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INTRODUCTION.

Agriculture is the greatest of Canadian industries. It is the one also which is most rapidly expanding. In the Statistical Year Book of Canada the metallic products are valued at \$25,183,876 for the year 1901. If we add to these the abrasives, fuel pigments, structural machines, etc., we reach a total product from the earth of less than 50 millions of dollars. The products of our cheese factories amount to \$29,462,404, to which must be added \$7,000,000 for home made cheese, a number far in excess of the metallic products of our mines. Eggs alone reach the enormous value of \$84,132,000. The Canadian hen has therefore good reason for her noisy self-congratulation when she adds to this great national product. The patient cow, however, surpasses the hen, for the home made butter of Canada is valued at over \$105,000,000 per year. Still more striking figures can be quoted which make the total annual value of the gold, silver and iron mines seem almost insignificant. The crops raised and sold have a value equal to \$208,417,821 and the live stock \$[54,708,563, making a total of over 363 millions of dollars. The Cobalt of the farm is greater than the Cobalt of the mine. It is well, therefore, that this history of our leading industry should be written, for like all histories it must have its lessons for the present and the future. New methods are being proposed and new explanations are being given. We can adopt and use these more safely when we know what the history of agricultural methods have been. This volume will show that some of the methods which scientific men and enlightened governments are seeking to make universal, are supported by the best practice of high class farmers many years ago. The growth of knowledge as to the principles on which these methods are based will do much to bring the best methods into common use.

Dr. Saunders, the accomplished Director of Dominion Experimental Farms, in a paper read before the last meeting of the Royal Society of Canada, stated that it required more brains to be a first class farmer than an equally good man in any other profession. When one considers the physical, chemical, biological and economic problems which all at once a farmer has to face, to the investigation of which hundreds of the brightest minds have been devoted, it becomes evident that nothing but a high order of intelligence can acquire the requisite knowledge or achieve the requisite