

of the interests of the industry in the east, while the old association had its name changed to the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario. The two associations then received grants from the Government. In 1879 the first grant was given to the Ontario Poultry Association.

In his report for the year 1879, the Hon. S. C. Wood recommended that an Agricultural Commission be appointed "to inquire into the agricultural resources of the Province of Ontario, the progress and condition of agriculture therein, and matters connected therewith." This commission

was appointed in 1880, and their report, issued in 1881, has ever since been recognized as one of the most valuable contributions to systematized agricultural knowledge and practice ever made in the history of agriculture throughout the world. The experience gained in collecting the information contained in this report, and the good results that were seen to

follow from its publication, suggested to the Government the wisdom of constituting a permanent bureau for the acquisition and dissemination of information that would be useful to the members of our various industrial classes. Accordingly, in the next year (1882) the Bureau of Industries was organized in connection with the Department of Agriculture. The yearly reports which the bureau has since issued have been universally recognized as being of great value. About the same time a Clerk of Forestry was appointed whose duties lie in the preserva-

tion and extension of our forest wealth, and since 1883 the Government has been giving a small bonus for the planting of shade trees along our highways, in accordance with an Act passed in that year.

MESSRS. YOUNG AND ROSS AS COMMISSIONERS.

The Hon. James Young was our fourth Commissioner of Agriculture, holding office from June to November, 1883, when he was succeeded by the Hon. A. M. Ross, who was the last one, Mr. Ross holding the office until the department

was placed under the control of a Minister of Agriculture. During Mr. Ross's administration the dairy department at the Agricultural College was equipped, and our system of Farmers' Institutes had its first organization. In 1885 the Government gave its first grant of money to the Experimental Union, which, as we shall see, had been established by the graduates of the Ontario Agricultural



Hon. Charles Drury, Crown Hill,
The first Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.

College, and in the following year grants of money were given to the Beekeepers' Association and to the Creameries Association for the first time.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

In 1888 the Government felt it was time to make a forward move. The agricultural societies of the province were developing and steadily increasing in number, various associations were applying for recognition and financial assistance, and the interests of our stock raisers, dairymen,