

APPENDIX A.

I.—EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE AGENT OF THE BOARD RESPECTING THE KILLARNEY SETTLEMENT.

I have the honour to forward to you, by registered mail, my Official Report on the Killarney Crofters Settlement for year 1897.

Statements and Individual Reports.

The various statements have been compiled with the view of showing the fullest possible information in what is hoped may be found a convenient form for reference. They contain a record of the lien number, name, age, and location of each member of every family. The number of acres under cultivation of wheat, oats, and potatoes, average per acre, yield and market value of the same. Total acres under cultivation, breaking, backsetting and summer fallow done during the year, and grand total of acres that can be brought under cultivation for the spring of 1898, as well as the live stock on each homestead, value of improvements, &c., present approximate value of homestead, total approximate value of the Board's security, debts owing to the municipalities and Board, amounts paid thereon, and general remarks.

Recapitulation.

A comparative statement has been added for the years 1890 and 1897. This statement shows that the total number of acres brought under the plough in 1890 was 2,182, and for 1897, 3,478, an increase of 1,296, or an average of 74 acres to each settler. Also that the total number of acres under cultivation for 1890 was 1,323, and for 1897, 2,401½, an increase of 1,078½ acres. In 1890 the acreage under wheat was 1,239, with an average yield of 15 bushels; and in 1897, 1,925, with an average yield of over 10 bushels to the acre. In 1890 the acreage under oats was 71 acres, with an average yield of over 29 bushels to the acre; and in 1897, 458 acres, with an average yield of over 17 bushels to the acre. The number of acres under potatoes in 1890 was 10, with an average yield of over 176 bushels to the acre; and in 1897, 18½ acres, which yielded 2,960, or over 155 bushels to the acre.

The settlers could have found a ready market for their crops during the autumn of 1897, at an average of 75 cents for wheat, oats 25, and potatoes 20 cents per bushel.

It will be seen, by comparing the statement with the one sent by the Agent last year (1896) that although the settlers' crops have not yielded as much per acre as they did in 1896, they have received 15 for wheat, and 7 cents for oats, per bushel more than they did the previous years. It will also be observed from the statements in question that the settlers have prepared during the season of 1897 a larger area of land for seed, than they did in 1896.

The cause assigned by the settlers for the low average yield of grain per acre was, early frosts in May, and subsequent dry weather. While this may partly account for the low yield the Agent contends that the real cause, in many instances, is directly traceable to the manner in which the land has been tilled, preparatory to sowing the seed, and also to the continuous sowing, year after year, of the same land and seed. On the agent remonstrating with certain of the settlers for cultivating the land in such an unhusbandlike manner, he has been informed: "We may just as well take all we can out of the land before it is taken from us." Under the terms of the new leases the Board has the authority to compel the lessees to cultivate their lands in a good husbandlike and proper manner.

It will be further observed from the comparative statement that in 1890 the crofters purchased 1 horse, and in 1897 they had in their possession 92, an increase of 91. In 1890 the number of oxen (I.C.B.) was 57; and in 1897, 10, a decrease of 47. Again in 1890 the settlers purchased 24 oxen; and in 1897 they had in their possession 23, a decrease of 1. In 1890 the settlers had 37 of the original cows supplied to them

by the Board; and in 1897, 4, a decrease of 33. Cows purchased by settlers in addition to those supplied by the Board in 1890 numbered 25, and in 1897 this number was increased by 55.

The number of young stock, &c., is as follows:—

Heifers, 1890, 50; 1897, 47; a decrease of	3.
Steers, 1890, 37; 1897, 30; " "	7.
Bulls, 1890, 5; 1897, 1; " "	4.
Poultry, 1890, 813; 1897, 1,575; an increase of	762.
Pigs, 1890, 38; 1897, 163; " "	125.

The agent is pleased to be able to inform the Board that several of these settlers have discharged debts incurred in purchasing horses.

The cause of the decrease in the live stock originally supplied to the settlers is accounted for by death and sale, while the decrease in the private stock is directly traceable to sales made to American cattle buyers, who pay 8 cents a pound, live weight, for young cattle.

Municipal Taxes.

It is gratifying to the agent to be able to report that, with few exceptions, the Board's settlers have promptly paid their municipal taxes. The exceptions referred to are Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8, 13, 17, 54, and 61, who positively refused to sign the Board's leases.

Leases, 1898.

In accordance with instructions contained in your letter to the agent, and dated the 26th January last, the Board's solicitors (Macdonald, Tupper, Phippin, and Tupper) are preparing new leases for the settlers to sign.

The agent begs to tender to the Board the thanks of a number of the crofters' friends in this country, who are aware of the very generous terms under which their settlers are to be given the opportunity of becoming the proprietors of some of the most desirable farming lands obtainable in the Province of Manitoba.

With the view of convincing the Board's settlers how necessary it is that the conditions of their new leases should be adhered to, the agent most respectfully suggests that more frequent visits should be made by the agent to the colony than hitherto, as he believes they would be beneficial in stimulating the settlers to farm their holdings in a more husbandlike manner, and give them opportunities of consulting him on all matters relative to their future welfare in this country, and materially minimise their present chances of obtaining undesirable advice, &c., and finally assisting the Board's agent to watch their interest more closely.

Since the agent's last annual report, the crofters have built in their colony a very fine substantial stone church, well finished inside, heated by a modern hot air furnace, and comfortably furnished with serviceable seats. The cost of the church (about \$2,500) has been defrayed by the crofters and their friends in this country, and the agent is credibly informed, free from debt. Mr. Duncan McLeod, a Gaelic speaking missionary, is in the near future to take charge of the parish. He appears to have a clear insight as to the special failings which have retarded the crofters' progress in this country, and has expressed his intention of using his influence amongst his congregation in seconding the agent's efforts for the well-being of the colony.

II.—EXTRACT FROM THE REPORT OF THE AGENT OF THE BOARD RESPECTING THE SALTCOATS SETTLEMENT.

I have the honour to forward to you, by registered mail, my Annual Report on the "Lothian" Crofter Colony, located near Saltcoats, Assiniboia, North West Territories.

The various statements herewith attached have been compiled with the view of showing the fullest information in what is hoped may be found a convenient form