

Mr. WALLACE (York). I think no measure has been brought before the present Parliament of such an important character as the one now submitted by the Minister of Agriculture. When we consider the vast strides that have been and are being made throughout the Dominion of Canada in the agricultural products, I think a measure such as is now proposed by the Minister of Agriculture to increase our products, to give a greater scientific knowledge to the farming community, to correct many errors into which they have fallen, and to give them necessary information, will meet with the approval of every class of people in the country. I have some figures here to show the vast increase in the exports of the products of the farm in the last nine years. In 1876, our exports of horses amounted to \$443,000; in 1885, it has increased almost four-fold, to \$1,640,000. Our export of cattle in 1876 was \$600,000, and in 1885 \$7,500,000. Our export of sheep during 1876 amounted to \$507,000, while during 1885 it reached the value of \$1,264,000. Our export of butter during the year 1876 was \$2,504,000, and during 1885 it had fallen off nearly a million dollars, being only \$1,577,000, while cheese had increased from \$3,700,000 in 1876 to \$8,900,000 in 1885. Our export of eggs was \$580,000 in 1876, and \$1,830,000 in 1885. Our export of poultry increased in the same years from \$74,317 to \$175,000. Our export of fruit was \$170,000 in 1876, and in 1885 it had increased almost fourfold, being \$640,000. This makes a total in these products for the year 1876 of \$8,500,000, while in 1885 it amounted to \$23,540,000. I think it is worthy of consideration that, as those gentlemen on the opposite side would say, with a decrease or a very small increase in the population, the farming community have increased their exports in those nine years by the enormous amount of about \$15,000,000; and we must further take into consideration that the people have increased in prosperity in this country during these years, and have been better able to buy and consume the products of the farm, and that there has been a very much larger consumption of these articles in the country in 1885 than in 1876. We have in the Province of Ontario a model farm which, in many respects, may, perhaps, be doing a very good work. We are told, on good authority, that for the variety and excellence of their stock they cannot be excelled, perhaps, by any farm of the kind in any of the States of the Union, or in any of the countries of Europe? But there are many respects in which that farm is not doing the work which this experimental farm will do and which the interests of the country, I think, require should be done. For instance, they spend a great deal of time and a great deal of money in educating men to the business of farming. I think that is a great mistake, and I hope in this Bill too much attention will not be paid to teaching people farming. My own impression is that the best way to teach a young man farming is to let him go to a good farm where a prosperous and successful farmer is carrying on his business, and he will there learn better and in a shorter time how to make farming pay and how to do it successfully. So I think too much attention should not be given to teaching young men how to farm, but the object should be to carry out the scheme of making experiments, letting the public know the results fully and promptly by the issuing of bulletins, weekly or monthly as may be necessary. I think there is no part of this Dominion where such experiments are required so much as in our North-West. That is a new country, and the people who go up there are too busy trying to make a living and struggling with difficulties to have much time to spend in making experiments. I therefore think that the Minister of Agriculture should establish two or three of these experimental stations in Manitoba and the North-West Territories. As an instance of the good they would do, I may mention that last year a considerable portion of the wheat crop of the North-

West was injured or destroyed by frost, and it has been discovered since that a great portion of that wheat could have been cut much earlier than it was, if the farmers had only been aware of the fact that wheat will ripen very much in the shock, and will be at least as merchantable as wheat for flour as if it had ripened on the straw in the field; and although it would not be as good an article for seed it makes as good if not a better quality of flour. I know an instance myself where a man, in order to be a little ahead of his neighbors in the North-West cut two or three shocks of wheat before he considered it ripe and the frost came a day or two afterwards and destroyed all the rest of his crop. He took the wheat he had cut and, as an experiment, threshed it out and sent it down to Winnipeg, and it sampled there as "No. 1, Northern," an excellent quality of merchantable wheat, whereas the rest of his wheat was almost totally destroyed by the frost. Now, the stations proposed to be established might conduct such an experiment as this and be the means of great benefit to the people of the North-West, and conduce largely to their prosperity. Another thing that I would recommend the Minister of Agriculture to consider is the question of forestry, not only in the North-West but also in the older Provinces. This is a very important question. A few years ago the great ambition was to chop down the trees, now the great desire is to have them grow up again; and in the North-West, perhaps, more especially it will be necessary to make experiments in growing trees to find out what kinds are best adapted for shelter, what other kinds are the most rapid growers, so as to be useful for timber, and what kinds make the best fuel. Another thing that a great attention should be paid to, is to find out the kind and quality of fruits that are best adapted to for the North-West. I find in the report of the Minister of Agriculture an account of two eminent scientists who travelled over a large portion of the Russian Empire and went very far northward, to find out what kind and quality of fruits, and especially of apples, are adapted to the various climates of that vast empire. I think that they collected samples of cuttings and specimens of apples and plums, and they find that they can cultivate apples and cherries in Russia very far northward. Those same fruits might be brought into our North-West and be grown there with equal success. I will say in conclusion that I hope the Minister of Agriculture will push on his policy of establishing these experimental stations, not only in the older Provinces, but in the North-West, and I feel assured that nothing will more conduce to the prosperity of this country than the proposal now before the House.

Mr. WATSON. I approve of the proposition of the Minister to establish experimental farms. If properly managed, I think they will prove of great benefit to the country, especially in the North-West, which is just being opened up. For my part, I have thought in the past that the Local Government should establish such a farm, but they have not the means to do so, and we would be very glad to have the Dominion Government take it up at present. Every farmer in the North-West has to be an experimental farmer himself, and if it can all be done on one farm, and reports sent out through the country, I think it will be a great benefit. For instance, if it were known what variety of fruits can be most successfully grown in and ripen in the various sections of the country, it would be a great benefit to the farmers if they could know also where to get them. I believe, also, that a great deal could be done by importing certain variety of wheats, say, from Russia, where they grow hard wheats that ripen successfully, and which might be successfully grown in the North-West. While we have got to look for wheat that will ripen in short seasons in some sections of Manitoba and the North-West Territories, we have also got to look for a quality of wheat