

GOVERNMENTAL ADMINISTRATION.

EARLY EFFORTS.

In view of the liberal provision for the advancement of agriculture made since Confederation by our Government, it may well be inferred that in the early days of our province the interests of agriculture were not neglected. As early as 1830, we find that financial aid was given by the Government of Upper Canada to agricultural societies, and that at that remote date such societies were organized and doing good work. There can be no doubt that the good foundations then laid have had their due effect in contributing to our present success.

After the union of the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada, in 1841, until Confederation in 1867, the agricultural interests of the country were carefully looked after by a Minister of Agriculture. During this time the agricultural societies so early organized were greatly developed. The well-known Agriculture and Arts Association was organized in 1846, and during its existence, especially in its earlier days, it did much to foster and develop the agricultural interests of the province.

FROM CONFEDERATION FORWARD.

After Confederation the interests of agriculture, so far as the Province of Ontario was concerned, were entrusted to a "Commissioner of Agriculture and Arts," whose main duties, however, lay in the regard of other matters. This, unfortunately, was a retrograde step. Under this arrangement, our important and growing agricultural interests formed merely a sub-department of government, being looked after by the minister of some other department who, for the time being, was most capable or most willing to attend to them. The Hon. John Carling, subsequently Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion, was our first Commissioner of Agriculture, but his portfolio as cabinet minister was that of Public Works. Later on the Department of Agriculture was attached to the office of the Provincial Secretary, and again to that of the Provincial Treasurer.

HON. JOHN CARLING AS COMMISSIONER.

Under Mr. Carling's administration, however, several steps of progress were made. In 1868 aid was granted to the Agriculture and Arts Association to help the association to carry on the provincial fair, and for other good purposes. In the same year the Fruit Growers' Association were given a grant to enable them to print their report and to spread abroad information respecting their work. In the same year, also, in response to a request made by the Canadian Dairymen's Association (which had been formed in 1867), an act was passed for the protection from frauds on the part of factory patrons of the butter and cheese manufacturers of the province, the circumstance

showing how voluntary effort and governmental regulation and administration react upon and complement each the other. In 1871 the Entomological Society received its first grant of money from the government.

HON. A. MCKELLAR, COMMISSIONER.

Towards the close of 1871 the Hon. Arch. McKellar, who was then Provincial Secretary, became Commissioner of Agriculture. Under his administration the yearly grants to the different voluntary associations then established were continued, and in 1874 the Dairymen's Association was added to the list of organizations

receiving aid from the government. The year 1874 is also memorable as that in which work was begun on the Ontario Agricultural College.

HON. S. C. WOOD AS COMMISSIONER.

In July, 1875, the Department of Agriculture came under the control of the Hon. S. C. Wood, who was Provincial Treasurer, and it remained connected with the treasury office until 1888, when its real importance was recognized and it was raised to the dignity of having a separate portfolio.

Meanwhile, the dairy industry of the province had been growing rapidly, so much so that in 1877 the Canadian Dairymen's Association was divided, the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario being formed for the better working



The Hon. John Carling, London,
First Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario, and subsequently Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion.