

done by our Society, incorporated it in 1870, as the Entomological Society of Ontario, and gave at the same time material aid by allowing an annual grant from the public funds. By this assistance, the usefulness of the Society has been greatly widened, and the officers have become an advisory board to whom reference can be made whenever information concerning injurious insects is sought by farmers or others—an advantage of which the intelligent agriculturists of the Province have not been slow to avail themselves.

Of all the important events affecting agriculture in Canada which have happened during the past year, none can compare for importance with the establishment of the system of Experimental Farms throughout the Dominion, lately organized by the Federal Government. To no one more than to our members can it be a source of so great pleasure, that the person chosen for the important and responsible position of Director, should have been the present incumbent, Prof. William Saunders, who has been for so many years identified with the prosperity and progress of our Society; what he has been to us we all know; what others consider his value to have been, is well shown by Prof. A. R. Grote, one of the best American entomologists and a highly esteemed and regular contributor to the *Canadian Entomologist*.

When speaking of that journal in the preface to one of his works, he says:—

"The treatise of Dr. Harris which has become classical on its subject, did much towards creating a general interest in entomology; but the publication of the *Canadian Entomologist*, a journal aided pecuniarily by the Ontario Government, and owing its success chiefly to the unselfish labours of Mr. William Saunders, has assisted the progress of entomology in America probably more than any one other similar undertaking." This statement is not a bit overdrawn. Prof. Saunders—and I speak of him from an intimate acquaintance extending over a space of many years—is an exceptional man, remarkable not less for the diversity than for the thoroughness of his accomplishments, but above all for his tact and good judgment which have made him an object of respect and have endeared him to all who have had intercourse with him. Now, above all things, Prof. Saunders is an entomologist, and to it chiefly he owes his eminence. We congratulate him upon his appointment and also the Honourable Minister of Agriculture upon the wisdom of the choice he has made.

It may not be amiss here to say a few words with regard to the work it is proposed to carry out at these Government experimental stations. In the first place, the system will consist of a Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa and four other branch farms divided as follows: the Central farm for Ontario and Quebec, one for the Maritime Provinces, one for British Columbia, and one each for Manitoba and the North-West Territories. The officers at the Central Farm will be, the Director, an Entomologist and Botanist combined, a Chemist, a Horticulturist and an Agriculturist. At the Central Station there will be a museum for the preservation of objects of interest. These, of course, will include all the different kinds of grain and other crops, and as well, cabinets for entomological and botanical specimens. As most of you are aware, I have been appointed to fill the position of Entomologist and Botanist for the Dominion Experimental Farms. I trust that I may be able to show before long that this selection was not ill advised. At any rate, I can assure you that no efforts will be wanting on my part to render the office one of general utility and a benefit to the farming community. I purpose, as quickly as possible after the building is finished, to place in the museum a collection showing, under each of the principal crops, all the insects by which it is attacked, so that the farmer or gardener who finds any of his crops injured by insects can come to the museum and see for himself, under the head of each plant the injurious insects known to infest it, and at the same time learn the most approved methods of treating them.

In addition to the above, there will be a botanical garden on the farm, a plot of 65 acres having been appropriated for this purpose. Here native plants of economic value, as our forest trees, will be grown in large numbers for distribution and observation under varying conditions, so as to note their behaviour under different circumstances. Here, also, will be cultivated a large collection of plants of interest to the botanist from all parts of the world, including, of course, all the native species, of which I can obtain roots or seeds. It is thus hoped that many of the difficult problems will be cleared up which at present trouble the

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