

Agriculture and Colonization.

a comparatively short time, the encouragement which the farmer needs may be of but little avail to the present generation without governmental aid in some form or other. No doubt there are objections to which the committee is fully alive against what is denominated paternalism, and to a past generation of political economists such an expenditure as suggested was one that the government had no concern with. But however that view may have prevailed, it is believed to be fast giving way to the necessities and condition of modern times.

Thus we find England legislating under the most conservative of administrations in the advancement of the social welfare of the people, while many of the Australian colonies, the direct competitors of the Canadian farmer, are spending large sums of public money in encouraging the exports of farm products and in other ways building up an export trade with Great Britain ; while Denmark, which has obtained the practical control of the import butter business of Great Britain, has attained and maintains that position by government aid and supervision extended to the dairying interests in various ways. The Committee, therefore, do not hesitate to advocate the wise and judicious expenditure of public money in the promotion of the cold storage scheme which is suggested in this report.

TWO PROPOSITIONS.

How that should be done is perhaps more for the Government to determine than for this Committee to suggest ; but two schemes have been brought under its notice, which, while in some respects in agreement, differ in what may be termed details. It is common to both propositions that the railway companies should be induced to provide cold storage cars and to run the same from points where warehouses are established, at regular intervals, by such subventions as is fair under all the circumstances, the government retaining control over rates of freight, and that in a like manner the steamship lines should be subsidized for providing cold storage accommodation, the government retaining, as a consideration for such aid, control over the shipping conditions and freight rates. By this means, and without unduly burdening the treasury, weekly or fortnightly lines of steamships, trading to all the great centres of population, such as London, Liverpool, Manchester, Glasgow and Bristol, might be secured, and the different provinces in such a scheme would be fairly and equitably provided for. The Committee are convinced that the attainment of these results is quite within the resources of Canada, but would recommend that government aid should be granted but for a limited period, and to establish the business, trusting that in the not distant future private enterprise would without subventions be enabled to maintain it. There remains, however, the manner of providing warehouses. One plan is to leave this to private enterprise, paying as an encouragement, as well to the warehousemen as to the depositor of goods, a certain proportion of the storage charges. This would be a direct bonus to the man who had sufficient enterprise to collect and store the goods, but seems objectionable for many obvious reasons ; while the other scheme is the one adopted by the Legislature of New Brunswick at its last session, to provide a fund to guarantee for a limited term of years interest at a moderate rate of the cost of erecting cold storage warehouses so long as they are kept open, and being at the same time under certain government control. In this way, as the Committee has been informed, for the annual sum of \$7,500 for seven years New Brunswick is negotiating for the establishment of four cold storage houses at St. John, Woodstock, Chatham and Sussex, which, it is thought, may end in securing their construction. The Committee prefer the latter plan as being one more certain to result in the speedy carrying out of the cold storage system, to which they attach so much importance, and as being one fairer to the community at large. And attached to the cold storage warehouses in some places there should be slaughter houses, where animals unsuitable for export alive might be properly prepared for transportation as dead meat.

The Committee have also had an opportunity of hearing from Professor Robertson, the Dairy Commissioner, a statement of the system on which he has succeeded in establishing creameries in the North-west, and the Committee think that, under the circum-