

professional career or for city life. But if he elects to remain at home and to find prosperity and happiness in farming and dairying, his schooling should fit him for such an existence. No departure in the reconstitution of our programme of studies is more far reaching than this, and that it is not an empty promise the Government has already demonstrated by the establishment of successful agricultural departments in six of the High Schools of the Province.

### **AGRICULTURAL TRAINING IN HIGH SCHOOLS.**

The creation of an Agricultural Department in High School work is in strict accord with the requirements of the Province of Ontario. In the special courses now provided is the germ of a great system of technical education for an agricultural population. Our Province is remarkable on the continent as an agricultural region. In quality and yield, its crops are famous. Ontario is specially adapted for scientific farming. The best financial results are secured only from what is generally known as mixed farming by expert knowledge applied to dairying, stock-raising, fruit growing, poultry keeping, etc., in all of which specialization is necessary. Without a practical application of the latest methods, our rural population is handicapped. From the nature of things, not all farmers' sons can go to the Agricultural College at Guelph. The Government, therefore, recognizes the importance of providing, at convenient centres, courses of instruction in agriculture and horticulture. At present these courses have been established in the Collegiate Institutes of Galt, Collingwood, Morrisburg, Perth, Lindsay, and the Essex High School. For pupils taking the ordinary High School course there is two years' instruction in field husbandry, animal husbandry, dairy husbandry, poultry, horticulture, forest, agricultural botany, agricultural physics, agricultural chemistry and entomology. Provision is made for short courses of the most practical kind for short-term students who can only leave the farm during brief periods. The teachers selected for these departments are graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College, holding the degree of B.S.A. This ensures their academic fitness and scientific attainments. Sums sufficient to pay the salaries of these teachers are voted by the Government. The amount for 1908 is \$9,600.

This forward step in agricultural education for High Schools, together with the efforts on foot to provide teachers possessing elementary knowledge of agriculture and horticulture for the public schools, constitutes one of the most important reforms ever undertaken by a government.