

CROFTER COLONIZATION.

NINTH REPORT

OF

HER MAJESTY'S COMMISSIONERS APPOINTED
TO CARRY OUT A SCHEME

OF

COLONIZATION 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 1897. 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 1897, 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 1897 was 2,401 acres, and the additional area broken and under summer fallow was 1,077 acres, or a total of 3,478 acres, as compared with 3,741 acres in 1896. Dividing this area among the 30 families forming the settlement, the average is 120 acres per family. It includes 1,073 acres under crop and in summer fallow, on the homesteads of 19 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 1897 was 19,878 bushels, as compared with 27,845 in 1896. There were also 7,856 bushels of oats raised, and 2,960 bushels of potatoes, as compared with 11,075 bushels and 3,415 bushels respectively in the previous year. The value of the wheat raised was \$14,908, of oats \$1,964, and of potatoes \$592, as compared with \$16,707, \$1,993, and \$683 in 1896.