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THE ONTARIO FARMERS' FRIEND

Record of Hon. John Dryden as Minister of Agriculture.

The Progress of the Farming Interests During That Time.

The Dairy, Fruit Growing and Live Stock Industries.

The Good Roads Movement—Farmers' Institute Branch—The Agricultural College and Experimental Farm—A Striking Narrative.

The Hon. John Dryden was appointed minister of agriculture for Ontario in 1890, and during the past nine years he has greatly increased the usefulness of his department, and the scope of its work. To it has been added the farmers' institute branch, the live stock associations' branch, the good roads branch, and the collection of municipal statistics.

The work of the minister and his department consists in overseeing the expenditure of grants made by the legislature to the various provincial associations organized in the interest of one or other branch of agriculture, and to the district and township agricultural and horticultural societies; the direction of the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm of the three dairy schools, the fruit experiment stations, spraying experiments, extermination of insect pests, such as the San Jose scale, besides exercising a general oversight of the various branches of the department, including those above mentioned. Also the preparation of such legislation as may from time to time be necessary, and the preparation, printing, and mailing of all reports and bulletins sent out by the department, the collection and publication of farm statistics, dairy statistics, chattel mortgages, and municipal statistics.

In addition the minister has the supervision of four factory inspectors and their work, and also of the immigration branch of the government. The Hon. Mr. Dryden's first forward step on entering the department was to increase the issue of the reports and bulletins distributed by the department. Members of farmers' institutes were supplied with reports, and most of these reports, which had not previously been the case, this policy did much to stimulate the growth of the farmers' institutes, besides enabling the farmers to receive more generally the benefit of the information to be derived from these valuable reports. When Mr. Dryden took office the membership of farmers' institutes numbered about 2,500. From that time it steadily increased until in 1898 there were 16,000 names on the rolls.

The following table shows the increase in the number of reports printed and in the number of copies issued since Mr. Dryden became minister:

| REPORTS ISSUED BY THE DEPARTMENT. | Number of copies 1890. |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Agricultural College | 4,000 |
| Dairy Associations | 2,500 |
| Fruit Growers' Association | 4,000 |
| Entomological Association | 4,000 |
| Poultry Association | 1,800 |
| Live Stock Associations | 1,000 |
| Bureau of Statistics | 5,000 |
| Total | 22,300 |
| In 1898 the list was as follows: | |
| Agricultural College | 25,000 |
| Dairy Associations | 20,000 |
| Fruit Growers' Association | 6,000 |
| Report on spraying | 9,000 |
| Entomological Association | 6,000 |
| Poultry Association | 3,000 |
| Live Stock Associations | 21,000 |
| Farmers' Institute report | 20,000 |
| Bureau of Statistics | 7,000 |
| Good roads report | 50,000 |
| Total | 155,000 |

The above does not include the bulletins.

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plant new varieties of fruit may obtain from the nearest experiment station information as to the most successful ones to grow in the section in which he lives, thus saving time and money by avoiding the planting of varieties that might be unsuitable and would not thrive.

THE LIVE STOCK ASSOCIATIONS BRANCH.

The growth of these associations has been wonderful. Eight years ago the Dominion Live Stock Association had a membership of 15, and annual receipts amounting to \$15. Today the annual membership is only 6,000 and the annual receipts of the Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association amount to \$5,224.55. The membership includes most of the prominent breeders of pure live stock in Ontario. The work undertaken and accomplished by the minister has been of the greatest value to farmers and breeders throughout the province.

Some years ago the minister, in an address, said that it would prove a benefit to the live stock breeders of the province, and also to the railroad companies, if the live stock animals were carried at half rates. All the breeders present agreed with the speaker, but said that such a Utopian condition of things would never be experienced during the lives of those present. Still he determined to do what he could toward this end, and, little by little, concessions were granted, until today all pure-bred animals registered in records recognized as reliable by the department of agriculture are carried at half rates between all points east of Fort William, thus effecting a very great saving to both buyers and sellers. It also has the effect of distributing better animals throughout the country.

What has been the result of this? Since the cheap rates were inaugurated the demand for pure-bred males has increased rapidly, the eastern and western provinces vying with each other in the purchase of Ontario stock animals. The minister has done a good work by stimulating this trade, and has greatly benefited the Ontario farmers by having their animals collected by members of his staff in carload lots and distributing them along the line of the C. P. R. to the individual buyers. It formerly cost from \$30 to \$120 to send an animal west, the transportation now amounts to but from \$10 to \$18. Up to three years ago the interprovincial trade in live stock was almost non-existent, when, with the cheap rates and the careful supervision of Mr. Dryden, it sprang up with a bound, and since then over \$200,000 worth of pure-bred stock has come out from Ontario to the Northwest Territories and British Columbia in the west, and Newfoundland, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces in the east.

Besides securing cheap rates, the minister has rendered valuable assistance in obtaining a reduction of the quarantine regulations between the United States and Canada, and in the statement of Mr. Ironsides, of the firm of Gordon & Ironsides, the cattle kings of America and the largest exporters of milk, that the value of the horned cattle now in the dominion.

Up to the time of Mr. Dryden's appointment as minister of agriculture, the Provincial Fair Stock show was conducted by the Agriculture and Arts Association and such local societies as chose to contribute. In 1892, he, through the members of his staff, took over the controlling interest in this important exhibition. The results have been most gratifying. In 1891 there were \$1 entrance fees, and \$38 as gate receipts. As entry fees, and \$38 as gate receipts, and there was \$225 paid in premiums. Under Mr. Dryden's management the show has steadily grown, until in 1898 there were 800 entries and over \$1,100 gate and entrance receipts. The amount paid in prizes was \$4,500.

Under Mr. Dryden's management the administration is the annual election of prominent farmers to the boards of the leading fair associations. Formerly the members of the boards were citizens of the cities in which they were held; now in all departments in which the farmers are interested the chief work is controlled by farmers. One of the greatest benefits accruing from the work of the live stock associations under Mr. Dryden's management has been the more frequent visiting of the country by farmers, breeders and importers. By this means each member has learned more of the needs of the country and has obtained a better knowledge of methods practiced by others. Ten years ago the importers and breeders of live stock were a number of widely-scattered units, possessing little public influence. Today they are united, and wield a greater and more beneficial influence on agriculture than any other organization in Ontario, and their future is only limited by their exertions.

THE FARMERS' INSTITUTES BRANCH.

Under the present administration a system of institutes was founded, and during Mr. Dryden's tenure of office they have become a most important factor in the life of the province.

In 1891 the professors of the Ontario Agricultural College employed their winter vacation in January in visiting certain farming centers and delivering addresses on subjects helpful to the farmers. They did splendid pioneer work, but their time was so limited that only a small part of the province could be visited. During that year 75 meetings were held and about 2,500 farmers added their names to the roll of membership. From this nucleus Mr. Dryden began to build the present system of Farmers' Institutes. The second step was to add a practical farmer to each delegation, and to hold a two-days session. In a short time the demand for speakers from all parts of the province was greater than the supply. The correspondence increased, and the work grew to such proportions that it became necessary to appoint a superintendent of Farmers' Institutes. Bylaws and rules of order to govern meetings were published, and the whole department organized for systematic work. This work has grown from year to year, until in 1898 we find a paid-up membership of 16,000. During that year also 677 meetings were held at which 3,600 addresses were furnished. The institutes comprising 126,000 persons. The best home talent is employed, and in addition prominent speakers are engaged from the United States and elsewhere.

What medical associations are to the practicing physician and conventions are to the school teacher, so the institutes are to the farmer. They bring

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light to his door the men who have been most successful in the several branches of agricultural science, and enable the farmer to reap the benefits of the years of experience of these men, without having to go through these experiences himself. Every district from Essex to Glengarry has organized meetings, and is training men to speak intelligently of their work to others.

Annual excursions have been conducted to the Agricultural College at Guelph, and during the month of June last nearly 35,000 persons availed themselves of the opportunity thus afforded by the institutes and visited the institution. It is partly owing to this, no doubt, that the college has become so popular with the farming classes, and that this fall 40 more students have made application for rooms than can be accommodated in the college dormitories.

Thus from year to year the work of organization becomes more and more complete, the demands for practical speakers more and more urgent, and the whole field broadens, until its limits and the good results that will follow depend only on the amount of time and energy that shall be devoted to the work by the farmers themselves.

THE GOOD ROADS BRANCH.

For several years the movement in favor of road improvement has been gathering strength. To meet the growing demand for information on the proper construction of roads, the minister in 1896 appointed a provincial instructor of road-making, who is known as the good roads branch of the department was inaugurated. During the past three years this branch has issued a very large number of reports and bulletins. Fifty thousand copies of each of these reports were issued by the department and distributed throughout the province. They were full of information as to the correct methods of road construction and kindred subjects, and were suitably illustrated.

The first duty of the instructor in road-making is to respond to invitations from municipalities that may call upon him for consultation and advice. He is the consulting engineer of the road-making for the whole province. In the year 1896 he visited 27 townships, 18 towns and 1 city in Ontario. In 1897 he visited 43 townships, 27 towns and 6 cities, two and three public meetings being held in many of the townships. In 1898, 42 townships, 29 towns and 6 cities were visited in the same manner. In addition to these several municipalities have availed themselves of his services for consultation, while much has been done by correspondence.

At each of the places visited, public meetings of the ratepayers are addressed by the instructor, and a full report on the state of the roads in the municipality and plans for their improvement, estimate of cost, etc., is forwarded free of charge and published in the local newspapers.

As a result of this work many municipalities have purchased improved machinery and are performing their road work on a permanent and rational basis.

In a large number of towns—Ingersoll, Orangeville, Perth, Cornwall, Smith's Falls, Renfrew, Kemptonville, Chatham and others—sample sections of streets have been built under the direct supervision of the instructor, and are being copied in later work. A number of towns, too, have by special vote appropriated large sums of money for undertaking road-making in Windsor the amount reaching \$200,000.

Throughout the province generally, where radical changes have not been made, there has been a distinct better observance of the right principles of road-making, the direct result of the instructor's influence. Roads are being better drained, better graded, better metalled and metal is being placed on the roads, and more systematic efforts are being put forth.

THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE AND EXPERIMENTAL FARM.

The Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm at Guelph has made marked progress since the Hon. John Dryden became minister of agriculture. When the present minister took office he found the relations between the members of the staff in a state of rebellion bordering on anarchy. The staff had lost prestige, and the attendance was falling off. No institution could prosper under such a state of affairs. Under his recommendation a commission was appointed in 1893 to investigate the alleged grievances, the result of which was the resignation of the professor of agriculture, Thos. Shaw, and the appointment of Wm. Rennie to the management of the farm. Mr. Rennie is recognized as one of the best farmers in Ontario. Under his guidance during the last six years the farm has been brought to a very high state of cultivation and productiveness. The financial statement of the farm proper for 1898, published in the annual report for that year, shows a net profit for the year of \$1,469.

It can no longer be said that the management of the farm is not what it should be, and that it is not a model for the farmers of Ontario and for their sons.

Conclusive evidence of the increasing usefulness and growing popularity of the college is found in the improved attendance.

In 1891 there were 132 students. In 1897 there were 275, and in 1898, 312. In the regular course and 63 in the dairy course. In 1898 the total number in attendance reached 338, 223 in the regular and 115 in the dairy course. Of those in the regular course, 10 per cent were from Ontario. The present year promises to make another high record.

The college can no longer accommodate the students in the regular course, and many of them are compelled to obtain board in Guelph, as do the special course students. It will probably be necessary to enlarge the college building in the near future.

It will be seen that the farmers are appreciating the value of the college more and more, and are sending their sons to it in increasing numbers. This is an effective answer to any criticisms that may be offered. It is the farmers' college, and they appear to be well pleased with the present management. To keep pace with the growing needs of the institution, the minister has added liberally to the equipment and teaching staff as occasion demanded. Of those in the regular course, 10 per cent were from Ontario. The present year promises to make another high record.

The increased equipment in the way of buildings includes the following: Convocation Hall, new greenhouses, botanical laboratory, a new and enlarged dairy building, an expert chemical laboratory in place of the one destroyed by fire, waterworks and fire protection system, poultry buildings, a new pigsty, and several other buildings for the use of employees of the institution.

During the past nine years the personnel of the staff has been changed almost entirely, and the appointments made (excepting that of the ex-poultry manager) have given great satisfaction. These appointments include, among others, the following: G. E. Day, B. S. A. (O. A. C. degree), professor of agriculture; Wm. Lochhead, B.A., M.S., professor of biology and

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geology; H. L. Hunt, B.S.A., professor of horticulture; F. C. Harrison, B.S.A., professor of bacteriology; J. B. Reynolds, B.A., professor of physics and lecturer in English; Wm. Rennie, farm superintendent, etc.

The staff is now a most complete, energetic and progressive one. The work conducted by the experimental farm department is of the greatest value to the province, and has been largely extended under the direction of Mr. Dryden. About fifty acres of the farm is set apart for the testing of different varieties of field crops. During the past twelve years leading varieties of grain have been tested from France, Germany, Italy, Sweden, Russia, England, Scotland, Hungary, Greece, Austria, Egypt, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Switzerland and the United States, and some very important results have been obtained.

Among the successful varieties thus introduced may be mentioned Siberian oats and Mandshuri barley, not to speak of the testing and distribution of Dawson's Golden Chaff wheat, new improved varieties of corn, and the best varieties of all the crops grown in the province.

It is estimated that in one year alone, 1898, the increased wealth added to the people of this province by the introduction of the Siberian variety of oats was over a million dollars, and more than 100,000 bushels of Mandshuri barley have cost in 18 years, estimated on the basis of the cost for 1897.

The gain in wealth to the province from the introduction of Mandshuri barley has been even greater.

Associated with the work of the experimental farm department of the Ontario Agricultural College is the Ontario Experiment Station. By its means a system of co-operative experiments in agriculture has been established among the farmers themselves, which has grown under Mr. Dryden's regime, a truly vast proportion.

In 1891 the number of experiments throughout the province numbered 203. In 1898 the number had increased to 2,250, and in 1898 over 3,000 farmers were engaged in these co-operative experiments. Seed, etc., is distributed from the O. A. C., and the results are published in the Experimental Station report, issued by the department.

The opinion of leading agriculturists is that there is no other work being done in the Province of Ontario today that is fraught with so much benefit to the farming community as that carried on by the Experimental Station.

The O. A. C. has for some years borne the reputation of being the best all-around institution of its kind in America, and to Mr. Dryden must be attributed the credit for its present efficient state and its enlarged field of usefulness.

THE PIONEER FARM.

In 1894 the minister set afoot an inquiry as to whether any farming lands were to be found on the C. P. R. between Port Arthur and Rat Portage. The result was the starting of farming operations at a point on Lake Wabigoon in the following year by the department. This proved so successful that a large tract of country, hitherto supposed to be worthless, was opened up for settlement. Up to the present time about 3,000 acres of land have been sold to settlers, and some 600 people are located in and around the town of Dryden, which is now the center of this thriving settlement.

LEGISLATION INTRODUCED.

During his term of office the minister has introduced some important legislation relating to matters connected with his department, notably acts in the interest of bee-keeping, including the inspection of diseased apiaries, acts respecting noxious weeds, diseases of fruit trees and insect pests; acts relating to cheese and butter factories and the supplying of milk to the same; an act respecting veterinary surgery, improvements and amendments to the agriculture and arts act, which controls the various associations receiving government aid, including agricultural societies; an act to prevent gambling at agricultural exhibitions; amendments to the factories act, and acts respecting bakeshops, the chief feature of which is the going away with Sunday labor and the bringing of bakeshops under the inspection of the department.

THE SAN JOSE SCALE.

During the last two years an attempt to exterminate the San Jose scale has largely occupied the attention of the minister. This is the most dreaded pest known to fruit growers, and can only be eradicated by the destruction of the infested trees. The efforts of the department have not been altogether successful, however, owing to the fact that the scale had spread more widely than was at first supposed, and also to the opposition on the part of some fruit growers who objected to the drastic methods that had to be em-

ployed. During the present summer the minister felt it advisable to ask for a commission to investigate the extent of the spread of this insect and the most suitable methods of combating it. A solution of the problem is now engaging his attention.

Investigation into the debarking of cattle and tuberculosis among cattle are also matters that have engaged Mr. Dryden's attention.

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