

## REPORT.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization present their Seventh and Final Report, as follows:—

The Committee have had under investigation during the current Session of Parliament, the conditions of Agriculture in the Dominion, in relation to the several departments of agriculture, viz.: the Growing of Cereals, Root Crops, Fruits, and the Division of Dairying, upon each of which much valuable information to producers and dealers in the products of these respective divisions, has been taken in evidence, all of which form an essential part of this Report.

The evidence upon the growing of wheat demonstrates a steadily increasing area, year by year, brought under cultivation with highly satisfactory results to the cultivators, both as to acreage yield and the quality of the wheat produced. Each succeeding year reveals new fields in the great West, hitherto thought not to be adapted to wheat production. One remarkable instance of this occurs in the case of saline soils that for many years were deemed useless for the raising of wheat, and are now, by the application of tillage, found to produce splendid wheat both as to quality and quantity. This is given on the evidence of Mr. John Macoun, Naturalist, who, in 1906, made a minute exploration for report upon the soil, climatic conditions, and growing crops along the line of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway, from Edmonton to Portage la Prairie, in which he states that he saw as heavy standing wheat crops, as he had ever before seen upon any soil, growing upon saline soils, once supposed to be unsuited for, if not altogether incapable of producing wheat.

Another extension of the wheat-growing area of the West is found in the higher northern latitudes now demonstrated to be capable of growing wheat more profitably, than was hitherto supposed possible. Mr. Thompson, M.P., produced before the Committee a sample of excellent hard wheat grown at 63 degrees north latitude in the Valley of the Yukon—this sample being from a third crop in succession, grown upon the same farm. Mr. Macoun, above-named, states on evidence that wheat can be grown in 61 degrees north latitude, and adds the further interesting fact, 'That whenever any production comes near its northern limit it produces more and its progeny seems to have greater strength.'

Mr. Elihu Stewart also states on evidence that in 1906 he saw a promising crop of wheat grown 550 miles north of Edmonton.

From the increasing discoveries during successive years, it is concluded that the actual wheat-growing area of Western Canada, is as yet, of undetermined measurement—any statements to the contrary being merely theoretical.

The Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, furnished on evidence, the following comparative statements of the acreage yield of wheat as between the Canadian Provinces mentioned, and that of other leading wheat-producing countries of the world. In Great Britain the average wheat crop is 30·95 bushels per acre. In Ontario the average of winter wheat is 22·50, and of spring wheat 18·92, showing that we are not in this respect a great way behind the Mother Country; France averages 19·57 bushels, which is under the average yield for Ontario. Manitoba gives about 18·45, the Northwest of Canada 19·13, while Russia, in Europe, gives an average of 9·05 bushels per acre, and the United States 13·43. The Argentine Republic gives an average of 14·76 bushels per acre. Australasia as follows: New South Wales has an average of 9·9 bushels per acre; Victoria, 7·18 bushels; South Australia, 6·62 bushels; West Australia, 11·51; and Queensland, 15·77.