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## REPORT.

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The Select Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonisation respectfully submit their first and final report:

The Committee examined Prof. Saunders, the Director of the Central Experimental Farm Station, already established in the vicinity of Ottawa, and of the stations to be established in the Maritime Provinces, Manitoba, the North-West Territories, and British Columbia, under the provisions of the Act passed last Session; and from his evidence (submitted herewith) it will be found that considerable progress has already been made at the Central Farm, about 100 acres having been seeded this season, principally with wheat, barley and oats.

A quantity of wheat has been imported from Northern Russia (grown in a latitude about 600 miles north of Ottawa), part of which has been sown on the Farm, and the balance distributed, in small quantities to persons who applied for it throughout the different Provinces, with a view of testing its adaptability to our climate and soil. A large number of fruit and forest trees have also been planted, and from the evidence adduced, your Committee are of the opinion that good results are likely to flow from the publication of the reports of the proposed agricultural and horticultural experiments.

The Committee next examined Mr. John Lowe, Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, on the subject of the immigration operations carried out under the direction of that Department. It was found, from Mr. Lowe's evidence, that there was a decline in the number of immigrants who reported their intention of becoming settlers in Canada in 1886, as compared with those in 1885, the figures in the former year being 69,152, and in the latter 79,169; the total number of immigrant arrivals, including the passengers who used the Canadian route to proceed to destinations in the Western States, was 122,581 in 1886, as against 105,096 in the previous year.

The immigrants arriving were reported to be of a good class, there having been found very few unsuitable persons, and none, according to the evidence adduced, were reported as being unable to obtain employment.

The whole number of mechanics registered at Quebec was only 1,100 out of a total of 10,411 of all trades and occupations, of immigrants, as registered at that port, and the number at Halifax was only 202, out of 3,801.

These are the only two ports at which such registration takes place, but they may be held to be an index of the whole; the policy of the Department has been not to encourage immigration of that class.

The so-called assisted passage appears to have been given to comparatively few persons during the year, the total number who profited by it being 3,480 adults and 2,320 children. They consisted of agricultural labourers and their families, and female domestic servants; the larger portion of the 3,840 adults were women, but the figures supplied did not give the exact proportions of the sexes.

The Minister of Agriculture, at one of the meetings of the Committee, stated that it was his intention, after the close of the present season, to limit the assisted passages to persons going to Manitoba and the North-West Territories, discontinuing it so far as it relates to the old Provinces of the Dominion.

Mr. Lowe stated that there was increased activity in the arrival of Scandinavians and Germans, who had settled in colonies in Manitoba and the North-West; the reports received from such colonies having been favourable.

The question as to whether the population reported by the census taken in 1885 and 1886 in the North West and the Province of Manitoba, supported the figures of