

Agricultural Work in Ontario

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AGRICULTURAL organization in Ontario began after the calling of the first legislature in 1792. Lieutenant-Governor Simcoe in his planning for the development of the province assisted in the organization, and probably was the prime mover. Down to 1846, societies here and there throughout the province gave stimulus to the growing of grain, the importation of stock and improvements in agricultural methods. In 1846, a provincial association was formed, through which, in time, associations for the improvement of the various pure breeds of stock came into existence. Encouragement and direction were given by the government, and on the confederation of the provinces in 1867 increased interest was manifested. The first important step forward was made in 1874 when the Agricultural College at Guelph was founded. The Royal Commission on Agriculture in 1881 traversed the province from end to end, investigating conditions and arousing interest, and the publication of their report in five volumes contained a mass of information and made suggestions that have produced an effect lasting to the present day. Following immediately after, and as a direct outcome of the Commission, there was organized the Ontario Bureau of Industries, whose first business it was to collect and publish reports on crops, live stock, and general agricultural conditions. When, in 1888, a department was formed separate from the other executive branches of the government, this Bureau became the nucleus of the department, and to the latter was added gradually the work carried on by the various provincial associations.

Branches
of the
Department

As the work along various lines developed and new fields were opened up, it had to be systematized and the department is now organized into nine branches, each in charge of a responsible directing official. These branches are as follows:

1. Ontario Agricultural College;
2. Ontario Veterinary College;
3. Agricultural and Horticultural Societies;
4. Live Stock Branch;
5. Farmers' and Women's Institutes Branch;