

supervision and direction, must prove of inestimable value. However, one only could hardly be of general benefit throughout the Dominion; although one main establishment, in connection with smaller provincial experimental stations, might prove of great benefit.

*Eighth Question*—Depredations of birds and insects?

*Eighth Answer*.—Yes, of insects, for unfortunately, we have very few birds left, either for good or for evil.

*Ninth Question*—What crops, etc., have suffered most, etc.?

*Ninth Answer*.—The cut worms (larvæ of the May and other beetles) do, perhaps, more harm than all others, to vegetables, and even to young grain in this province.

*Tenth Question*.—Steps to keep down insects, etc.?

*Tenth Answer*.—Unfortunately, in our province, nothing, of any practical account, has ever been attempted.

*Eleventh Question*.—Can you furnish the committee any details as to the amount of loss sustained by agriculturists in your locality from bird or insect pests infesting grain, clover, onions, turnips, potatoes, peas, beans, cabbages, tomatoes, squashes, apples, pears, plums, grapes, strawberries, currants, etc.?

*Eleventh Answer*.—I may say that turnips, sown in June or later, have repeatedly been a total failure, partly from drought, and partly from insects, to such an extent as to prevent any further attempts from being made. Although other crops have greatly suffered, it is easier to save such as are not attacked by the turnip fly.

*Twelfth Question*—Have the timber trees in your district suffered from any of these destructive agents?

*Twelfth Answer*.—Yes, the tent caterpillar has done great damage to forest-trees, last year especially.

*Thirteenth Question*.—Would the appointment of an entomologist, whose duty it would be to give information concerning birds and insects (injurious and beneficial) and the means of protecting the crops against their ravages, accomplish any benefit to the farming classes?

*Thirteenth Answer*.—A good entomologist, if of a practical turn of mind, could do untold good.

*Fourteenth Question*.—Would it be desirable to extend the duties of the present system of veterinary inspection of stock in quarantine, and, if needful, the staff also, with the view to deal with the local development of infectious diseases among farm stock and poultry throughout the Dominion, and the best means of stamping them out?

*Fourteenth Answer*.—Certainly, when such diseases are reported as contagious especially. Another great benefit, which might be derived from this staff, would be in the possible inspection of stallions, were Government to take action in the fostering of horse raising of a better kind. Dr. McEachran's suggestion, of putting a heavy tax on all stallions unfit for useful reproduction, appears to me invaluable, if intelligently acted upon.

*Fifteenth Question*.—Is there in your neighborhood sufficient standing timber to supply shade, fuel and other domestic wants?

*Fifteenth Answer*.—Timber is being destroyed, unmercifully, all over the province, in nearly all the settlements where there is still a good supply. In the older settlements, timber is becoming very scarce and expensive. Many municipalities are so situated that the inhabitants have to travel 15 to 18 miles to bring home a load of wood! Yet no systematic efforts have so far been made, of any account, to check this alarming scarcity.

*Sixteenth Question*.—Have any steps been taken to maintain this supply, or to replant where it has failed?

*Sixteenth Answer*.—The Quebec Government policy, with its "arbor day" and improved regulations regarding forestry, gives promise of future good. The Hon. Mr. Joly's efforts, those of Mr. James Little, and those of Mr. J. C. Chapais, deserve a most honorable mention. However, this can only be termed "A modest beginning."

*Seventeenth Question*.—Do you know of any attempts to intro-

duce tree planting for timber purposes, what varieties and area were planted, what were the conditions of the soil, what have been the results, and to what do you ascribe the success or failure of those attempts?

*Seventeenth Answer*.—A beginning was made last year through the province. The results are encouraging, as proving that the public feels the importance of the subject. A fair success was obtained with the trees planted. We want now a regular organization all through the Dominion, so that statistics can be obtained and informations given from every municipality in the country. Without such organization, it is impossible to obtain any correct data, of a general nature, in tree planting or on any other subject.

*Eighteenth Question*.—Would the establishment of a Central Bureau, having for its object the collection of information upon all matters relating to agriculture, and having a skilled staff capable of giving advice, making experiments, and noting the improvements effected in other countries that might be advantageously introduced into the Dominion, be a benefit to our agriculturists?

*Eighteenth Answer*.—Yes, my previous answers go to show that this organization, if well made, would be of incalculable good to the Dominion, and that great improvement in the general agriculture of the country cannot be obtained without it. However, too much must not be attempted at first, nor expected from such a bureau. Certain results, of the most pressing nature, should be aimed at, and all efforts centered on these until success was obtained, and so on, from step to step. The danger of such bureaux is in attempting too much at first, going to enormous expense, and drifting into more or less complete uselessness.

*Nineteenth Question*.—Would the dissemination of handbooks and reports containing the data thus collected, on culture, stock-raising, dairying, poultry-keeping, etc., have a beneficial effect?

*Nineteenth Answer*.—Undoubtedly. However, very short and pithy tracts, on separate subjects, should, in my opinion, do more good than the immense volumes published at Washington. The distribution of such printed matter should also be made, with care, and only where useful. Possibly, a small charge for such information would cause it to be better appreciated. At all event there is great danger of drifting into enormous printing expenses on this score.

*Twentieth Question*.—Would you recommend in this connection the formation of a section devoted to agricultural statistics, showing the acreage under the different crops, the movements and prices of grain, cattle, etc., rates of transportation, fluctuation of foreign markets, etc.? And what advantages might be expected to accrue therefrom to the producer?

*Twentieth Answer*.—Yes, by all means, as a part of the Central Bureau, and under its direction. The producer would thus find out, in many ways, how his management compares with that of other Canadians situated exactly as he is, and the result would create an animated competition, by which untold wealth should be extracted from the soil.

*Twenty-first Question*.—Would the issue of monthly bulletins and abstracts containing such information be of sufficient advantage to warrant their publication?

*Twenty-first Answer*.—I would much prefer occasional publications of undoubted importance, to rapid monthly bulletins, which are certainly costly, but not always useful.

*Twenty-second Question*.—Does your experience enable you to offer any further suggestions whereby such Central Bureau might be utilized to promote the agricultural interests?

*Twenty-second Answer*.—Not at present. It strikes me that a thorough system of collecting statistics, and distributing valuable information to farmers all through the country, could be obtained through the secretaries of municipalities. Such a system, if regulated by special laws emanating from the local Legislature, need cost but comparatively little, and could be made thoroughly effective, 1st, by complete supervision from a central bureau, and 2nd, by heavy penalties strictly enforced.