

EIGHTH REPORT

OF

**HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED
TO CARRY OUT A SCHEME**

OF

COLONISATION IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA

OF

**CROFTERS AND COTTARS FROM THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS
AND ISLANDS OF SCOTLAND.**

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY :

We, the undersigned Commissioners appointed under Your Majesty's Sign Manual for the purpose of carrying out a scheme of colonisation in the Dominion of Canada of crofters and cottars from the Western Highlands and Islands of Scotland, and from the congested districts of Ireland, desire humbly to submit to your Majesty the following Report :—

Reports have been received from the agent of the Board in Canada relating to the settlements at Killarney, in Manitoba, and at Saltcoats in the North West Territories of Canada, for the year 1896. The former was established in the summer of 1888, prior to the constitution of the Board, and the latter in the spring of 1889, most of the families also having been selected before the first meeting of the Board.

Statements are appended containing extracts from the agent's reports (Appendix A.) and statistics (Appendix B.) showing the position of the settlements in 1896, and giving the acreage under various crops, live stock on the farms, and other information.

Killarney Settlement.

There are 54 homesteads under cultivation in the Killarney Settlement, which numbers about 160 persons. The area under cultivation in 1896 was 2,828 acres, and the additional area broken and under summer fallow was 913 acres, or a total of 3,741 acres, as compared with 3,604 acres in 1895. Dividing this area among the 30 families forming the settlement, the average is about 120 acres per family. It includes 1,130 acres under crop and in summer fallow, on the homesteads of 20 younger members of the various families, an average of about 56 acres each.

It will be seen that the yield of wheat in the settlement in 1896 was 27,845 bushels, as compared with 49,112 in 1895. There were also 11,075 bushels of oats raised, and 3,415 bushels of potatoes, as compared with 14,588 bushels and 4,226 bushels respectively in the previous year. The value of the wheat raised was \$16,707, of oats \$1,993, and of potatoes \$683, as compared with \$19,644, \$2,188, and \$845 in 1895.

It will be seen that in addition to the animals remaining of those originally supplied by the Board, now in the possession of the crofters, they have acquired 75