

FIFTH REPORT
OF THE
COLONISATION BOARD.

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR MAJESTY :

WE, the undersigned Commissioners appointed under Your Majesty's Sign Manual for the purpose of carrying out a scheme of colonisation in the Dominion of Canada of crofters and cottars from the Western Highlands, and the islands of Scotland, and from the congested districts of Ireland, desire humbly to submit to Your Majesty the following Report :—

Reports have been received from the agent of the Board in Canada relating to the settlements at Killarney, in Manitoba, and at Saltcoats, in the North-West Territories, for the year 1893. The former was established in the summer of 1888, and the latter in the spring of 1889.

Statements are appended containing extracts from the agent's reports (Appendix A.) and summaries of the statistics (Appendix B.), showing the position of the settlements in 1893, the acreage under various crops, live stock on the farms, and other information.

The area under cultivation in the Killarney Settlement becomes larger year by year, and the live stock belonging to the crofters continues to show a satisfactory increase in numbers.

There were 3,461 acres under cultivation in 1893, as compared with 1,420 in 1890, and adding to the former figures the 1,011 acres which have been prepared for crop this year, the arable land in the settlement is 4,472 acres. Dividing this among the 30 families it gives an average of nearly 150 acres per family.

Of the 4,472 acres before referred to, only 3,939½ acres are held by crofters under obligations to the Board. Of that area 2,623 acres were on the homesteads belonging to the heads of families—an average of 87½ acres each; and 1,316 acres on those of the younger members of families, (25) who have taken up farms—an average of 53 acres each.

The crops in the Killarney District were not so abundant as in other parts of the country, the season having been in some respects an unfavourable one. Computed, however, at a low average price, the value of the wheat raised in the settlement was \$11,557.60; of oats, \$1,827.00, and potatoes \$1,404.65, a total of \$14,789.25. These figures do not take into account the wages that must have been earned by the crofters in many cases, and other sources of revenue open to them, or the value of the increase in the live stock. The large number of horses, and of other stock purchased by the crofters since 1890, is also an indication of material progress.

The position of the Saltcoats crofters is not so satisfactory. Owing partly to a series of unsatisfactory seasons, the families remaining in the settlement have not increased the cultivation of their farms to the extent that might have been anticipated. The spring of last year was rather late, and, consequently, some of the crofters who asked to be assisted with seed grain, and potatoes, did not sow all that was supplied to them, but disposed of a portion of it in other ways.

According to the agent's reports, however, the crops in the neighbourhood were generally good; and those settlers whose land was sown in the early days of May had a return of 20 bushels to the acre of wheat, and a fair yield of other crops. Those of the crofters, also, who properly cultivated their farms, and sowed their seed, had a return of at least 18 bushels of wheat to the acre; and there is no reason whatever why all of them should not have been equally successful.

The live stock shows a fair increase, and some of the crofters have been able to purchase not only horses, but additional oxen and cows. They would have been in