

grain of high quality for seed. The Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture itself was a direct outcome of the Macdonald seed grain competition. Parliament votes over \$50,000 per annum to carry on the work of that Branch, for the improvement of seed and the securing to the farmers by legislation and inspection of reasonably clean grass seed and clover seed.

Many of the farmers on whose farms the competition was carried on were formed into the Macdonald-Robertson Seed Growers' Association, out of which grew the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. Its third annual meeting was held in June, 1906, and the report of its proceedings contained a marvellous record of valuable public service. Particular information was obtained from leading members of the association. These reported several distinct and definite gains from the method of selection which had been followed by the members of the association, viz., the size and quality of the kernels definitely improving; the strains of selected seed maturing more evenly; the strains becoming better adapted to local conditions; varieties being kept pure; the strains becoming more resistant to disease and gaining in productiveness. All these are highly desirable and give added value to the crops in every case.

I made enquiries last year from the Seed Branch of the Department of Agriculture and from members of the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. I gathered from their estimates that one of the direct results from the seed grain competition was an increase in the value of the grain crops of 1906, to those who were directly affected by the seed grain prizes, to the extent of at least \$500,000. That is high finance for you, high finance by a man of lofty intelligence and spirit—5,000 per cent. on an investment of \$10,000; and the best of it all is that Sir William Macdonald has not sought and did not receive a single dollar of return for himself from it. That is laying up treasures where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt and which go on gathering and diffusing benefits for ever and for ever for the people.