

GROWING OF FOREST TREES IN PLANTATIONS—FRUIT CULTURE.

HOUSE OF COMMONS,

COMMITTEE ROOM No. 34,

THURSDAY, May 7, 1908.

The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization met here this day at 11 o'clock, a.m., Mr. McKenzie, Chairman, presiding.

The CHAIRMAN.—We have arranged this morning for an address by Mr. W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, on 'The Growing of Forest Trees in Plantations, at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa; and Fruit Culture.' I have very much pleasure in introducing Mr. Macoun to the Committee.

Mr. MACOUN.—Mr. Chairman and gentlemen. I have not had very long notice of the meeting of this Committee, as I believe it was through a change in your plans that I was called here to-day, but I hope that I have sufficient material available to engross your attention during the sitting. We are very much interested in our work, and having been connected with the farm now for more than twenty years, it gives us quite a fund of information to draw upon. Therefore, I think we should have no trouble this morning in spending the time profitably.

It is now two years since I appeared before this Committee, and it might, perhaps, be well to tell you a little about my department at the farm. My title at the farm is Horticulturist and Curator of the Arboretum and Botanic garden, and my branch of horticulture naturally divides itself into three departments: The first relating to fruits and vegetables; the second to our forestry experiments, and the third to the Arboretum and Botanic garden on the farm.

I hope to speak most of the time this morning on our experiments with forest trees for farms, but I would like to run briefly over the third branch of our work referred to. That is the Arboretum and Botanic garden, which occupies about 65 acres of land. In this garden we have over 3,000 species and varieties of trees and shrubs, and over 2,000 species and varieties of herbaceous perennials. The object of this botanic garden is to collect there all the plants we can, and find out which will succeed best in this country and which are the most ornamental, also other information regarding rate of growth, flowering period, and so on, so that we may be able to give the farmers of this country definite information as to the best kinds of trees for them to plant around their homes to improve their properties. I may say we have published a great deal of information in regard to this, and I think it has been very useful to the farmers.

By Mr. Pickup:

Q. Where is this botanic garden situated?

A. It is on the southeast side of the Central Experimental Farm, and consists of 65 acres.

EXPERIMENTS WITH FOREST TREES AT THE CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA.

The third department to which I would like to devote most of the time this morning, although I may refer to fruits and vegetables later on, is that relating to forest trees. It seems to me that the more information we can get before the