

sioners should report upon the functions of the Bureau of Agriculture, with a view to its re-organization. In this connection the subject of Agricultural Statistics would have held a foremost place.

It can hardly be doubted but that an enlargement of the powers and functions of the Bureau would be very desirable, in order that a more active supervision should be exercised over the applications of the public money voted for the encouragement and advancement of agriculture, and that the Department of Agriculture should be more closely identified with the great agricultural interests of the Province than, with its present limited machinery, is possible. But, for reasons already set forth, the Commissioners feel unable to do more at the present time than advise, that the subject should receive the early attention of the Government and Legislature, and to state that, in the event of such a re-organization of the Bureau as is suggested, the Commissioners would view with much pleasure any well-considered scheme for utilizing the experience and information of practical agriculturalists, in an advisory sense, in connection with the operations of the Bureau.

The Commissioners are desirous of expressing their high appreciation of the prompt and ready responses they have received from the different persons and corporations to whom requests for information and assistance have been, from time to time, forwarded. They have also to acknowledge the courtesy shown them by representatives of the Government of the United States, and of the State Governments, as well as by many private citizens of that country to whom applications on their behalf for documentary and other information have been made; and they may here take the opportunity of remarking that, in their opinion, great advantage would result from a more frequent interchange of correspondence between the Ontario Bureau of Agriculture, and the American Bureaux and State Boards of Agriculture, the operations of which are evidently carried on, in many instances, with great intelligence, energy and success. In the event of the Ontario Bureau being reorganized, the experience of such or similar institutions in the United States would be found to be most useful.

In collecting, compiling and arranging the evidence, as well as in preparing their present report, the leading motive of the Commissioners has been to make the whole as useful as possible to those for whom the contents of the Report and its appendices are chiefly designed, and thus to produce a volume of practical information for the farmers of Ontario.

The evidence was taken in shorthand, by Messrs. Albert Horton and George Eyvel, members of the reporting staff of the House of Commons, and transcribed by them in a narrative form. It has since been so classified as to group together, as far as possible, the reports relating to each subject under one head, and subdivided with appropriate captions so as to make reference to any part as easy as possible. Each appendix will, in fact, be an independent pamphlet, which may be distributed either separately or in company with others.