a more certain market.

*By Mr. Massue.*

Q. Where do they find a market?

A. At Winnipeg, and with the trade generally.

Q. Have you any agricultural schools in your Province?

A. We have not, but we very much desire to have one.

Q. You believe it would help agriculture very much?

A. I think your proposition for an experimental station should be associated with an agricultural college. The experimental station, the model farm, and the institution for imparting agricultural edu-

cation, seem to be bound up together, and are very necessary in our Province.

Q. Don't you think those colleges should be founded by the Provincial Governments?

A. I am afraid that if they are not established by the Federal Government, they will be delayed, in some cases for a considerable length of time. I think the Ontario Agricultural College is an institution of great value, and a number of young men from Nova Scotia are attending it. I consider that institution, and the farm in connection with it, are a fair sample of what the other Provinces should do in this direction. The prospectus and the theory of the institution could hardly be improved. The practical carrying out of the principles taught there, depends upon the young men who go for instruction. Cirencester College, in England, is largely attended by the sons of gentlemen, who bring their horses with them, and go out hunting occasionally. At that institution, young men are trained more to become managers of estates and gentleman farmers than anything else. Ownership and cultivation of land confers social position in England, so that I have known men of my own profession sell out their commissions in the army, and engage in farming for pleasure; but in a year or two, when the price of their commission was gone and they found they were losing money, they would denounce farming pretty strongly, and say that it did not pay. They were not practical farmers.

Q. I think one objection to experimental farming being engaged in by ordinary farmers, is that it is expensive.

A. Yes, and they have not time amidst the hurry of seeding and harvesting operations to attend to experimental work properly. In reference to agricultural colleges, we have, unfortunately, five degree conferring colleges in Nova Scotia. One of those colleges has attached to its curriculum facilities for obtaining instruction in law and medicine, and we have been urging that some other college should take up agriculture, but we are met by the statement from all who have examined the subject, that agricultural faculties attached to art colleges have invariably been failures.

*By Mr. Bain.*

Q. I presume there would be no money in them at all, that is, the revenue to arts institutions is generally provided from outside sources.

A. I think so; but still we suggested that the agricultural part of the college should receive assistance from the Government, but they might be associated with existing colleges so as to take advantage of their machinery, in the shape of lecture rooms, buildings and staff. From all sides, however, we have been