

There have been ample evidences within the last few years that the existing spirit of unrest and dissatisfaction has extended to the agricultural classes. The reasons are not far to seek. Not only does the farmer consider that he was treated unjustly and in bad faith by the Government at Ottawa, but he considers that his interests have been neglected by the Government in Ontario from their failure to realize the real needs of the community and to apply such remedies as would have stimulated Agriculture and attracted men to the land.

A study of the history of the treatment of the agricultural interests of Ontario will show that they were fostered and made progress under a Liberal Administration while they have declined under the present Government.

In striking contrast to Hon. John Dryden, who put the Department of Agriculture in Ontario on a plane of effective usefulness, the late Hon. James Duff let the department sink into a position of second rate importance. Under him the Department lacked initiative and progressiveness.

It was not only Liberals who criticized the Department of Agriculture as administered by Hon. James Duff. Sir Jos. Flavelle then Mr. J. W. Flavelle, one of the leading Conservatives in the Province, wrote a letter to Mr. Duff in which occurred the following criticism.

"You have permitted, you are now permitting, thousands of young Ontario farmers, the cream of our Agricultural people, to leave their own Province for the West, while, by your inertia, you show you are not cognizant of the advantages of continued residence in this Province if full advantage is taken of the opportunities which open in response to intelligent effort."

The independent Conservative paper "*The Toronto World*" on February 14th, 1914, referring to the Liberal proposal for a Commission, said that the Government would be well advised to pay attention to it because Ontario is in need, and in bad need of something being done to rescue the agricultural interests of the country from the rut into which they have fallen, and which grows deeper every year. Even the "*Mail and Empire*" (Conservatives) confessed that the Department was lax in its administration. The following is an extract from the "*Mail*" of July 15th, 1913:—"It is true that the agricultural Department has not kept pace with the advance in other branches of industry."

It is unfortunately true that the Department of Agriculture almost ceased to operate during Mr. Duff's regime. Upon his decease things went from bad to worse through the Government's