

As last year the Canadian export of apples reached the figure of 1,598,614 barrels, valued at \$4 590.793, the importance of such an Act, and its influence on the trade can be understood.

THE SEED GRAIN BRANCH.

For the last two sessions of Parliament the Hon. Mr Fisher has discussed the enactment of a law to control the trade in agricultural seeds, and has introduced a bill for that purpose, but the obstructive and factious opposition of the Conservative members has prevented its becoming law.

Careful investigation, under the supervision of Mr Clarke, Chief of the Seed Division of the Department, showed that there was a very considerable amount of foul and imperfect seed palmed off on our farmers, while there was no possibility of the individual purchaser knowing what he was getting.

This seemed a legitimate ground for legislative interference. The difficulties of working out a law which would fairly protect the farmer and not unduly interfere with legitimate trade were great; but, instead of aid and assistance being given, every obstacle and objection that could be possibly dreamed of was brought forward, and the Minister was not able to pass the law without resorting to a brute-force majority vote.

The investigation and the discussions which have been raised by the officers of the Department in agricultural meetings of all kinds have, however, served the purpose of stimulating observation and inquiry, and of improving the existing business.

It is still the determination of the Minister to persevere until a law adequate to the protection of the farmers shall be passed.

In this connection a notable work has been undertaken to form Seed Growers' Associations, through which it is hoped that improved seeds may be grown and distributed amongst the farmers of the country. Experimental work has shown that a decided increase in production can be brought about by improvement in the selection of seed, and this great help to the agriculture of the country is now well under way.

THE POULTRY INDUSTRY.

The demand for information about, and the interest excited in the raising of poultry, has led to the appointment of Mr Victor Fortier, as Assistant to the Poultry Manager of the Experimental Farm, and consequently to an increased number of lectures given out from the Experimental Farm on this subject.

The Fattening Stations, under the Poultry Division of the Commissioner's Branch have been increased in numbers, and the whole has been carried a stage further, in that now three of the older stations have been equipped for breeding as well as raising and fattening the chicks.