

CROFTER COLONISATION.

SIXTH REPORT

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED
TO CARRY OUT A SCHEME

OF

COLONISATION IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA

OF

CROFTERS AND COTTARS FROM THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS
AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY:

WE, the undersigned Commissioners appointed under Your Majesty's Sign Manual for the purpose of carrying out a scheme of colonisation in the Dominion of Canada, of crofters and cottars from the Western Highlands, and the islands of Scotland, and from the congested districts of Ireland, desire humbly to submit to Your Majesty the following Report:—

Reports have been received from the agent of the Board in Canada, relating to the settlements at Killarney, in Manitoba, and at Saltcoats, in the North-West Territories, for the year 1894. The former was established in the summer of 1888, prior to the constitution of the Board, and the latter in the spring of 1889, most of the families also being selected before the first meeting of the Board.

Statements are appended containing extracts from the agent's reports (Appendix A.) and statistics (Appendix B.) showing the position of the settlements in 1894, the acreage under various crops, live stock on the farms, and other information.

The Killarney Settlement.

There are 55 homesteads under cultivation in the Killarney Settlement—17 of the settlers are between the ages of 20 and 30; 25 between 30 and 40; 4 between 40 and 50; 7 between 50 and 60; and 1 over 60. Altogether the settlement numbers about 160 persons.

The area under cultivation in 1894 was 2,282½ acres, and the additional area broken and under summer fallow was 1,237½ acres, a total of 3,520 acres. Dividing this area among the 30 families forming the settlement the average is 117 acres per family. It includes 1,065 acres under crop and in summer fallow, on the homesteads of 21 younger members of the various families, an average of about 50 acres each.

The report of the agent of the Board explains the cause of the indifferent crops obtained in 1894. In other parts of the Province the farmers appear to have been more successful with their crops, a higher yield being obtained than in the case of the crofter settlement. The quality of the wheat, although small in quantity, was, with a few exceptions of the best grade.

The settlers have acquired 49 horses, many of which were purchased under chattel mortgages. Some of the oxen and cows originally supplied to the crofters have been