

fair chance to prove improve conditions as people in the Province. in Ontario and we feel no place in the platform be more disadvantageous an to introduce it. At any things that farmers th other industries that will almost surely be The necessity for bitter least minimized, if not the various classes in the in a spirit of toleration, less mood, riding on as y, but at the same time rest which few can under-

N. S. ECH.

to speak on Tuesday was wondering how he He doubtless felt the tred about him on that vouness except for a few ride and became warmed remarks. He hoped it on the legislation of the ion of all the members t the people now desire n has often been the case, hat the people want to fidence of the legislators. t would adopt a policy ical parties in order that ized and the seething d more easily by inviting nments. Personally he mment the executive of members in the House isative function. This accept full responsibility l but he wanted suggest- all sides of the chamber. cedent upon precedent le and bring to bear upon legislative ability of the however, he felt that ave him little encourage- eral leader that Liberal good, but that they had ot to ride on. In other has been lacking. M he Mr. Dewar in 1911 the Mr. was there, while he d taken the same ground

scription in 1917 he felt d to conscription before ould not withdraw her rprised and not pleased imcoe was endorsed by n he could not agree. vement had not sprung orm, because the roots eper and farther back d it is even now spread ith regard to charges ough they would be in n was proposed by the ong against patronage abriel were to represent- rovince he could not ad- o the civil service in dded his choice of Hon. e open manner by which nseated Ministers and members given up seats e of reward. He de- d on the question of nment proposed to study en move forward. Re- guson's statement that e popular plurality at id they represented 17 seats and 15 ordinarily eats usually going Con- ings Liberal. Moreover, s which were calculated overment really had a t the people had shown igh with one party as

imperance Act, he felt y, but that as long as would always be so. me together and make ing the problem would that the Government the people, but thought im was well established.

RAL CREDITS.

erty, Minister of Agri- speech in the House y is more than a fair nes more to ordinary of Agriculture is fairly y forcefully which is al temperament. The his voice have, however, ich leads somewhat to lengthy speech so that more or less impaired ized the fact that the

farmers had only entered politics as a last resort, in order to secure certain reforms so much required by Agriculture. The late Government, in his opinion, was opposed to the organization of farmers except in the form of separate farmer's clubs that were able to exercise very little more influence than the individual. Liberals it was thought were largely dominated by the big interests. He thought, moreover, that the farmer will be the salvation of the country if it ever comes to a showdown between the forces of construction and destruction. Over and above the sacredness of the ownership of property the farmer holds the sacredness of humanity. Farmers are prepared to pay their fair share of the indebtedness of the country, but they are also prepared to see that other classes pay their share also. As regards the tariff, the Minister declared that he is not a free trader, but the present tariff is, in his opinion, the most unscientific, the most unjust and the most iniquitous tariff facing the people of any country in the world.

Speaking of the work of his Department the speaker believed the farm surveys were started to show the fallacy of the statement that farming was not paying. But it was found to be true on more than a thousand farms in Peel, Oxford and Dundas counties. In fact, it had been shown that the United labors of the farmer, his wife and all children under 14 years of age had not returned more than 40 cents per hour as a labor income. It is intended to extend and improve the farm surveys now being carried out and the Minister contended that the people of cities and towns would appreciate the farmer's position better if the facts were placed before them. He further contended that these basic economic facts are necessary before intelligent agricultural development can be proceeded with. In the last analysis the salvation of Agriculture in Ontario and the Dominion will come through the co-operative marketing of farm products. We must improve the quality of our products by grading. Extravagant distribution must also be eliminated since in nearly every instance farm products cost the consumer nearly twice what the farmer receives. We must be careful to secure a desirable class of immigrants who will respect our laws and live by them. Hon. Mr. Doherty maintained that the best class of settler is the second, third or fourth son of a farmer, but heretofore the most of these have gone to the city because the father could not afford to establish them all on farms. Agricultural laborers should also be encouraged to own farms of their own and he proposed to ask the Legislature for money to investigate the question of rural credits. With reference to the Agricultural College at Guelph, the Minister believed it to be the function of that institution to turn out good farmers. In the past attempts have been made to tell farmers how to produce, but he believed that the farmer understands his business as well as the manufacturer.

The most effective speaker in opposition during the week was the Hon. A. E. Ross, Kingston. He is a Liberal-Conservative and said he was prepared to give the Government a fair chance. He thought, however, it had all the earmarks of a class of Government and declared himself in favor of sane patronage. He also entered upon a defence of the politician particularizing in favor of men of the past such as Mowat, Baldwin, Macdonald, Laurier and Whitney. He thought the parliament buildings would soon need enlarging and discussed some federal affairs among which was the treatment accorded to returned soldiers. The Hon. Mr. Ross criticized the Government for its lack of proposals regarding health legislation and specifically mentioned influenza and venereal diseases. With regard to the latter he declared that rural doctors are now forced to treat forty cases yearly whereas before the war they handled only about four. It is neglect of the soldier after he gets his discharge that is responsible for this increase. As Sam Clarke, West Northumberland remarked during the week, opposition members have very little to criticize the Government for because they have not been in power long enough. He himself found a great deal to talk about, but not very much to say. However, he was humorous, which served to make time go faster.

CLASSIFICATION OF THE CIVIL SERVICE.

There are probably some thousands of persons employed in the public service of Ontario of which probably 250 are officials or employees of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Many of these come into direct contact with farmers either from the Ontario Agricultural College, through the Agricultural Representatives or from the various branches of the Department at Toronto. Naturally, therefore, farmers should have an interest in the salaries paid to these employees, in as much as their work is solely for the purpose of benefiting Agriculture. The late Conservative Government appointed a Civil Service Commissioner something over a year ago to equalize salaries and supervise appointments throughout the whole service and for some months this Commissioner has been compiling a report which would form a basis for readjusting salaries. During the past week this report was tabled in the House by the Provincial Secretary, Hon. H. C. Nixon and will no doubt form the subject of debate some time during the next two weeks. When it is said that this report provides for increases which will amount to probably \$500,000 yearly for the whole service, many persons who commonly suppose government employees to be overpaid will consider such an increase outrageous. It is true that there are many features of Civil Service that are very unfortunate in as much as salaries are nearly always graded according to the position and not according to the merits of the civil servant. It really seems impossible however, for Governments to adopt a system of paying each man according to his particular worth, largely because even the poorest employee has his friends and cannot only make it embarrassing for the Government,

but more difficult for other and more worthy employees to perform their duties, if they are paid on a merit basis. Thus it is that if the old patronage system is to be avoided—and it is needless to say that it should be avoided if efficiency is desired—some form of supervision by certain commissions or authorized officers of the Government is essential. Experience at both Ottawa and Toronto has shown that civil service commissions can be extremely unsatisfactory if only because no one, two, or three men can fairly adjust salaries and determine what salaries should be paid for a certain specific kinds of work. Many instances of unfairness will creep in and while these have appeared in the Federal service to a shocking extent, there are, we have found, several instances in the report of the Ontario Civil Service Commissioner. If three positions call for the same type of work, but one has a maximum salary of \$2,000 another of \$2,400 and the third of \$2,700, the classification must be unfair. But it is not necessarily due to the fact that the Commissioner is a friend of the third man. It is almost certain to be due to the fact that he cannot know enough about each position in the service to eliminate the injustice. In view of the fact that many civil servants have for the past five or ten years been considerably underpaid we do not believe the salaries suggested are in any degree too high, at least in the Department of Agriculture. Low salaries inevitably mean a low standard of efficiency, while fair remuneration enables the Government to employ those who will do their best.

During the past two weeks not much actual business has been accomplished by the House. Some reports have been tabled by the various Ministers, among which was the report of the commission to investigate the condition of the returned soldiers at the Kapuskasing settlement in Northern Ontario. Conditions there are very unfortunate and will probably necessitate the removal of those who care to leave, to some more suitable section of the Province. Apparently many of the soldier settlers have lost considerable money by the venture, besides suffering more or less serious hardship. A great host of private bills have been introduced by members and some measures have been brought forward for first reading by the Government. Except for the formality of introduction there is never any discussion on the first of the three readings every bill must undergo. The bill itself is not even read, but is passed on its title only, unless some member, usually the leader of the opposition, should ask for a very brief explanation of the purpose of the bill. During the past week the Minister of Agriculture brought in a bill to amend the Act passed last year making provision for community halls and athletic grounds in rural districts. The present amendments provide that incorporated villages may also be included under the terms of the Act and that 3 acres of land need not be purchased for athletic grounds if a suitable area can be secured close at hand. An Act for the protection of milk and cream shippers was also introduced by the Minister in order that shippers may be assured of a fair test on their product. During the week also, Hon. Peter Smith told the House in reply to a question that there have been four loans secured by the Province since November 13, 1919, for sums totalling \$15,250,000. They were sold at 97.76, 90.44, 100.65, and 100 respectively. The rate of interest is 5 per cent. for the first two loans of \$3,000,000 each and another of \$5,000,000 and the fourth loan of \$4,250,000 from the Dominion Government for housing purposes bears interest at 5½ per cent. The first two for ten years, the third for five years and the fourth becomes payable on demand.

Canadian National Poultry Association Formed.

At a meeting of poultrymen held in Ottawa, on Thursday and Friday, March 18 and 19, the organization which has for the last year been known as the Canadian National Poultry Council was transformed into an organization known as the Canadian National Poultry Association, the object of which will embrace a consideration of all matters having to do with progress and improvement in the poultry industry. An essential part of the work of the Association will be the keeping of records of registered poultry, and the collection, preservation and publishing of data, information and documents relating to registration. Qualification in the Record of Performance for poultry will be the basis of registration. Application will be made shortly for the incorporation of the Association under the Live-Stock Pedigree Act. It is proposed that the directorate, which will consist of twenty members, including two representatives from each province, together with the Dominion Poultry Husbandmen and the Chief of the Poultry Division of the Live-Stock Branch, Ottawa, will act in the capacity formerly delegated to the Canadian National Poultry Council.

The following officers and directors were elected, the Provincial men being representative of the Provincial Poultry Associations and the Provincial Departments of Agriculture: President, Dr. R. Barnes, Ottawa; Western Vice-President, N. W. Kerr, Brandon, Man.; Eastern Vice-President, Dr. S. Lafortune, Gatineau Point, Quebec; Secretary-Treasurer, E. Rhoades, Ottawa; Directors: F. C. Elford, Dominion Poultry Husbandman, Ottawa; W. A. Brown, Chief of the Poultry Division, Live-Stock Branch, Ottawa; J. B. Millman, Long River, P.E.I.; J. A. Clark, Experimental Farm, Charlottetown, P.E.I.; W. W. Osborne, New Glasgow, N.S.; J. P. Landry, Agricultural College, Truro, N.S.; A. C. McCulloch, Department of Agriculture, Fredericton, N.B.; R. A. Snowball, Chatham, N.B.; Rev. Brother Ligouri, La Trappe, Quebec; Professor W. R. Graham, Ontario Agricul-

tural College, Guelph, Ont.; Professor R. K. Baker, University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon; A. J. Gibson, Regina, Sask.; C. M. Baker, Calgary; J. H. Hare, Department of Agriculture, Edmonton; H. E. Waby, Enderby, B.C.; J. R. Terry, Department of Agriculture, Victoria, B.C.

Not Much Doing at Ottawa.

No discussions of outstanding importance have developed at Ottawa during the week. It seems apparent that the Government does not propose to take any decisive action with regard to the naval program as proposed in the report of Viscount Jellicoe. Members of the House have apparently advised the Government that the sentiment of the people does not favor the expenditure of any considerable sums of money on a naval program at the present time, even though such money were to be devoted to maintaining ships donated to Canada by the Imperial Government.

During a discussion on the question of an eight-hour day, which was introduced into the House by J. H. Burnham, West Peterboro, the Honorable C. J. Doherty, Minister of Justice, intimated that the Dominion Government does not propose to introduce compulsory legislation regarding the eight-hour day and the forty-four-hour week until the question of jurisdiction has been disposed of. The Minister stated that his personal opinion was that the establishment of an eight-hour day would, under ordinary circumstances, be outside the jurisdiction of the Federal Parliament. He said it would create a presumption that in all contracts of lease or hire of labor, where hours of labor were not specified, the working day should be eight hours. Legislation affecting contracts falls under the head of property and civil rights, which comes within the jurisdiction of Provincial legislation. The Federal Government, said the Minister, has a general right to legislate in order to carry out any obligation imposed upon Canada, or any of its provinces, by any treaty properly entered into by the British Empire. He pointed out that the parties to the Treaty at Versailles were required merely to bring its various conventions, such as the labor clauses to the attention of the competent legislative authorities within their respective countries. Honorable N. W. Rowell, in explaining the labor clauses of the Versailles Treaty, answered the objections of representatives of rural constituencies by pointing out that agriculture was exempted from the industries covered by the labor convention, and that each country was empowered to draw for itself the line between industry and agriculture.

In reply to a question, the Honorable N. W. Rowell stated that some applications have been received from rural mail contractors for increased remuneration on account of the high cost of living. Each application is considered on its merit, and the policy of the Government is to do everything possible to ameliorate the financial conditions of the rural mail carriers. Nevertheless, the Post Office Act prevents any increase in the rate paid without first inviting public tenders. Another question brought out the fact that there is a Canadian News Service in New York, the purpose of which is to supply Canadian news to United States newspapers. This office has cost \$10,185.79 during the last six months. It was also brought out that the Department of Militia has, at a cost of \$63,841.90, provided 230 institutions, colleges or schools in Canada with military uniforms for their pupils. Approximately 1,600 pupils were outfitted in this way. It also appears that since 1917, Cabinet Ministers at Ottawa have been appointed as acting ministers of other departments thirty-eight times since December 17, 1917. Some ministers have at one time or another been acting ministers of four or five different departments. During the week, also, severe criticism of the Department of Soldiers' Civil Re-establishment was heard from many different members, some of whom contended that Sir James Loughheed and his Deputy should both be replaced by returned soldiers.

Annual Meeting of Provincial Winter Fair.

The officers of the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair were elected at the annual meeting held last week. The feature of the meeting was the resignation of R. W. Wade, Director of the Live-Stock Branch, Department of Agriculture, Toronto, and Secretary and Manager of the Winter Fair. Mr. Wade's resignation as Secretary and Manager of the Fair came as a surprise to those present, but when he stated that he would not reconsider his decision, his assistant, J. E. Rettie, late of the Soldier Settlement Board, Ottawa, was appointed to succeed him. It will be recalled that the last Winter Fair was one of the best in the history of the show, but the financial statement showed a deficit of \$4,000. Honorable Manning W. Doherty, Minister of Agriculture, assured the directors that he was greatly interested in the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair and would be willing to continue assistance to it. The dates fixed for the 1920 show are December 3 to 10, and the officers elected for the present year are as follows: Hon. President, J. I. Flatt, Hamilton; President, John Gardhouse, Weston; Vice-President, W. J. W. Lennox, Toronto; Secretary-Treasurer, J. E. Rettie, Toronto; Superintendent, J. H. Saunders, London; Assistant Secretary, A. Leitch, Guelph. Executive Committee: W. McNeil, representing the Poultrymen, London; W. Dryden, Shorthorn Breeders, Brooklyn; R. S. Stevenson, Dairymen, Ancaster; P. Christie, Heavy Horses, Manchester; J. D. Brien, Swine, Ridgeway; W. W. Whitelaw, Sheep, Guelph; T. H. Hassard, Light Horses, Markham; W. J. W. Lennox, Seeds, Toronto.