

To the Honourable

The Minister of Agriculture.

SIR,—I take pleasure in submitting for your approval Bulletin No. 46 of the Experimental Farm series on Alfalfa or Lucern. This bulletin consists of three parts.

Part 1 has been prepared by J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist of the Central Experimental Farm; part 2 by Frank T. Shutt, Chemist of the Experimental Farms, and part 3 by James Fletcher, Entomologist and Botanist of the Experimental Farms.

The economy of growing alfalfa for the feeding of stock and for ploughing under to enrich the soil has not yet been fully realized by the farmers of Canada. The adaptability of this plant to many of the climatic conditions found in this country, its deep-rooting habit which gives it the power of drawing moisture and plant food from depths not reached by other plants, and the large quantities of palatable and nutritious fodder it produces, all combine to make it a most desirable crop. Further, the ploughing under and decay of the roots, stems, and leaves of this plant adds largely to the available plant food contained in the soil, and thus furnishes nutriment for succeeding crops.

It is hoped that the facts submitted in this bulletin will induce many Canadian farmers to sow some portion of their land with this useful fodder crop, and that thus the benefits arising from its cultivation may become more generally known.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

WM. SAUNDERS,
Director of Experimental Farms.

Ottawa, June 28, 1904.