

the Department. I am not wholly surprised that there was such a wide discrepancy, considering the system adopted by the Department.

Q. You think the system you have in Ontario is very much more accurate than the American system?—Yes; more accurate in this respect, that we can get the areas of crops. But in a number of the States they collect areas of crops now year by year—in Illinois, Ohio, Michigan, Kansas, Missouri, and I think in Iowa. The assessors go their rounds in the month of May. They collect the area of land under the different crops, and their reports are made either to the State Bureaus or to the Secretary of State. These are at once used in the preparation of the reports. The Department of Agriculture at Washington is now availing itself of the work done by the State Bureaus, and as far as possible, it has, for the past two years, been collecting the area of land under crops. Their statistics now are, I think, much more accurate than they were four or five years ago. It is possible that the Department was not as well managed four or five years ago as it is now; in fact, I am satisfied that it was not. The old statistician was removed for political reasons, but he has since been restored to his place, and the new Commissioner, Dr. Loring, a man of very great ability, is in charge of the Department.

Q. Does the Federal Bureau in Washington make use of the State Bureaus?—Yes. In 1882 the Department of Agriculture obtained a grant of \$100,000 from the Government to aid them in carrying on the work more efficiently. This has been expended in utilizing the State Bureaus, and a secretary has been employed in each State to report for the same. The Federal Government subsidized the State Bureaus to that extent.

Q. Can you give us any idea how a Federal Bureau could be established in this country, and what its advantages would be?—I think a good deal could be done in the way of making a Federal Bureau of service in this country. It would simply be the carrying out, or the application of, the Federal idea to the system of collecting all those statistics regarding crops, live stock, &c. The work of collecting statistics, I am convinced, however, can be more accurately done by the Provinces than by the Federal Government. They have machinery which is wanting in the Federal Government—such as municipal and school laws, and other agencies of that sort. But it would insure an earlier publication of the results, which is a very desirable thing.

Q. Do you mean that the Federal Government would be able to publish earlier returns, or the Local Government?—I mean that by retaining the local Bureau you would obtain a much earlier publication of the results. Each Province prepares its own report, and the results may be given to the public for that Province. But under the Federal system that would have to be communicated by all the Provinces to the Federal Government, there to be tabulated, and the results would be given of the whole Dominion.

Q. You think it would be better to keep up the local Bureaus themselves, and have them to publish their own provincial statistics, and then the Federal Bureau could collect the statistics from the whole of the Provinces and tabulate them for the Dominion?—Yes; the provincial Bureaus could be utilized for that purpose.

Q. You think the publication of statistics for the whole Dominion would be a benefit to the Dominion over and above what benefit the Provinces would obtain from their own provincial Bureaux?—I have no doubt of that.

Q. Could you give us an idea of what you think such a Federal Bureau would cost, when operated in conjunction with the provincial Bureaus?—That would depend a good deal on the local organization of the several Provinces. Except in Manitoba, I do not think any Province has such a complete local organization as Ontario has. If that work could be done properly in the provincial Bureaus, and the results given to the Federal Bureau, I see no reason why such a Bureau could not be carried on at a cost, at the outside of \$10,000 per annum.

Q. For the Federal Bureau?—Yes. Of course it would require the services of two very good men, and they should be good men.

Q. Would not the establishment of such a Bureau as that very much decrease the cost of collecting the census returns when that work comes to be done?—I do