

Further on in his speech, Mr. Wright made another quotation of a letter which was written from Riverside, California, in March of this year, and published in the Renfrew "Mercury":

"In an agricultural way you have gained enormously over this country. Speaking recently with one of the ablest men who are taking care of our agricultural and horticultural interests at Washington, I was really pleased to have him say that the Department of Agriculture in Canada was far in advance of that in this country."

Tobacco Growing.

The customs and excise duties of the present Government on tobacco have given encouragement to the use of home-grown tobacco in Canada. By the arrangement of the duties there is a certain protection of the Canadian grower of tobacco, and by the arrangement of the licenses there is encouragement to the manufacturer to use Canadian tobacco. The result has been most stimulating, but the Canadian producer was not thoroughly up in the best methods of handling this peculiar crop.

The Minister of Agriculture undertook certain work at the Experimental Farm, and put up there a scientifically constructed tobacco drying house. In the Province of Quebec experiments were conducted, under the supervision of the Department, in the growth of different varieties, and a small Experimental Station was established at St. Jacques de l'Achigan. Owing to the resignation of the manager, this work was suspended. The Minister, however, sent an expert tobacco grower and handler to Belgium, to find out just what methods were most successful in preparing the tobacco for the market, and a valuable report was obtained. Further investigations have been carried on in the United States as to the methods of curing and handling the crop there, and to-day a mass of information is collected and prepared for distribution to the tobacco growers of the country, which it is confidently expected will revolutionize the methods and increase the profits from this most important crop.

The great importance of it may be seen from the census reports, which show that in 1890, there were only 314,086 pounds of tobacco grown in Ontario, and 3,958,737 in Quebec: in 1900, the yield had risen to 3,503,739 pounds for Ontario, and 7,655,917 pounds for Quebec.

The reports of the Department of Inland Revenue show that in 1895-96, the number of factories of foreign leaf was 27, while only 10 were engaged in the manufacture of domestic leaf. At the end of last year, the number of factories engaged in foreign leaf had fallen from 27 to 23, while the number engaged in domestic and mixed tobacco had increased from 10 to 30. In 1895-96, under the Conservative regime, we manufactured 9,609,184 pounds of foreign leaf tobacco, nearly the whole consumption being of foreign leaf tobacco.