

The operation of Stock or Herd Laws in Ontario and several States of the Union, for restraining cattle and farm stock generally from running at large, has been the subject of inquiry and correspondence.

Reports on both the last above-named matters have been prepared, and will be noticed in due course.

It will be sufficiently clear from the above, that the Commissioners have kept closely in view the importance of confining their attention to matters of a strictly practical nature. Many important questions—more or less closely relating to the interests of agriculture and the agriculturist—have presented themselves in the course of the inquiry, but, desiring to give effect to the view expressed by the Commissioner of Agriculture, in his recommendation to Council, of April last, that their labours should be brought to an end in time to allow of a report being laid before the Legislative Assembly during the forthcoming Session, the Commissioners have resisted the inducements to travel over a wider field of investigation than was outlined in the original programme.

They have, in fact, been compelled, with great reluctance, to leave untouched some matters which they had hoped to have found an opportunity to deal with as they deserved.

Among the latter may be mentioned, the employment of labour and labour-saving appliances on farms; and the comparative merits of the system of land ownership generally existing in this Province with that of leasing or renting farms, more particularly in the cases of small capitalists, and the holders of encumbered farm properties.

The subjects of Agricultural Associations and Shows, and the Grants made annually by the Legislature in support thereof, were remitted for consideration to one of the Sections, but the Commissioners of that Section have been constrained to report to their colleagues—who fully endorse the opinion expressed—that, while there is, undoubtedly, at the present time a very considerable feeling in the public mind in favour of some alterations and modifications of the present system, no radical change should be made without the most careful inquiry and the utmost deliberation. Recognising fully, however, all that time and altered circumstances have effected in this regard, the Commissioners respectfully recommend that this matter should be considered by the Government at no distant day. They believe that full information respecting the work done, and the method of conducting many of the present Associations and Shows, would indicate some rearrangement to be called for in the public interest. And such information, it is submitted, might be obtained either under the powers of the Agriculture and Arts Act or by other agency, with little difficulty and at small cost. It is with much regret the Commissioners find, that other claims upon their time and attention have prevented them from even attempting to do justice to this important subject.

In his recommendation to Council, before mentioned, the Commissioner of Agriculture gave considerable prominence to the suggestion that the Commis-