

THIRD REPORT

OF THE

COLONISATION BOARD.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY,

WE, the undersigned Commissioners, appointed under Your Majesty's Royal Sign Manual, for the purpose of carrying out a scheme of Colonisation in the Dominion of Canada, of Crofters and Cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and from the congested districts of Ireland, desire humbly to submit to Your Majesty the following Report:—

Reports have recently been received from the agent of the Board in Canada, relating to the settlements at Killarney, in Manitoba, and at Saltcoats, in the North-West Territories. The former was established in the summer of 1888, and the latter in the spring of 1889.

Statements are appended giving extracts from the reports of the agent (Appendix A), and summaries of the returns (Appendix B), showing the position of the various families at the end of October last, with particulars of the acreage under wheat, oats, and potatoes, in the years 1890 and 1891, the number of tons of hay cut in the latter year, the extent of the land prepared for crop in the coming season, the buildings erected, the live stock on the farms, and other interesting information.

Killarney Settlement.

The following table relates to the Killarney settlement for 1891:—

| | Acres. | Estimated Average Yield.. (Bushels). | Estimated Total Crop (Bushels). |
|----------------|--------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Wheat - - - | 2,110 | 20 | 42,200 |
| Oats - - - | 182 | 45 | 8,190 |
| Potatoes - - - | 11½ | — | 2,377 |

Most of the grain had not been threshed when the report of the agent was prepared, but the estimates are calculated at a lower rate than the actual yields were expected to return. Some of the grain already threshed yielded 28 bushels per acre for wheat, and 57 bushels per acre for oats, as compared with the estimates of 20 bushels and 45 bushels respectively. In a few cases the frost is reported to have done slight damage, but the above figures will not be materially affected thereby.

The value of the wheat for 1891 is estimated by the agent at over \$27,000 (5,550L.), of the oats at about \$1,700 (355L.), and of the potatoes at about \$356 (73L.). The average value of the crops for the year is, therefore, equal to nearly 200% per family, irrespective of other sources of income.

The area prepared for cultivation in 1892 is 3,565½ acres, compared with 2,303½ in 1891, an increase of 1,262 acres, which is most gratifying. 896 tons of hay were obtained by the settlement, an increase of 378 tons over the previous year. It is satisfactory to observe that the younger members of the various families have amongst them no less than 1,374 acres of ploughed land ready for crop included in the total acreage of 3,565½ acres already alluded to.