

after those for Great Britain to the latest dates for which official returns have reached this Department. The absence of official returns for Canada is still to be regretted. The yield of wheat in that colony at the date of the last return in 1868 was 4,500,000 quarters. It does not appear by the export returns that there has been any material increase in the quantities of wheat that Canada has had to spare to other countries." He (Mr. Ryan) would be very sorry if we should be behind any of the colonies in our statistics, a state of things which would lower us in the opinion of the mother country, and which would not tend to promote what they wanted, emigration. In answer to a question from an hon. member as to the date of publication of these remarks, he said that it was a return for 1874. He had the good fortune to know the gentleman to whom they owed the report, who was a distinguished member of the Department of the Board of Trade. The report says, further: "The progress of agriculture can be better traced in the Australian Colonies, for which annual returns are published. These show a progressive increase of the cultivation in Australia of the various kinds of crops." Why should not they have the annual returns of the various crops? They had them in Australia, and they were published in the pamphlet, which he could confidently recommend as an admirable guide. It went very much into details, and was exceedingly interesting. They could see the importance of statistics when they perceived that a judgment of the progress of a country was formed by its official returns, and the best thing they could do would be to give their hearty support to the motion before them.

HON. MR. MILLER, who strongly favored the appointment of a Committee, suggested that the name of the hon. gentleman who had given such valuable information on the subject of the motion, should be added to the list.

HON. MR. WARK thought that the quotation of the hon. member, and the observations which had been made as to the necessity of more accurate and frequent calculations of statistics, could not but be admitted to be very important.

They had not the facilities in the Dominion which they had in older countries for collecting information, but much more might be done than had been done. He thought that these statistics could be generally collected by agricultural societies, although not perhaps with such accuracy. It was by means of the police that the returns were collected in Ireland. They returned the number of acres of particular crops, estimated the value of the crop, and such a plan must be of vast importance to the merchants of this country to know what the probable wheat crop would be, or the probable amount of lumber going to the market; but it must be of still greater importance to our customers in other countries to know what would be the probable amount of grain, etc., in our markets, in order that they might be able to form some estimate as to the best means of supplying their own. There had been some remarks made about valuation. He was glad to say that the Government of New Brunswick had done something towards the acquirement of a universal valuation throughout the whole Province. The want of uniformity invariably led to a want of accuracy. There was a great oversight in the census, which would very much decrease its value when published, and that was that while the quantity of wheat raised was specified, the number of acres on which it was raised was not. One man, for example, might raise one hundred and another only ninety bushels of wheat; but if the acreage on which the wheat is raised is not given, how could a proper estimate of the value of the land be given. At the first sight the raiser of the one hundred bushels might be considered the most successful, but if it turned out on enquiry that the ninety bushels had been raised on one-third the acreage of the one hundred bushels, the settler would have no hesitation in declaring his preference for the land where he could raise thirty bushels an acre over that where he could only raise twenty. Indeed, if any two things ought to be combined to give a correct result surely it ought to be the amount of the crop and of the acreage, so that you may not only tell what a man raises, but the amount of land on which he raises it. The hon. gentleman conclud-