

were local boards assisted by grants of public money. Some years ago, in 1862, an Act was passed by Congress to establish a Department of Agriculture, the duty of which is to promote the interests of agriculture by circulating important information, collecting statistics, distributing seeds and plants, and so on. The Commissioner had to make annual reports and direct and control the expenditure of money voted by Congress for the promotion of agriculture. He referred to the last report of the Department, and showed how extensive was the staff of the Commissioner and the value of the work that it accomplished. We could not yet expect to do all that they were doing in this particular in the United States. For instance, an Act had been passed to grant public lands for the establishment of colleges in each State for the education of the people in agricultural and scientific subjects. In Canada we should expect the Minister of Agriculture to devote henceforth more attention to an interest which has never yet received the consideration it should. Statistics ought to be collected with the view of informing mercantile men and the people generally as to the state of the crops. He would also have information, at the same time, gathered in connection with the fisheries. He would also establish a system of scientific experiments with the view of showing causes of exhaustion of the soil, and otherwise educating the people as to the best mode of farming. He was afraid that unless the system of agriculture is changed in Canada and the United States, the land in many places will be thoroughly ruined, and the country impoverished in the course of time. The exodus of population from Quebec to a certain extent might be traced to this very cause. The question was well worthy of the attention of philosophers and statesmen, whether we could not arrest this impoverishment of the soil. The fisheries of this country had received more consideration than the agricultural interest at the hands of the Government. Commerce was assisted by building canals and improving navigation. Looking at the large number of persons engaged in agriculture, the capital embarked in its pursuit, and the value of agricultural products, it was time that the Minister of Agriculture should turn his attention to the subject. He would therefore move

That the importance of the agricultural interests of the Dominion renders it desirable that such measures should be adopted as will enable the Minister of Agriculture to make the advancement of

that great source of national wealth the leading object of his Department.

Hon. Mr. WILMOT in seconding the motion, said that there was no doubt that the Minister of Agriculture should really get up some return more interesting to the farming interest than that he annually issued. He referred to the census of 1861 to show the importance of the agricultural interest as compared with other branches of industry in this country. He urged the collection and dissemination of such information as would promote agriculture.

Hon. Mr. BUREAU referred to the Agricultural development of the Province of Quebec and showed that it compared most favourably with other countries.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST quite agreed as to the importance of the question, but it was a mistake to say that there was an inferior system of agriculture or an inferior soil in Quebec.

Hon. Mr. WARK explained that he said that it was not improbable that many families had been forced to leave parts of Quebec as well as the New England States on account of the soil having been exhausted by an injudicious system of agriculture.

Hon. Mr. LETELLIER DE ST. JUST was glad to hear the explanation, and went on to say that the motion was not sufficiently explicit and appeared to reflect on the Minister of Agriculture. He thought the resolution should be more specific, and define what duties should be undertaken by the Department.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL said that he agreed with his hon. friend opposite that no practical object could be effected by the passage of the motion. He supposed that the honourable gentleman had attained his object by drawing the attention of the House and country to a very important question, and would not press his resolution which could at present have no practical effect, and seemed to reflect somewhat on the Department.

Hon. Mr. WARK only wished to strengthen the hands of the present Minister of Agriculture, who, he believed from what he heard, would endeavor to make the Department beneficial to the Agricultural interests of the Dominion. He consented to withdraw his resolution.

TEA AND COFFEE DUTIES.

Hon. Mr. CAMPBELL moved the second reading of the bill to repeal the duties of customs on Teas and Coffees.

Hon. Mr. RYAN said that he had seen it stated that the United States Government in taking of the duty from tea had