

## THE UPBUILDING OF AGRICULTURE IN CANADA

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 34.

WEDNESDAY, December 14, 1910.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met this day at 11 o'clock, A.M., the Chairman, Mr. M. S. Schell, presiding.

THE CHAIRMAN.—Gentlemen, the hour has come for us to commence our session. We are pleased to have with us again this morning, Dr. Wm. Saunders, Director of Dominion Experimental Farms. He has frequently been before us in connection with this work, and his addresses have invariably been not only full of information, but of great value to the agriculturists of this country. The best monument, I think, which will ever be erected to his name will be the work he has been the means of carrying along so successfully in connection with the Experimental Farms of Canada. I suppose there has never been a time in the history of the Dominion, or of the world at large, when there has been so much interest taken in the advance of agriculture—in the most scientific methods and in everything that pertains to the largest possible development of our agricultural resources—as there is to-day. Whether it is our bank managers, the heads of the great railroad corporations, the business men of the country, or the farmers themselves, I do not think there has ever been as much interest taken in scientific agriculture and everything that makes for progress and development in that particular branch of our national life, and the work that Dr. Saunders and other men of similar character have performed, has conduced largely to this increased inquiry and interest in the advance of agriculture. We are pleased to have him with us again this morning, and I am sure he will receive a most attentive hearing.

DR. WM. SAUNDERS.—Again I have the opportunity of appearing before the Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization. This, I believe, is my twenty-fourth annual appearance before this committee, having enjoyed the privilege of being called before you each year for the past twenty-four years. For many years past my story has been one of agricultural progress and of the rapid upbuilding of that great agricultural industry of which we are all so proud and concerning which Canada is now so widely and so favourably known.

It has always seemed to me a marvel that this country has been able to maintain so high a reputation and make such wonderful progress and such substantial growth, when we consider the quantity of poor material which immigration has brought to our doors within the past years. While we have had many thousands of good, practical and well-informed farmers cast in their lot with us, men who are devoting their knowledge and skill to the work of making this a good agricultural country, we have, at the same time, had many more, largely from Europe, who have brought with them little or no knowledge of agriculture and who have almost everything to learn. The reputation of this country as an attractive and promising home for the industrious farmer must necessarily be built up from the average results