

No. 54.

A REPORT ON AGRICULTURAL COLLEGES AND EXPERIMENTAL
STATIONS, WITH SUGGESTIONS RELATING TO EXPERIMENTAL
AGRICULTURE IN CANADA.

(By PROFESSOR WILLIAM SAUNDERS, F.R.S.C.)

LONDON, Ont., 20th February, 1886.

SIR,—I had the honour to receive in due course the following letter written under your direction :—

“ DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
“ OTTAWA, 2nd November, 1885.

“SIR,—I have an instruction from the Minister of Agriculture to state to you, having in view to put into effect the vote of last Session for the purpose of establishing an experimental farm, that he will be glad to avail himself of your services to obtain certain preliminary information.

“There was, as you are aware, a Select Committee appointed by the House of Commons in the Session of 1884, of which Mr. Gigault was the Chairman, to enquire into the best means of encouraging and developing the Agricultural interests of Canada. That Committee did take evidence on the subject of the establishment of an experimental farm, and made a report in favour of such a project. A copy of that report is sent to you herewith.

“There are, however, some further points on which the Minister desires to obtain information in connection with this question; and he would, therefore, feel obliged if you would have the goodness to visit as many of the more important agricultural colleges, experimental farms and experimental stations in the United States and Canada, as you may think necessary, for the purpose of enquiring into the various methods of working; and with a view of ascertaining as far as possible, what benefits, either direct or indirect, they are conferring on practical agriculture, including stock raising, dairying, &c.; and, also, of ascertaining what is being done in horticulture, especially in regard to the production of fruit.

“It is further desired by the Minister that you should incidentally enquire into the subject of forestry, to ascertain, as far as practicable, the extent and character of tree-planting in the Western States, the varieties chiefly used, and the success which has attended the efforts which have been made.