

It will be observed that the imports from Canada show a considerable increase under these headings, and I hope in the near future that there will be a large development in this trade of which at present Canada has but a small share. The price of wheat has been very low, which operates disadvantageously for the farming interest in Great Britain as well as in Canada. It is asserted, however, that 1887 has seen a greater amount of profitable agriculture than has been the case since 1879. It is true that large profits are not being made. This is impossible at present prices, but the indications are that a larger number of smaller tenants are gradually—and in proportion as they realize that wheat has ceased to be the dominating factor in our agriculture, and that diversified and dairy farming occupies its place—finding that the soil of Great Britain is once again yielding a living profit. The imports of wheat are likely, therefore, to increase rather than to fall off. The average price of wheat during the year was 32s. 6d. per quarter, as compared with 31s. in 1886.

The copying and comparing of certain volumes and papers at the Record Office and at the British Museum, have been making good progress. These were selected by an officer of your Department, and I am satisfied that the work to be done is being performed in a satisfactory manner. A number of volumes have been bound and sent out to the Archives Branch of your Department, and I will continue to give my attention to the matter.

It is right I should say a word in this report about the High Commissioner's Office. I have dealt in my preceding remarks with emigration (enquiries as to which have come from all parts of the world), and also with the importation of agricultural produce into Great Britain. I need hardly point out to you that these matters, however, cover but a portion of the work of the office. There is a large and growing general correspondence upon various questions of interest relating to the Dominion and its trade and commerce. There is also a large and increasing correspondence upon official business with the other Departments, in addition to your own, and with the Imperial Government offices in London. The office is becoming, as it should be, the medium for the transaction of business in Great Britain and on the Continent, on behalf of the various Departments of the Canadian Government. I may mention, among other things which were placed in my hands during the year, the supply of materials and stores for the Militia Department; the preparation of silver and copper coinages; supplies for the Railway, Post Office and Public Works Departments, and the payment of the balances due to the various European countries with whom money order conventions may be in operation. In addition, reports are frequently called for upon various subjects by the different Departments. The office, as well as those of the agents of your Department, is becoming much better known in Great Britain, and it is availed of to an increasing extent by the press, and by writers and lecturers for the supply of statistics and general information. Frequent appli-