

hers, as if to shake hands. The Princess then stooped down, and kissed the Queen's hand; then the Queen kissed her on her cheek. The Prince then took the Queen's hand, and bending down, kissed it. He did not kiss his mother. Then they entered the Exhibition.

We have read of 100,000 troops being ordered out, to protect the Czar from danger while on a journey. Here, the Queen and Princess drive in their open carriage, as other citizens. No troops required to line the roads; only a sufficient number of policemen to keep the roads open.

A DINNER.

The Canadian exhibitors having inaugurated a plan to have a dinner together, the idea was at once taken up, and the Marquis of Lorne, the Lord Mayor of London, and the representatives of the Sister Colonies were invited. The dinner took place on the 28th of May, at the High Holborn Restaurant; the tickets were £1 or \$5 each. A very harmonious and pleasant time was spent, and we trust it may result in a strengthening of the old, and creation of new bonds of harmony and good fellowship.

More Model Farms—Prospects of the Experiment Stations Established by the Dominion Government—Are Model Farms Booms or Boons?

We have been patiently awaiting Prof. Saunders' report on agricultural colleges and experimental stations. We cannot see what object the Minister of Agriculture can have in withholding his Model Farm literature from us; we get his other blue books regularly enough. Does he fear our criticisms? However, we have been favored with Prof. Saunders' report from another source, with a request to review the institutions established, or about to be established, by the Dominion Government.

Prof. William Saunders, F.R.S.C., President of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, President of the Ontario Entomological Society, etc., etc., has been commissioned to visit the leading agricultural colleges and experiment stations in the United States, and to gather such other material as will justify the Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, in establishing similar institutions in the Dominion of Canada. The Professor presented his report several months ago, and a bill has passed our House of Commons known as *The Experimental Farm Station Act*, based upon Professor Saunders' report. This report is a sequel, as it were, of the action of a select committee of the House of Commons (1884) appointed to inquire into the desirability of establishing such institutions in Canada. This committee, as well as Prof. Saunders, made a favorable report of the questions intrusted to them, and as the evidence of many practical farmers examined before the committee has also been favorable to the establishment of Model Farms, as well as some of our leading journals, a large majority of the members of the House of Commons having voted favorably, it would surely be invidious for us to stand alone in opposition.

Succinctly, Prof. Saunders' plans are these:

The establishment, near Ottawa, of a central station consisting of not less than 400 acres of land, to serve jointly for Ontario and Quebec; a sub-station in the Maritime Provinces for

Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island jointly, 200 acres; a sub-station each for Manitoba and the Northwest, 640 acres per station; and one for British Columbia, 200 acres, the central station to exercise some sort of regulating control over the sub-stations. The central station is to have a director, a superintendent of agriculture, a superintendent of horticulture, a superintendent of forestry, an entomologist, a botanist, a chemist, and a veterinary surgeon. The sub-stations are to have a superintendent of agriculture, and a superintendent of horticulture, subordinate to the director. Of course, a host of subordinate officials will also be required. Each station is to have nurseries and propagating houses, and a museum is to be established in connection with the central station. The special duties of the officers are to go round lecturing amongst farmers and fruit-growers.

The Act states that the stations shall execute the following functions:

1. Conduct researches and verify experiments designed to test the relative value, for all purposes, of different breeds of stock, and their adaptability to the varying climatic or other conditions which prevail in the several Provinces and the Northwest Territories.
2. Examine into the economic questions involved in the production of butter and cheese.
3. Test the merits, hardiness and adaptability of new or untried varieties of wheat or other cereals, and of field crops, grasses and forage plants, fruits, vegetables, plants and trees, and disseminate among persons engaged in farming, gardening or fruit growing, upon such conditions as are prescribed by the Minister, samples of the surplus of such products as are considered to be specially worthy of introduction.
4. Analyze fertilizers, whether natural or artificial, and conduct experiments with such fertilizers, in order to test their comparative value as applied to crops of different kinds.
5. Examine into the composition and digestibility of foods for domestic animals.
6. Conduct experiments in the planting of trees for timber and for shelter.
7. Examine into the diseases to which cultivated plants and trees are subject, and also into the ravages of destructive insects, and ascertain and test the most useful preventives and remedies to be used in each case.
8. Investigate the diseases to which domestic animals are subject.
9. Ascertain the vitality and purity of agricultural seeds, and
10. Conduct any other experiments and researches bearing upon the agricultural industry of Canada, which are approved by the Minister.

The Act also provides for the setting apart of large tracts of land in Manitoba, the Northwest and British Columbia for tree planting and timber growing. It also provides for the publication and free distribution amongst farmers of "bulletins of progress at least once in every three months;" also the publication of an annual report.

In a recent issue of the *Advocate*, we viciously flung our pen at this gigantic bubble with the view of puncturing it, but to no effect. We must now accept the inevitable, and all we can do at present is to point out the prospects of failure or success. The cost at the outset will be about \$250,000 or thereabouts, and it is quite probable that the expenditures will soon go into the millions. The institution is based largely on the Washington concern, which costs over \$500,000 an-

nually, the seed and plant distribution alone costing \$100,000, and the bureau of animal industry \$150,000. If we had never had a live stock boom, which cost our farmers many millions of dollars, there would have been no necessity for such a bureau to regulate the movements of diseased stock, and so far as seed distribution is concerned, Washington has been converted into a dumping ground for all the seed rubbish of both hemispheres. Is Ottawa politically more moral than Washington?

The Hon. Mr. Carling is put forward by his admirers as the father of the Ontario Model Farm, and by a lucky incident, it is said, he has been raised to father Model Farms for the whole Dominion. This statement is based on the assumption that the Ontario Model Farm has been a success. The success of this institution has been confined to the College department; and the Dominion Act does not provide for the establishment of colleges. With reference to live stock, all that the Guelph Farm has done is to nurse the booms fattered by speculators, and all that the Dominion Government has done is the establishment of quarantines to legalize the importation of diseased stock, and to compensate the speculators for damages caused by the importation of contagious diseases. Should we expect better things in other departments of husbandry?

The secret of the whole affair is that our office-seekers are very prolific, and the number is abnormally increasing. They all walk in fashionable circles, and our farmers should not expect them to lower their dignity by long hours or honest toil. It is not to their interests that the farmer should be educated in the principles of agriculture, for he would then be able to comprehend what monstrous frauds many of our so-called scientific experiments are.

We have already expressed ourselves with reference to agricultural expenditures. The principle is wrong, but so long as the policy of grab prevails, we would not be doing justice to our farmers if we refused to acknowledge their right to a share in the spoils. The grabbers, however, are directly benefited by the plunder system, while our agricultural interests have lost more than they have gained. We have attempted to turn the farmers' share to the best interests of agriculture, but so far we have met with very poor success.

But we fear that, in the above remarks, we have not meted out justice to Prof. Saunders. He is not an office-seeker. He is an eminent chemist who can make an honest living, and has devoted his spare moments to various sciences out of pure love for them. He is not a practical agriculturist, and although the science of agriculture is not his forte, yet he is an eminent horticulturist and entomologist, and we believe that he could easily adapt himself to the new situation, should he be appointed director of the experiment stations—and there is no doubt but he will. We do not express the opinion that the institutions which he has so strongly recommended will be a failure, but the chances are greatly against them—at least for many years to come. If Prof. Saunders had the supreme control, and were in a position to defy the politicians, the chances would be in his favor; for we believe that he would appoint only the most qualified men. A large majority of similar institutions in the United States have failed to be of any benefit to the agricul-