

APPENDIX A.

Letter of Instructions From Hon. Sir E. P. Morris, Prime Minister.

Prime Minister's Office,
St. John's, Newfoundland.
21st June, 1909.

A. H. Seymour, Esq., M.H.A.,
City.

Dear Mr. Seymour:—

In addition to the many conversations we have had in relation to the work which the Government propose to entrust you with, and the details of which I have already gone into with you, I now desire to give you a few headings to which the Government would like you to give special attention:—

Potatoes.

The Government want to know everything that can be learned in relation to the present crop of potatoes in Newfoundland. Enquiries should be made in all the districts as to the yield per barrel; the causes which have reduced the yield; and, particularly, the run of small potatoes. I understand the average yield is seven barrels for every one barrel of seed. The Government hope to be able to change all this, bring up the average to at least fifty barrels for each barrel of seed. This, as you will perceive, will double the present crop of potatoes, and would mean three quarters of a million dollars added to the earning powers of our people. Then, special enquiry should be made in order to get reliable data as to the best qualities of seeds, such as Early Roses, Beauty of Hebron, etc. You will want to subdivide these again into early and late varieties. You could also make enquiries as to the

best places from where potatoes could be imported, whether from England, Canada or the United States, and the quality and yield guaranteed in these places; and, further, the best time for importing; whether in the autumn or in the spring. Then it would be well for you to reduce all the information obtained to a formula, setting forth the best manner to preserve potatoes after they have been taken out of the ground; also in sowing, whether they should be cut, how they should be cut, whether it is more profitable to put them in cut or whole, how they should be planted, whether in drills or beds, and the best kinds of manure to be used, also everything in relation to their cultivation. I would suggest your obtaining this information not alone by personal interview, but by the issuing of a carefully worded circular, prepared and signed by the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, asking for this information. A few hundred of these circulars might be sent out all over the land, and when the replies are obtained the information might be tabulated by you. In other words—what the Government require is the best and most reliable information in order to improve the potato crop all over the land. You might also pay some attention to ascertaining what would be the best method of distributing free seed to the people. For instance, if the Government import a very expensive variety of seed they would want it distributed on the understanding that the first year's results would not be used for food, but will be reserved for seed for the following year.