

now under way. Six scientifically trained men are employed on the permanent staff. For the past four years in addition to the regular work, the Branch has been active in supplying fresh and canned fruit to the Canadian Hospitals. Over 100,000 boxes of apples and 28,000 cases of canned fruit and jam was disposed of in this way. The expenditure on this work in 1918 was \$156,194.

Bee keeping is another important feature of the work of this Branch. Under the Foul Brood Act, 16 Inspectors are employed, who demonstrate one of the best methods of detection and treatment has been practised by the Inspectors. Out of the Federal appropriation for Agriculture since 1918, \$1,168 was used for demonstration in the use of handling bees, including special instruction in the treatment of brood diseases.

Under The Agricultural Associations Act some twenty societies, having for their object the promotion of some specialty in agriculture, have received a grant from the Department. For work under the Fruit Pests Act, \$19,377 was expended last year. This covers the principal field of work of the branch, including experiments of all kinds of demonstrations and inspection of nurseries and orchards. Since 1914 five apple orchards of from two to three hundred trees each, in different parts of the Province, have been operated by this branch to try out various methods of pruning trees, cultivation and crop handling. While this line of work was seriously interfered with by the war owing to the desire of the Government to supply Canadian hospitals in Europe with fresh fruit, it is the intention to continue the experiments from now on.

Community Halls

At the last Session of the Legislature the Minister of Agriculture introduced a measure to provide for the erection of community halls in rural districts. With the development of the institute work of the Department and lectures, various institutes and other forms of instruction, as well as the moving picture service which has now become so popular, the need of proper meeting places in rural districts, where no halls are provided, has become apparent. The sum of \$20,000 was set aside for this work. The municipality secures the land upon which the building is to be erected, with an athletic field adjoining, and for the erection of the hall the Department advances any amount up to \$2,000. Already many enquiries have been received from people wishing to participate in this scheme.

During the war there were 560,00 more acres cultivated in the Province than in any similar period before the war. The total acreage in field crops reached the highest point in the history of the Province in 1918, aggregating over ten million acres. Furthermore, records were established in the yield per acre of—Spring Wheat at 22.3 bushels per acre,