

These facts and many others which could be adduced prove clearly that not only has the Government not been antagonistic to farmers' organizations but has assisted farmers in securing a proper organization and getting it on a proper business basis. It is not too much to say that 75 per cent. of the co-operative effort of the farmers even at the present time is due to the foundation educational work which has for years been carried on by the Department of Agriculture.

FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS AND POLITICS.

Possibly the charge that the Government is antagonistic to farmers' organizations is based on the attitude of the Government to the introduction of politics into farmers' clubs. It is true that the Government has felt that the introduction of politics into organizations which were brought into existence for non-political purposes would not be in the best interests of such organizations. In this view the Government has followed the lines suggested by experience in Ontario and elsewhere. Many people in Ontario have personal memory of a previous attempt to introduce politics into farmers' organizations. Students of the subject know that farmers' co-operative organizations in other countries are kept free from politics. Even within the past few months leading agricultural papers in the United States have sounded a note of warning on this subject, as the following quotations show:—

“No farm organization has ever lived when politicians were given consideration or when it sought political power. The moment an agricultural organization begins to devote time to playing the game of politics, that moment its usefulness ends.”—“Hoard's Dairyman.”

“If by organization is meant the attempted enrolment of all farmers into a so-called agrarian political party. The Gazette for one has grave doubts as to results, for the simple reason that it would almost surely become a mere ladder upon which demagogues would mount, or seek to mount, into the limelight for selfish personal purposes.”—“Breeder's Gazette.”

There is not the slightest foundation that the Government desired to suppress the political interest or activity of any body of