

A large proportion of the answers regard the proposal for an experimental farm so favorably as to advise, not only a central one, but branch farms in every Province. The current of opinion, as shown in these replies, is very strong in favor of the Central Bureau and the experimental farm.

The Committee orally examined fourteen witnesses upon various subjects falling within the scope of the enquiry intrusted to them. Their evidence was carefully reported by a shorthand writer, in order to its preservation and publication if the House approves, but it is deemed desirable to emphasize portions of it by a brief review, with occasional extracts from the evidence and the answers to questions already alluded to.

HORTICULTURE.

The fullest evidence on this important branch of agriculture was given by Mr. Charles Gibb, of Albottsford, P.Q., a gentleman who has, perhaps, devoted more attention to fruit culture than any other Canadian. Mr. Gibb has travelled extensively in Europe in search of varieties of fruits suitable to our climate, and has published many works upon both home and foreign fruits. Statements by Mr. Gibb, therefore, carry with them all the influence that experience and knowledge of the subject can furnish. Regarding our lack of hardier varieties of fruits in Canada, Mr. Gibb says:—

"We have our drawbacks in the way of fruit culture in the greater part of Canada. We are north of the limits of the successful culture of the fruits of western Europe, and it is only those occasional fruits which have, for some reason or other, some northern blood in them—some northern ancestry—that can be grown in our colder climate, so that we are compelled to go to the old world and to the cold climates of that world for our fruits.

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"Q. Do you think there are more varieties of fruits in Russia than here, and that we can increase our variety by importing fruits from Russia?—They are growing the apple there in great quantities. Now, for instance, take the Government of Kazan, 400 miles east of Moscow, 600 miles further north than this, with the extremes in the matter of climate, a warm summer and dry, steady winter. It is a point to which Crookston or Fergus Falls on this continent would correspond. There we find the apple grown in twelve peasant villages to the value of about \$50,000 per annum. The thermometer had been down to 40 degrees below zero the winter before we went there, yet the trees were full of apples. The thermometer had been down to 52 or 56 five years before, and there were no signs of winter killing on those trees. Now the fruits of that region must be of great value to parts of our North-West. I do not want to be too sanguine about the North-West. I hope we can grow fruit there; but we are going to fail in some of our first attempts, because we do not know how to grow it there. As I say, those fruits that are growing in climates so much colder than our own ought to be introduced there. Then, as regards the pear. I saw pear trees at Saratof, where the winter temperature is one degree milder than at Quebec, and they were in good health. Then, when you come to the cherry, in the district of Vladimir, just east of Moscow and a little north of it, where the winter temperature is three degrees lower than it is at Quebec, they grow a cherry in such quantities that full cars of it, and at times entire trains, are shipped. At all events it floods all the markets, and yet the winter temperature of the climate in which it grows is much lower than that of Quebec. That brings up the query whether such fruits should not be introduced into Canada, not for limited trial, but for something more than limited trial, because if we had it, it would lead to another industry, that of canning the fruit, which would be worth having. There are plums grown in those regions of the German prune type, of good quality. At the same time, whether they or an improved variety of the wild plum of the North-West will be the plum of the future for us, is a question. There are still other fruits grown there that we can grow; for instance, take the mulberry. There are mulberries in Mongolia, Central Asia, growing in colder regions than those in which the Russian mulberry is found. There are also