

In England, of course, it is done entirely at their own expense, and for their own benefit, because there, most of the land is let out by the landlords to the farmers, and what is to the welfare of the farmer is to the welfare of the landlord, who has a pecuniary interest in securing the improvement of agricultural methods.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Have you visited any Botanic Gardens in foreign countries?—Yes, I have. These gardens are to be found in every part of Europe. But the Botanic Gardens are not used to the same extent there, as the Agricultural Stations. Their object is not so practical as that of the agricultural stations. Still, in all the large cities on the continent they have these Botanic Gardens, and they are regarded as necessary.

*By Mr. Fisher :*

Q. They are, I think, more a matter of pleasure and of art; their attention is more directed towards exotics and experiments in ornamental growths?—Yes; but the Kew Gardens near London, and the Jardin des Plantes in Paris, have both done a great deal of good. They have had seeds from all parts of the world with a view to determining whether or not they can be acclimatized. But outside of that, their experience is worth very little. However, having direct relations with the chief officials of other countries interested in Botany, and having charge of Botanic Stations, they can obtain readily seeds from those countries. Sir J. Hooker, of Kew, receives specimens from all parts of the world, and he returns to them what he considers might be advantageously introduced into those different localities. I have no doubt, for instance, that an application to Kew Gardens would bring seeds to this country of any particular species. We could thus obtain species from Siberia, or from climates similar to our own.

*By the Chairman :*

Q. Do you think Experiment Stations might be established in this country with success?—I do not see why they should not be as successful here, as they are elsewhere.

Q. What result would you expect from them?—I would expect an all round improvement in the value of the agricultural products of the country, and the introduction of many species of roots, plants, &c., that are not cultivated at present. I would also expect a very great improvement from having connected with the Central Bureau, a Department of statistics, which would show the movement of grains in the different countries in the world, and their prices. The United States have devoted a great deal of attention to this matter; and have shown their merchants and large dealers the condition of the grain from month to month, and the markets to which it would be to their interest to forward it. Of course, if a country like France, for instance, has a full average harvest one year, it would not do for American merchants to consign their grain to Havre or Bordeaux. And the same may be said of other countries.

Q. What should be the work of such a station with respect to forest culture?—The misfortune appertaining to forestry in this country, is that there is no reliable experience to guide you. Except in a very few cases, which are private; there has been no attempt made to introduce foreign trees except here and there, as a matter of ornamentation, and those trees have been so specially trained and cared for that they form no criterion to guide the experimentalist. If in every Province of the Dominion they were to plant trees and to keep a record of the soil in which they are planted, and their annual growth, it would be a matter of immense value to the country. We would not then be told as we were at a meeting in Montreal a couple of years ago, by some men who have been brought up among spruce and pine trees, that pine would not become a merchantable article under a hundred and twenty years, and by others, that it would be merchantable in less than thirty years; nor would we be told, that spruce is of a slower growth than pine, and so forth. These statements only show upon what unsound foundations people here possess upon which to form their opinions. I have no doubt that every one spoke as he believed he was justified in speaking; but if you had Forestal Stations, the results of the labours of which would be to give the proper mode of culture of the proper tree