

obtained by the exploration asked for. The investigation into the climatic capacity of the Mackenzie River region, the country between Lake Winnipeg and Hudson Bay and the country along and beyond the height of land from the valley of the Moose to Hamilton Inlet would be of service to the Government by enabling them to better measure the agricultural resources of these regions and therefore would aid in their decision as to railway enterprises projected or to be projected in these regions and thus be conducive to economy. The climatic survey proposed with European comparisons would show many localities in Nova Scotia, Quebec, Ontario and British Columbia to possess capabilities for fruit culture hitherto scarcely suspected. Amongst other things, the survey would be likely to demonstrate that about 9,000 square miles in Ontario besides a considerable acreage in the interior of British Columbia as well as near the coast, is adapted to the cultivation of some variety or other of the peach, and that a very large portion of Ontario is equal to any other portion of America and superior to the Ohio Valley and to much of the wine growing portion of Europe for the extensive prosecution of some important branches of viticulture.

Conjoined with results obtained in this survey articles on Canadian fruit and other agricultural industries in British Agricultural Journals would prove a most potent and at the same time almost costless means of attracting to Canada British and other farmers of wealth and intelligence.

The survey would in those new sections where local topography exercises a controlling influence on agriculture, prevent waste of effort and with it disappointment, and would give a more intelligent direction to the agricultural occupation of the land.

By Mr. Armstrong:

Q. How many would you require to undertake all this work—how many hands in the various portions of the Dominion? I am under the impression that you recommend a bureau to be formed for this purpose?
—A. Oh, no. I do not wish to give so formidable an idea of the enterprise as that. The meteorological data to be used has nearly all been furnished already by the meteorological service. The printed abstracts of the service do not, however, give all that is needed from the records for the service of agriculture. The manuscripts would have to be studied carefully. One man can do the whole work. More or less mapping would be required. In this the isothermal lines should not be drawn with the free hand generally used for the purpose; the isothermals should curve and twist with the configuration of each district so as to show where possible, the gradations of climate in detail. The maps should show the number of days between the last frost of spring and the first frost of autumn (a very important matter in the growth of fruit and cereals) and the measure of ordinary and occasional extremes of cold.

By Mr. Walsh:

Q. It would take a long while to do that?—A. The material is at hand for the work, and in a short time many of the most important points inquired into could be put in compact form before the public. No staff would be necessary. The proposal is to utilize the data so as to make it directly serviceable to agriculture. There are records from probably between 300 and 400 stations. It may be necessary here and there to know the peculiar topography of a place, but in regard to most localities where observations have been made, no further information would be required than we have at present. The material is simply waiting to be utilized.