

well-known maker's goods is entirely too vague for use as a specific call for implements intended to meet certain ascertained requirements of the service, and that it is no guide whatever to the Indian agents when receiving the goods in the Territory. There are few men engaged in the manufacture or sale of agricultural implements who do not believe, and wish to make others believe, that the particular machines and implements in which they deal are the best in the country, and it is difficult for even an expert to judge of the quality of either the machines or implements without an actual trial, which can only be had after the articles have been received by the agent. Upon such trial, if they are found to be deficient in quality, and unsatisfactory as to working capability, it is then too late—at least, the Department has always found it so—for redress.

In its own protection, therefore, it has been forced to specify the particular pattern, and the name of the maker of the different implements required.

The selection of patterns and makers has been accidental. Different machines and implements have been used on the reserves throughout the Territories, at various times, and experience has shown which of these is the best suited for that country, and such patterns have been adhered to, but it has sometimes been found that none of those in use, from one cause or another, gave entire satisfaction, in which case, after due inquiry from practical men, another maker's pattern has been chosen. For example the "Speight waggon" was adopted in the first instance. Through delay in the contractor's shipments, those called for in 1882 did not arrive at their several destinations until 1883. The undersigned found that although branded "Speight waggon" they were not built according to the specifications embodied in the schedules, and were in many respects an inferior waggon. For those reasons a change was made this year, and the "Chatham waggon" was selected, because the undersigned had seen several of them in use in the Territories, and they not only were well made, but were giving every satisfaction to those who had them. A specification of this waggon has been embodied in the schedule of contract goods.

*Mowers.*—The "Toronto mower" having given the greatest satisfaction to the Department, there can be no reason in changing it for another, and it is not desirable to have different patterns of the same machine in use, as it causes confusion when "renewal parts" are required. The same remark applies to the reapers and to horse rakes.

*Harrows.*—"Collard's flexible iron harrow" was adopted three years ago; it has given great satisfaction. It is manufactured in Gananoque, Ontario.

*Ploughs.*—Although the "John Deere" plough was specially called for last year, the Hudson Bay Co., in filling their contract, substituted the "Wilkinson." During a visit of the undersigned at Battleford in 1883, one of these ploughs was put to work on the industrial school farm. It did excellent work for a short time, but the "mould board" and "point" both proved soft in temper, for which reason they would not suit the Department, and it was considered better to adhere to a plough that had proved to be satisfactory in every respect. Since the establishment of farming Instructors, in 1879, the Department has endeavored to introduce Canadian-manufactured ploughs upon the farms and reserves, and received them on the contracts of 1880-81 and 1881-82. They proved an entire failure and were thrown aside as useless.

In 1882 Mr. Watson, of Ayr, Ontario, a large manufacturer of agricultural implements, in a communication to the Indian Commissioner, stated that no Canadian-made plough had, up to that time, given satisfaction for prairie work, and that, for his trade, he intended furnishing an American plough.

The undersigned is of opinion that the Department would fail, to a certain extent, in its endeavors to teach the Indians the art of agriculture, should it, for the purpose of subserving any particular interest, insist upon their using implements which, having been thoroughly tested, have proved to be inferior to others which can be obtained, and which, as a matter of fact are, with one exception (that of the "John Deere" plough) all of Canadian manufacture.

T. P. WADSWORTH.

The Deputy Minister.