

Dominion a mahogany chair, which was used by Wolfe on board H. M. S. Neptune when sailing to Canada and probably also at Quebec. Lord Lovat, who as chief of the clan Fraser represented at Quebec the descendants of the valorous soldiers bearing that name who fought under Wolfe, has since, with great generosity and public spirit, presented to the Dominion a valuable oil painting depicting the death of General Simon Fraser at the battle of Saratoga in 1777. In a letter to Dr. Doughty, Dominion Archivist, Lord Lovat states that "the picture represents Simon Fraser who at the siege of Quebec answered the challenge of the French in the French language. He served in the Fraser Fencibles as a lieutenant and afterwards became General. The picture was painted by Sir Benjamin West, P.R.A., and was, in conjunction with another picture which I have at Beaufort, presented by the officers to General Fraser's widow." Apart from its historic interest the picture is considered to be an excellent example of the artist's work. Another valuable relic is the scarlet coat which formed part of the military uniform worn by General Sir Isaac Brock at Queenston Heights, where he fell in battle on October 13 1812. This was presented by Miss Tupper of Guernsey, a great-niece of the celebrated soldier. These souvenirs will be carefully preserved with the large collection of historical records now stored in the Archives branch of the Department of Agriculture.

The growing importance of Canadian agricultural products in the markets of the world, and especially of the wheat crop, has given rise to numerous attempts to forecast the results of the harvest on the part of those commercially interested. Estimates of crop conditions and yields have been issued for many years in some of the provinces, but previously to 1908 nothing of the kind applicable to the whole of Canada has been officially available. In order therefore to remove this important matter as far as possible from the region of guesswork and speculation, the Department of Agriculture commenced in June last the issue of reports on the condition of crops and live stock throughout Canada, such reports being based upon data collected by the Census and Statistics Office from practical agricultural correspondents in all parts of the Dominion, who willingly placed their services at the disposal of the Government.

In reporting upon crops during growth and upon live stock it was necessary to choose a method of expression capable of conveying a clear idea of present condition and of lending itself to purposes of comparison. The method of expression adopted as fairly fulfilling these requirements is an adaptation of that which has long been employed by the crop reporting board of the United States Department of Agriculture, viz. a numerical percentage above or below a standard condition represented as 100. The term 'standard condition' is taken as denoting a full crop of good quality and a healthy and a thrifty state of live stock. Correspondents were accordingly asked to report under

historical me-
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Crop report-
ing in Canada.

Condition of
crops and live
stock expres-
sed by numeri-
cal percent-
ages.