

Q. How long have you been engaged in that work?—Since the latter part of 1881.

Q. Was that the first establishment of the Bureau?—Yes; I began the work of organization in 1881. The first work of the Bureau in making a report of crop statistics, live stock, &c., was in 1882.

Q. Does your Bureau of Industry include anything except statistics?—The scope of the Bureau is pretty wide. Perhaps I might read you the clauses of the Act which indicate its scope:—

“(3.) It will be the duty of the Commissioner to institute enquiries and collect useful facts relating to the agricultural, mechanical and manufacturing interests of the Province, and to adopt measures for disseminating or publishing the same in such manner and form as he finds best adapted to promote improvement within the Province, and to encourage immigration from other countries; and (amongst other things) to procure and publish early information relating to the supply of grain, breadstuffs and live stock in the other Provinces of the Dominion, in Great Britain and the United States, and other foreign countries in which the Province finds a market for its surplus products, and as to the demand therefor; and he shall submit to the Legislature, within thirty days of the opening of each Session, a detailed and succinct report of his proceedings.

“(4.) The Lieutenant-Governor may appoint a Secretary of the Bureau, who shall be known as the ‘Secretary of the Bureau of Industries;’ and may also appoint such other officers as may be necessary for the proper conduct of the Bureau.

“(5.) It shall be the duty of the Secretary, under the instructions of the Commissioner, to conduct all correspondence of the Bureau; to send to the proper officers and bodies of whom such service is required the schedules, with instructions, approved by the Commissioner, for the collection of facts and information relating to the agricultural and other industries of the Province; to receive and tabulate the information collected and obtained; to publish the same monthly or oftener during the growing season; to prepare at the close of each year a general report to the Commissioner; to compile annually from the Departmental records of the Province, and from other available records, a tabular abstract of facts relating to land, trade, government, population and other subjects; and, generally, to perform all work within the sphere of the Bureau, as he may from time to time be directed by the Commissioner.”

Those two sections indicate the general scope of the Bureau.

Q. Will you give us some idea as to how all that is worked out in the Bureau?—In the first place, as to crop reports, we have a number of correspondents in all parts of the Province—between 700 and 800 in all. There is generally one correspondent at least in every township, and in some townships there are two or three. The schedules of questions are sent out to those correspondents at different periods of the year. We generally begin with the first of May, and they are asked to report as to the condition of crops, the progress of seeding, harvesting, threshing, and marketing; the condition of live stock, and the presence of prevailing diseases—if any—among the live stock, with reports as to the nature and extent of those diseases. In addition to that, we collect statistics relating to the area of land occupied, of the land under crops, of the produce of the crops, of the number of different classes of livestock, and other information of that character.

Q. Have you any other mode of obtaining that information besides through these correspondents?—The information that I have spoken of respecting areas of crops is obtained direct from the farmers—not from correspondents.

Q. Do you send the schedules to every farmer for information?—Yes, to every farmer. The first year we adopted the plan of getting that work done by school teachers, taking the school sections as a unit. We sent the schedules to the school teachers and asked them to distribute them among the farmers in their section, with instructions to farmers to fill them up and return them to the teachers. The teachers tabulated the return for their school section and returned them to the Bureau, where the school sections were tabulated by townships and the townships by counties. That system worked very well, but a number of school teachers complained of