

cultivation of the various crops, but I do not think that would be an actual answer to your question.

Q. Would the importation of seed from foreign countries benefit our farmers?—We are doing all we can to improve our seeds by this plan, but it has to be done by private parties, and it is a matter of difficulty and expense to our farmers.

*By Mr. Bain :*

Q. Have you seedsmen who go largely into that line?—No; they do very little importing themselves. We deal with Ontario seedsmen, and we find it more convenient to get our supply in this way, because we have the advantage of dealing with importers who operate on a larger scale.

Q. I suppose the field with you is not very large for the seed business?—No not large. It is supplied very largely with foreign seeds through Ontario seedsmen.

Q. What is your experience with Ontario seeds? How does the change of climate and soil operate?—Very satisfactorily.

*By Mr. Massue :*

Q. Do you grow fall wheat?—I am experimenting with fall wheat. It has been tried, and has been pronounced a failure, on account of our changeable winters. For instance, this winter we had no snow, but constant frosts and changes until about the 1st of March. The ground has not been covered with snow at all. I have 25 acres of fall grain, 2 acres of wheat, and 23 acres of rye, and I am afraid I shall lose it all. I had some Ontario wheat—spring wheat—last year, and it was a very fine crop. It yielded 25 bushels to the acre.

*By Mr. Bain :*

Q. I suppose your changeable winters caused all the trouble in fall wheat growing?—It kills it sometimes. We would have very fine crops but for that.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Would a general system of inspection and branding be likely to enhance the value of our butter and cheese in the home and foreign markets?—Of the sales of butter and cheese, I have really no personal experience, but undoubtedly buyers would feel greater security in purchasing an inspected article, and in this way sales would be more satisfactory. Makers, also, would have a standard established which would stimulate them to aim at manufacturing an article of first quality.

*By Mr. Bain :*

Q. Has the factory system grown up with you?—Cheese factories have, but not butter. I do not think there is a butter factory in the Province.

Q. Are there no creameries?—There are no creameries, but the people of Colchester have gone into a large milk-condensing business, which has absorbed the milk of the district to such an extent that it has rather paralyzed one or two cheese factories. They expect to handle this year about eight tons of milk per day.

Q. I suppose the trouble is that you can give the farmers a higher price for their milk for the condensing process?—There is not much difference in the price paid for the milk, but the same men who were formerly engaged in the cheese business have turned their attention to this work of milk condensing. We propose to turn into cheese all the milk above what we can profitably condense. I think it is pretty well established that condensed milk offers us a better market. Cheese is uncertain; if you have to keep it on hand for any considerable length of time it deteriorates. We had to hold it over, one year, and that discouraged us so much that we have turned our attention to condensed milk, for which we think we can get a steady, continuous market, and also an article of merchandise that we can hold, if we find it desirable so to do.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Would the importation of fruit tree scions and plants from Russia and other countries under climatic conditions similar to those of Canada, be of service to our fruit growers?—Our fruit growers are now experimenting with such important species, and they expect good results from it.

*By Mr. Bain :*

Q. Do you know what points they have been imported from?—I do not; I am not much of a fruit grower myself, but I have put this question to several fruit growers