

INTRODUCTION TO FIRST SERIES OF REPORTS,

PUBLISHED EARLY IN 1880.

The Hon. J. H. Pope, the Minister of Agriculture of the Government of Canada, caused a number of delegates representing tenant farmers in the United Kingdom to be invited to visit the Dominion in the autumn of 1879, for the purpose of examining its resources and reporting on its suitability as a field for settlement.

In accordance with such invitation, the following delegates visited Canada:—

Mr. Biggar, The Grange, Dalbeattie, Kirkcubrightshire.

Mr. Cowan, Mains of Park, Glenluce, Wigtownshire.

Mr. Gordon, Comlongon Mains, Annan, Dumfriesshire.

Mr. Elliot, Hollybush, Galashiels.

Mr. Logan, Legerwood, Earlston, Berwickshire.

Mr. Snow, Pirntaton, Fountain Hall, Midlothian.

Mr. Hutchinson, Brougham Castle, Penrith, Cumberland.

Mr. Peat, Lees House, Silloth, Cumberland.

Mr. Irving, Bowness-on-Solway, Carlisle.

Mr. Johnstone, Low Burnthwaite, near Carlisle.

Mr. Wilkes, Waterside of Forbes, Aberdeenshire.

Mr. Bruce, Aberdeenshire.

Mr. Wallace, Nithsdale.

Mr. Welsh, Eskdale.

These gentlemen were, in the first place, clearly informed it was of all things desired that their own judgment should be freely exercised and entirely unfettered; and that it was simply desired to obtain from them the result of their own personal observations, as well with respect to drawbacks as advantages, to shade as well as brightness. But it may be added that even this injunction was unnecessary for men of the character of those who were sent to Canada, and their constituents do not require to be informed of it.

The motive for thus inviting delegates and affording them facilities to see every part and province of the Dominion, in so far as practicable within the limit of time at their disposal, was to obtain testimony as respects the objects stated, which should not be open to the kind of question that might attach to any statements whatever coming from Canada, no matter on what authority they might be made.

The reports now published have been made by the delegates to their respective constituents, and have been handed to Mr. John Lowe, the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture of the Government of Canada, who has visited this country for the purpose of receiving and publishing them. This has only been done after careful revision by the delegates responsible for each.

The reports of two gentlemen who did not visit the Dominion as delegates, namely, Mr. John Maxwell, of Carlisle, and Mr. Chambré, from the County Tyrone, in Ireland, but who accompanied parties of the delegates as simple observers, are appended to this publication.

It is not thought necessary to make in this place any attempt to summarize the reports of the delegates, as they will be read with very great and special interest by many in the United Kingdom. It may, however, be generally stated that those who went to Manitoba and contiguous parts of the adjoining territory found the land to be of extraordinary richness, and specially adapted to the growth of wheat; while in the older provinces of the Dominion they found the conditions of mixed farming very much the same as in the United Kingdom. One of the delegates, Mr. Elliot, stated