

the world in which such are likely to be found, to familiarize himself with the results of similar experiments elsewhere, and to publish the information so obtained with that resulting from his own experiments, for the guidance of farmers and others in the North-West. Should two or more stations be decided upon, it would probably be found most convenient for the scientific superintendent to have that in the Red River valley under his immediate supervision. This station might be made the principal one for the reception and distribution of plants and seeds to those farther west. The western stations might be placed in charge of intelligent practical farmers, and occasional visits of inspection made to them.

In conclusion, I may be allowed to refer to the recommendations as to tree-planting in the North-West contained in my report on the geology and resources of the 49th Parallel, published in connection with the Boundary Commission expedition of 1873-74.

G. M. DAWSON."

Summary.

Since cheap railway and water conveyance of agricultural products from distant countries is rapidly changing the economical conditions of successful agriculture in many parts of the world, it is of the utmost importance that all those who are interested in the cultivation of the soil in Canada should endeavour to remedy all that is faulty in practice, or wasteful in effect, and to introduce new methods and new products, as far as they are likely to be profitable, and thus increase the chances of our being able to retain the position we have acquired as producers and exporters of farm produce. A relatively small proportion of the land, even in our most advanced Provinces, is under the best of culture, while self-interest and the circumstances of our position demand that we should make the best of everything we possess. Liebig has well said that "the prosperity of any nation depends much on the condition of its agriculture," and to produce the best results, practical skill must be associated with suitable information. Canada has a climate in many respects favourable, and a soil in many districts unsurpassed in fertility, advantages, which if properly utilized, will enable her to continue to furnish from her surplus for the millions in Europe food products of prime quality. To aid in this good work every effort should be put forth, both by the Dominion and Provincial authorities, to place within reach of willing hands all needed information, and also supplies of such economic products as will be likely to add to the profit and attractiveness of agricultural pursuits.

FORESTRY.

There should be a competent forester in charge of this department, one who thoroughly understands what is needed and under whose direction all work connected with the forest industries of the Dominion should be carried on. Such would include experiments in reclothing denuded land, testing the comparative value of our native trees, also of those from all other parts of the world where similarity of climate or other circumstances render it probable that they will prove useful. It would also include the propagation of trees of economic value for general distribution.