

first to consider the questions, because they had not come before the notice of the Board officially, and they did not know in what way any uninvited responses to the questions might be considered by your Committee, and I then submitted the questions to the Provincial Government. We have no Department of Agriculture in Nova Scotia; the Board of Agriculture is the body really charged with carrying out the work of the Government in this branch of the public service. The Government, through the Provincial Secretary, requested me to submit the questions formally to the Board of Agriculture, and the Board of Agriculture, after considering them, requested me to put myself in communication with you, and if possible, to appear before you and give you such information as I possess in regard to these matters. We were desirous of showing how anxious we were to support your action in the direction of advancing agriculture in the way you propose. Personally, I have been engaged in farming in Nova Scotia since 1866. Of course I have not taken up farming as a means of livelihood, but I have had a good deal of experience in agriculture, and have been President of the Board of Agriculture for some eight or nine years. In that way I have learned a great deal about agriculture. I cannot call myself an expert on matters relating to experimental stations, nor have I gone deeply into scientific farming, but at the same time I have striven, as far as in me lay, to improve the system of farming in our Province.

Q. Under what difficulties does the present system of agriculture labor, and in what respect is the Canadian farmer placed at a disadvantage when competing in foreign markets?—I speak, of course, of the Nova Scotia farmers, because I am best acquainted with them. I have mixed with the farmers of that Province during my command of the militia, for the last twenty-two years. The Nova Scotia farmer labors under these disadvantages, to my mind: he has received no agricultural education—by which I mean, training in the sciences connected with agriculture, and concurrently in the application, in practice, of the knowledge so acquired. He consequently is quite unaware what his land is capable of, or how to obtain the greatest return for his labor and other outlay. Our fruit growers have given great attention to that industry, and with exceedingly good results; but with this exception, and that of a few intelligent men who, under favorable conditions, are reclaiming marsh lands, and carrying on their work profitably. The vast majority simply obtain a subsistence, and the results, consequently, are so discouraging that even when in any way money is acquired it is invested in anything rather than farm property. There is no encouragement to invest capital in farm operations, because there appears no promise of a return; consequently, improvements are not actively carried out. Hired labor is only employed at busy seasons, and being irregularly employed, the supply is irregular and uncertain; and wages are high. This reacts, and men of means are discouraged from engaging in agriculture. Our young men receive good advantages in education, but not in subjects which are directly of value to agriculture, and they go into overstocked professions, and leave the country. We require first, to fit them to remain at home and follow agriculture, for I conceive the native-born is the best inhabitant a country can have. Next, we want immigration of men of moderate capital. Farm property is exceptionally low and plentiful in the market, but unfortunately the capabilities of our Province are not well known in Europe, and hence intending immigrants do not come to us. We want men of some capital, as machinery is now a necessity, and manual labor cannot compete with it. Hence, those who attempt cultivation without machinery become discouraged and leave the country.

Q. What deficiencies have come under your notice in the cultivation of cereals; cultivation of roots and grasses, raising of stock and wool growing; production of butter and cheese; culture of fruit and the ordinary use of fertilizers?—I do not quite understand whether you wish me to say what results have attended the cultivation of those crops in our Province?

Q. What defects have come under your notice; how is the system of agriculture defective in the cultivation of cereals?—I think I have covered that question pretty well in my first answer. I could, of course, tell you what we are doing in the