

Cabbage.

With regard to cabbage, the Government want information as to the very best seeds that would suit our climate, and what I have said in reference to potatoes will apply, to a certain extent, to cabbage. We want to know where to obtain the seeds best suited to our soil and climate. All the seeds that are imported into this country should be tested and guaranteed. At present there is a very great disparity in the price of the seeds sold to our people, which in itself is sufficient to indicate that all are not purchasing the best seeds. Special attention will have to be given, and by you to the question of the preservation of cabbage. We should certainly adopt some better method of preserving it than by putting it or putting it in cellars or houses, where most of it becomes decomposed and a great portion of the entire crop is thus rendered valueless very early during the months when the demand for that vegetable is greatest, and high prices are offering. At present all the stores throughout the island are stocked with American cabbage, which is imported here during the months from March to August. Enquiries might be made by you from the Customs or other authorities as to the quantity of cabbage imported during these months. Special attention might also be given by you with great advantage to the question of cold storage in its application to vegetables, what its cost would be, and whether a cold storage plant could not be established in the various districts of the Colony for the preservation of cabbage and other farm products. You might enquire from abroad, where cabbage is raised, as to what system has been adopted for the preservation of the vegetable. I am told there are quite a number of simple methods, some of which have proved effective. The importance of this cabbage industry will best be understood when I point out to you that in 1891 our total cabbage production in the country was only four million (4,000,000) whereas between

that year and 1901—during which period an effort was made to stimulate agriculture by land bonuses, etc., and establishing Agricultural Societies—the quantity jumped to thirteen million (13,000,000), and I have no doubt that if we could show our people how to properly preserve their cabbage crop, that quantity could be easily doubled.

Cattle.

Special enquiries will require to be made by you as to the whole question of the best breed of cattle suited for this country; in what places in the country cattle are now raised for sale; and also the quantity raised and the quality of the cattle. Circulars might be sent to magistrates, farmers and others in the outports and St. John's in relation to this subject, and also for the purpose of obtaining all information as to the class of cattle raised; where they are marketed or sold; what the country suffers from in point of raising cattle of an inferior breed and size, and the difficulty of feeding and producing large oxen; find out the quantity of cattle sent to St. John's from the outports and sold last year; also the quantity arriving by train, especially from St. George's, Bonavista and other places; and also ascertain the quantity of meat sent to Bell Island, Grand Falls and other industrial centres last year. In other words we want to know the local production and consumption of local meat during last year. You might also, from the information thus obtained, be able to make some suggestions as to how things could be improved, and as to how a better class of cattle can be raised and produced in this country.

Hay.

This is a matter which you will want to go into thoroughly. Find out the quantity imported last year and what our people paid for it. You will want to go carefully into the whole question, with a view to reporting upon the matter as to whether it would be in the best interests of the Colony and the farmers to allow hay