

made in concert with agricultural chemists in many parts of the world with a view of determining the value of rain and snow as suppliers of nitrogenous plant food and of ascertaining the differences that may exist in the atmosphere in various countries in respect to richness in nitrogen compounds. The average per annum for the past five years so supplied is 6.18 lbs. of nitrogen per acre.

Water Supply of Farm Homesteads.

Because of the practical importance of the work I cannot omit some mention of the examination of waters from farm wells, creameries and cheese factories. Every year we find an increasing interest in this matter of a pure water supply on the farm, and though not of the nature of a scientific research, I have every reason to believe that our labours in this connection—which means the examination of some hundreds of waters annually—have been instrumental in improving the supplies of the farm homesteads throughout the length and breadth of the land. There is no better watered country in the world than Canada, but too often, alas, health has been sacrificed to convenience, and the farm well, because badly located, is a source of disease rather than one of good health.

In closing, a few words must be said about our directly educational work. In addition to our reports and bulletins, there is a very large and ever-increasing correspondence in all the departments. Farmers have the privilege of writing us without even the cost of postage on their letters, and they have not been slow to avail themselves of the privilege. Questions on all matters relating to general and special branches of farming daily pour in upon us, so that I can truly say we have become a Bureau of Information on agricultural subjects. And we encourage this branch of our work, for we seek, as we have done from the first, to keep in touch with the farmers and make the institution one of real assistance to the man on the land. In this, I believe, we have met with signal success, so that to-day the attitude of the farming people generally towards the Farms is one of confidence and receptiveness—an attitude that must tend to an ever-widening of the usefulness of the system.

The Experimental Farms have undoubtedly exerted an influence of great practical value throughout the length and breadth of the land, and I trust I may have been able in this imperfect and fragmentary presentation of their work, not merely to justify their existence but to furnish evidence of the wisdom and forethought of the Government in their establishment.