

publication of such information by the frequent issue of bulletins and abstracts, and the dissemination of information on the various branches of agriculture through the medium of handbooks, reports, &c.

An examination of the replies to the questions sent out sustains the view that more thorough agricultural knowledge generally—particularly of the kind of crops most suitable to the various soils and the most economical and efficient methods of production—is the great hindrance to progress in agriculture. This is owing mainly to the absence of sufficient means of information or the difficulty of obtaining it, and in many cases to the negligence of the farmers themselves. The fact must not be overlooked that farmers could derive instruction and suggestions of inestimable value from our excellent agricultural periodicals, were it not for a lack of appreciation of their value and very misdirected notions of economy.

According to the answers received, it appears there is a large amount of defective farming in the country, notwithstanding the great progress made in recent years. In the cultivation of cereals, roots and grasses the chief deficiencies are want of periodical change of seed and its right selection, and proper rotation of crops, with lack of thorough tillage and knowledge of the value and suitability of manures. The value of manures is in many cases overlooked, and much fertilizing power is lost through negligent exposure and the waste of liquid manures. In stock-raising the chief deficiencies are want of more pure-bred males, lack of knowledge of adaptability of breeds to particular conditions throughout the Dominion, want of better pastures and insufficient tree shelter. In the production of butter the milk is frequently not properly cared for, nor is suitable attention paid to the selection of milch cows, and the food given is often deficient in nutriment and milk-producing qualities. Low grades of butter are also very largely attributed to want of skill and scientific knowledge in its manufacture, and want of improved apparatus. In cheese making a want of skill and scientific knowledge is also felt. The quality of rennets is neglected, and proper thought is not given to the suitability of the materials used for packing. Several answers point out that the buildings used for cheese factories are too lightly constructed to afford adequate protection against atmospheric changes. In the cultivation of fruit a great want is experienced, in many sections, of harder varieties and of varieties with improved keeping qualities. There is also a deplorable want of knowledge regarding the insects and diseases to whose attacks fruit trees are so much liable. It is believed the fruit industry might be made much more profitable and general by the introduction of other suitable varieties, and by a liberal dissemination of information respecting insects and diseases of fruit.

A careful summary has been prepared of the views expressed in the answers upon the most important of the questions submitted, and is given herewith:—

No. of Replies.	Establishment of Experimental Farm.		Appointment of Entomologist.		Establishment of Central Bureau.		Section devoted to Statistics.		Handbooks and Reports, and Issue of Bulletin.		
	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	For.	Against.	
Ontario	169	121	33	85	55	109	32	95	31	100	26
Quebec—(English)	35	20	8	18	10	21	6	20	2	21	4
do (French)	89	63	14	56	24	64	17	41	33	76	8
Nova Scotia	59	46	6	27	21	41	4	35	7	36	8
New Brunswick	25	15	3	10	5	18	3	18	1	18	2
Prince Edward Island	7	7	.....	2	1	3	.....	2	.....	4	.....
Manitoba	0	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
British Columbia	1	1	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	365	278	64	198	117	256	62	211	74	255	49