

Fruit Box Standards.

The following resolutions will be submitted for the consideration of the Third Dominion Conference of Fruit-growers, to be held at Ottawa next winter by the delegates from the British Columbia Fruit-growers' Association:

That this British Columbia Fruit-growers' Association adopt as a standard apple box for all purposes the 10 x 11 x 20 inches, and that we instruct our delegates to Ottawa to use every endeavor in their power to have the words "For export only" expurgated from the Canadian Fruit Marks Act, sec. 325. That the Association recommend that the four-basket plum crate be 15½ x 15½ x 4½ inside. That the present pear box, 18½ x 11 x 8½, be the legal size. That the peach crate be 18½ x 11½ x 4½. That the pear box, 8½ x 11 x 18½, be adopted by this Association as a standard box for crab apples.

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Agricultural Legislation at Ottawa

It was expected that the session of Parliament just closed would have gone down in history as one of great importance to the agricultural industry of Canada, but the whole country knows that the reciprocity pact was not allowed to reach a division of the House of Commons upon its first reading. Because of the time spent in debating this far-reaching measure, a number of bills affecting agriculture had to be left over.

Early in the session, however, a number of agricultural measures went through. While only a portion of the supplies necessary to carry on the work of the several branches and divisions of the Department of Agriculture were voted, the amounts asked for by the Minister of that Department were sanctioned. When the House again meets, the remaining portion of the vote will doubtless be carried through.

AMENDMENTS TO SEED-CONTROL ACT.

To prevent the distribution of the seeds of noxious weeds through commercial channels is the constant effort of the Seed Commissioner. This official has his inspectors constantly on the outlook for channels in trade through which these pests of the farm are being spread. When the original Seed Control Act was drafted, it named all the weeds that it was thought necessary to cover in the measure. Investigation showed that a number of bad ones were missed, and as time went on new ones were cropping up. In certain sections, weeds not named in the Act were working serious havoc, while they were not known in other parts of the country. It was, therefore, thought well to provide for these unwelcome introductions, and consequently, during the past session there was enacted an amendment authorizing the Governor-in-Council to name the seeds which should be considered the seeds of noxious weeds. By this amendment, any weed found to be bad can be brought under the operation of the Act within reasonable time.

This amendment extends also to flax seed, as well as to clover and grasses. In the original Act, flax seed was not included in the list of seed with which the seeds of noxious weeds must not be mixed when offered for sale. The amendment adds flax seed to the list.

Provision is made for the grading of timothy, alsike, red clover and alfalfa seed under different standards of quality into Extra No. 1, No. 1, No. 2, No. 3, etc. Heretofore, there were two standards, No. 1, and a lower standard, below which no seeds offered for sale must go.

Three years of investigations showed the Seed Commissioner that large quantities of bad seeds were being distributed, mixed with bran and other mill feeds. It was the custom of many mill owners to get rid of screenings in this way. Analyses showed that samples of bran, shorts and middlings contained as high as 246 vital seeds of weed per pound, while feed oats unground contained over 4,000 such seeds per pound. It was realized that many of these seeds pass through the systems of animals, retaining their vitality. This is why the Act was amended so as to make it necessary that bran, shorts and chop feed must, according to law, be free from vital seeds of any of the noxious weeds coming within the operation of the Seed Control Act.

GRADING FRUIT.

The Inspection and Sale Act, which now includes the Fruit Marks Act, was amended so as to cover all fruit packed and offered for sale either wholesale or retail in Canada, as well as for export. Heretofore, the Act covered only the export trade, and many and bitter were the complaints of Canadians who were getting the little apples and other inferior fruit in the middle and bottom of the package. Now all fruit offered for sale must be honestly packed, and the receptacles must be properly marked. Further, it is unlawful to mark or caused to be marked a wrong name, or the name of any person or firm other than the one who actually packed the package.

INSECT PESTS.

An important regulation was passed by Order-in-Council while the House was in session. It has to do with insect pests likely to be introduced on imported nursery stock. According to the Order, under the Destructive Insect and Pests Act, the importation of any plant or nursery stock infected is prohibited, and importation shall be only through certain ports: Vancouver, October 1 to May 1; Niagara Falls, October 1 to May 15; Winnipeg and St. John, March 15 to May 15, and from the 7th of October to the 7th of December; Windsor and St. John's, Que., March 15 to May 15, and from September 26 to December 7. Exemption is made in cases of greenhouse plants, herbaceous perennials, bulbs and tubers, and necklace poplar. Notice of intended importation is required, and the sale of any infected stock is prohibited. Inspectors to carry out all the regulations have been appointed. They will have power to enter any lands and premises where infection is supposed to exist. The regulations are lengthy and somewhat radical.

VOTES FOR AGRICULTURE.

The amounts of money asked for by the minister in the main estimates exceeded last year's appropriation by a little more than one hundred thousand dollars. Had the session reached a normal termination, there would have been submitted, with other supplementary estimates, slightly more than half a million dollars additional money for agriculture. The plans involved with this sum cannot be considered in this review.

DAIRY AND COLD-STORAGE BRANCH.

The vote of \$100,000 last year has been increased by \$10,000, in order to take care of a general extension of the work. Special experiments in buttermaking are being carried out under the direction of Geo. H. Barr, to learn the best system of conducting the cream-gathering system of buttermaking. The special object is to learn the best method of handling the cream at the farms, as well as the best treatment to give the cream after it is delivered at the creamery. The work is being done on a large scale at the Renfrew creamery, which has been properly equipped for the work. The cow-testing work is rapidly expanding. Already, about 175 associations are in working order, representing some 1,200 members and 14,000 cows. This year, special officers are being stationed in certain sections to work up cow-testing in the whole neighborhood, and incidentally to encourage the use of improved stock, as well as better feeding and care of animals. Each farmer in the localities is asked to take a sample of the milk of each cow at regular intervals, and these samples are sent to factories to be tested. The Department pays the factories five cents per test. The results are given to the officers, and the farmers themselves weigh and keep a record of the weight of the milk. The results of the tests are worked out by the Departmental officer, who hands them to the farmers for their guidance in weeding out the poor cows. Dairy record centers are established in Oxford, Peterboro and Lanark Counties, in Ontario; St. Hyacinthe and Brome, in Quebec; and Kensington, Prince Edward Island.

Work in the Market Extension Division is constantly growing. A cargo-inspection officer is stationed at Liverpool, and under him officers are at work at large British ports. These men watch the cargoes of perishable products as they land, and read the records of the thermographs maintained in the cold-storage chambers of ships. Reports, including the readings, are forwarded to the Dairy and Cold-storage Commissioner at Ottawa. Inefficient handling is reported to the shipping companies, who are always ready to improve conditions where necessary.

Experiments in cooling fruit are being carried out. The system involves the forcing of cold, dry air into filled cars. The packages are so packed as to leave spaces and avenues for circulation. When the fruit is properly cooled, ice is put in to hold the low temperature, and the car is closed and sealed for the journey.

The appropriation for bonusing cold-storage warehouses remains the same as last year—\$75,000.

THE SEED BRANCH.

Sixty thousand dollars, as against \$50,000 last year, was asked on behalf of the work of the Seed Branch, which administers the Seed Control Act. The work is making healthy growth, and requires the extra money. Three thousand dollars of the additional vote is for publications of the Branch. This will provide for a commencement in the work of preparing a book on grasses having colored plates similar in style to the Book of Weeds issued by this Branch. The Seed Branch does much valuable educational work in connection with seed fairs and standing field-crop competitions. In connection with the latter, the Branch co-operates with Provincial Departments of Agriculture, the Federal Branch supplying the judges. Financial and other assistance is granted, when applied for, to seed exhibitions organized by Provincial Departments of Agriculture.

ture. The grant towards a Provincial exhibition amounts usually to \$250.

More than 7,000 samples of seed were tested for farmers last year at Ottawa and Calgary, in addition to tests made for purity of samples gathered by inspectors in connection with the administration of the Seed Control Act.

EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

Thirty thousand dollars was added to the vote of last year to carry on the work of the Experimental Farms, bringing the amount up to \$160,000. In addition, \$75,000 was approved for organizing and carrying on additional branch farms. A similar vote was made for new farms last year. Besides this, \$25,000 was voted to the Department of Public Works for new buildings and repairs. The work to be done includes the construction of a new dairy barn at the Farm at Agassiz, B. C., and repairs to buildings and fences at the Central Farm.

The general work at all the Farms is being extended under the new director. Exhaustive experiments in cultivation and rotation are being undertaken, and new work is being taken up with live stock. At each farm an assistant superintendent, who is a graduate of an agricultural College, has been appointed. The head of each division at the Central Farm has also been provided with a trained assistant.

Besides the five original farms, at Ottawa, Nappan, N. S.; Brandon, Man.; Indian Head, Sask., and Agassiz, B. C., there are now in operation farms at Charlottetown, P. E. I.; Fort Rouge, Que.; Rosthern and Scott, in Saskatchewan; Lethbridge and Lacombe, in Alberta; while smaller stations have been organized at Kamloops, B. C.; Fort Vermillion, on the Peace River, and Forts Smith and Resolution, beyond the 60th parallel of latitude.

HEALTH OF ANIMALS AND LIVE STOCK.

The vote for the Health of Animals and Live-stock Branches remains the same as last year, viz., \$250,000 for the former, and \$52,000 for the latter. For Meat Inspection, the vote is enlarged from \$120,000 to \$140,000. These Branches are well organized and doing a valuable work for the live-stock industry. The growing export and import trade call for strict and thorough supervision, in order to prevent introductions of disease, as well as to see that our stock going abroad cannot be found fault with by the health departments of importing countries.

An important new work nearing completion, under direction of the Live-stock Commissioner, is that of the Sheep Commission, whose report will shed much valuable light on the conditions of the industry in Great Britain and the United States, besides the state of the industry and its possibilities in Canada, from ocean to ocean. This report will deal very fully with the wool situation.

Twenty thousand dollars was voted to the Department of Public Works to construct corrals and dipping vats along the boundary line between Canada and the United States, and for the maintenance of cattle quarantine stations generally throughout the Dominion, in a proper state of efficiency.

TOBACCO.

The vote to carry on the work of the Tobacco Division has been increased from \$5,000 last year, to \$15,000 for the present one. More elaborate experiments are being carried out at the stations in Essex and Kent, in Ontario, and the two Quebec stations. A new station is being established in British Columbia, where the Chief of the Division, Mr. Charlan, has made a careful investigation, and found certain parts of the Province exceedingly favorable for tobacco-growing. It is estimated that the tobacco crop of 1910 was worth \$1,000,000. With proper methods and the growing of the most suitable varieties, it is believed that the industry is capable of great expansion.

EXHIBITIONS.

Two hundred and eight thousand dollars are set apart for exhibitions, as against \$178,000 last year. This includes \$150,000 for world's exhibitions, \$8,000 for renewing and improving exhibits at the Canadian Institute, London, and \$50,000 for the Dominion Exhibition.

The world's exhibition receiving attention this year is the "Festival of Empire," which was postponed last year on account of the death of King Edward. At this exhibition, Canada maintains an elaborate display of Canadian products, artistically arranged as a fac-simile of the Canadian House of Commons. The Canadian Institute is a permanent institution in London. It forms part of an extensive exhibition maintained by the Colonies of the British Empire. The Canadian exhibit consists of products which show the natural resources of the Dominion. Such of the exhibits as lose freshness are being constantly renewed.

The Dominion Exhibition this year is being held at Regina, Sask., on August 1st to 12th.

INSECT PESTS.

Last year, \$2,000 was set apart to administer the Destructive Insect and Pest Act. This year