

REPORT.

The Standing Committee on Agriculture and Colonization present their second and final report.

The investigations of the committee have been made under three heads, viz., Agriculture, the Quarantines and Immigration.

AGRICULTURE.

On the first named, agriculture and its subdivisions, the committee have had before them and examined the several officers of the Experimental Farm, at Ottawa, and the information obtained from each is hereunto appended, as forming part of the committee's report.

The officers examined were Mr. William Saunders, the Director; Mr. James W. Robertson, Dairy Commissioner and Agriculturist; Mr. James Fletcher, Entomologist and Botanist; Mr. F. T. Shutt, Chemist; Mr. John Craig, Horticulturist; and Mr. A. G. Gilbert, Poultry Manager. A letter was also read and put in evidence from Dr. William Alexander, of Aberdeen, Scotland, on the importance of improving the quality of the store cattle sent from Canada to Scotland.

The information furnished by Mr. Saunders shows the progress that has been made by the experimental farms in Canada, and contains facts of much practical interest for farmers, as well in relation to what has already been done, as in the experiments now going on. The extent to which the hybridization or cross-cultivation of the several grains is being conducted is stated by Mr. Saunders to be the most unique in the world, and it gives promise of obtaining results which will be of great importance to the whole country.

The work done by Mr. Robertson, the Dairy Commissioner, in his branch of the experimental farm, cannot be overestimated in its importance to the agriculturists of the country. It has already made itself manifest by marked improvement in the quality and increased exports of dairy products, while the interest which is everywhere being manifested by farmers, gives promise of still more important results.

The information furnished by Mr. Fletcher, the Entomologist and Botanist, is of much interest and contains practical suggestions of value in relation to the utilization of the grasses for fodder and pasture, and the methods by which farmers may protect themselves from the injurious effects of fungous growths and destructive insects.

The information contained in the evidence of Mr. Shutt, the Chemist, cannot be too carefully studied by the farmers of Canada, especially with regard to the utilization of available fertilizers.

The information furnished by Mr. Craig, the Horticulturist, contains practical directions for gardeners, relative to the necessary operations to be carried on and the several spraying mixtures for protection, accompanied by reports of actual results obtained at the Central Farm.