

\$6,816,361 in 1896 to \$7,579,080 in 1900, the year the Live Stock Commissioner was appointed, and to \$10,842,438 in 1903. This satisfactory showing is largely due to the organization of the live stock interests aided by the Department and to the distribution of valuable information to those engaged in the business.

The Veterinary Branch.

Closely allied to this care of the live stock interests is the work of the Veterinary Branch of the Department. Under the old regime this branch was in charge of an officer who had private business and gave only a portion of his time to the people's service. He did not even reside at Ottawa, but came there when called for by the Minister or when an emergency arose.

The Hon. Mr. Fisher appreciated that the work of caring for the health of Canadian live stock and of guarding against the introduction of disease from abroad, through the animal quarantine service, deserved the full time and attention of the most skilful talent available. Dr. McEachran, the former chief veterinary officer, was not willing to give his whole time to this work; the services of Dr. J. G. Rutherford were secured, and he was appointed to take charge of this branch.

With this change a more complete and thorough supervision of the health of live stock in Canada has been inaugurated. A thoroughly equipped bacteriological laboratory has been established, and a trained bacteriologist added to the staff, devoted entirely to the work of this branch. A considerable staff of permanent Government officers has been appointed, who perform the work formerly entrusted to local veterinaries, who were engaged from time to time as emergency arose. The result has been a much more effective and closer supervision of contagious disease, and a more careful and thorough investigation into the health of our flocks and herds.

Canadian live stock has been noted for its health and freedom from epidemics, but as the industry is increasing and the trade expanding, care and attention are more and more required. It may safely be said that, to-day, a most thorough and complete organization for this purpose is established.

THE FRUIT MARKS ACT.

In 1901, the Fruit Marks Act was introduced and made law.

For some years there had been complaint of the bad packing and marking of Canadian fruit exported, especially apples; the result had been very general losses to the Canadian fruit grower and handler, and a very bad reputation for Canadian fruit in the English market.

This Act requires the marking of all closed packages with the name of the packer and the grade of the fruit, and also requires that the whole package should be uniform in quality.