

increases in size. This short account of the germination of seeds suffices to shew the many preparations and means nature uses to produce a single plant.

OUR persistent advocacy of the teaching of agriculture in our rural schools has had the effect of stirring up the parties most deeply interested in an endeavor to get the Ontario government to take some steps in the matter. Since our last issue a motion was introduced in the Legislature by Mr. McLenaghan as follows: "that, in the opinion of this House, greater local facilities should be given to farmers' sons by which they could secure a better education in their own calling than is afforded them under the provisions of the law as it now stands." The mover, in an admirable speech, made some telling points in support of the resolution. He claimed that the farmers did not receive the attention that was accorded mercantile or other callings. The farmer of to-day had, educationally, very little more facilities than he had twenty years ago. The greatest interests of the country lay in the hands of the farmer, and to improve him was to do good to every other business calling. The resources of the farming industry were equal to those of all the other business callings in the country, and if the farmers were ever to assume the position in the country which their calling entitled them to, it would be when they were properly educated in their profession. He might be told that if the farmer grew up in ignorance it was his own fault, but that was not the case, because facilities were not now offered him for acquiring the special education he needed. They must remember that a necessity existed to-day that did not exist when the farms were first cleared. Then they had but to tickle the virgin soil, and it would yield bountifully. Now that virginity had been exhausted and if the farms of Ontario were decreasing in value, it was because the fertility had been destroyed and the farmers lacked the scientific education necessary to restore it. They, on the Ministerial side of the House, had joined in the cry that the farmers of the country were a ruined, down-trodden, hopeless race, but that cry was one of the greatest frauds ever perpetrated. Give the farmer of Canada the opportunity he should have, and he would gallantly hold his own. The public school system of Ontario was a credit to the province, and one of the finest in the world, but it did not afford facilities for the teaching of scientific agriculture. A text book on agriculture had been produced. It was tardy, but at last it had come, and it was creditable to its authors. But the teachers themselves were not trained in the fundamental principles of the science of agriculture. As to the high schools and collegiate institutes, there was only an odd farmer here and there that could afford to send his son to them, but suppose he did go to the expense, what were the results? There were professors for everything, specialists for everything, except as regarded his future calling. Though the farmer was heavily taxed for the support of these institutions, there was not a teacher to give his son a lesson in the science of farming, which was decidedly wrong. The schools supported by the farmer should afford an education for the farmer's son. It must not be forgotten that other countries were taking action in the matter of agricultural education, countries which came into competition with them in the markets of the world. How could they keep up in the race if they did not receive similar advantages? Years ago the yield of wheat in Ontario was from 35 to 40 bushels per acre: last year it was only 14.3 per acre. After referring to what other countries were doing in the matter of agricultural education, he said he had a theory of his own that might be good or might be imperfect; he would leave the House to judge. His idea was that they would require to have something more local, more practical, and more tangible to attain the result desired. He would propose that power be given to the municipalities to establish township schools for the study of agricultural subjects. In each township there was a township hall which could be easily utilized for the purpose of a school. This school should be placed in charge of a specialist, possibly one of the young men holding a diploma from the Agricultural College, and it should be kept open three or four months in the year, or for such time as might be found desirable. It would serve the same purpose towards the Agricultural

College and the Model Farm, as the high schools did to the colleges and universities. It would stimulate a desire for higher education in this branch, and would soon lead to the establishment of other colleges. The sooner a new college was established east of Toronto, the better for the eastern section, as the present college was totally unfitted for that section. The schools he suggested would cost but very little, and the expense might be divided between those attending them, the municipality, the county, and the province. In such an important matter the province could afford to spend liberally. The Minister of Education made one of his characteristic replies. To keep his supporters in line he assumed that the general trend of the remarks of the mover of the resolution was censorious, or, in other words, that in the matter of education the government was unfriendly to the farmer. The remarks would apply with almost equal force to every other calling in the land. It might be said, what were the government doing for the education of the laborer, the domestic, the blacksmith or the seamstress? The laborer was not instructed how to handle his pick and shovel, nor was the blacksmith taught to wield his hammer. What he objected to mainly was, that the mover did not recognize the great principle that elementary education was purely fundamental, and that what was useful to the farmers was equally useful to those engaged in any other of the various callings. Agricultural education in the public schools would be misplaced. They should not fill the public schools with the "ologies" or the sciences. The whole public school system of the country was as good for the farmer as for anybody else. Whereas the doctor and the lawyer had to pay their own way in the pursuit of their professions, provision was made at the Agricultural College for the farmer to perfect his special education at the State's expense. In reply to the observations as to lack of provision being made in the High schools for the education of farmers' sons, he would like to state that agricultural chemistry was taught with special reference to farming. The specialist in this science was as well qualified to instruct the young men from the country in the principles of farming as was a professor of agriculture. In relation to the scheme which had been suggested he supposed it was new to the House. It was a matter for consideration whether municipal councils should have the power proposed. The Government would have to consider whether such a plan would be feasible. It was the privilege of the House to restrain an undue use of power as committed to municipalities and corporations. He hoped the mover would feel, in view of what he had said, that the object of his motion had been attained, and he suggested that it be withdrawn. After several members had spoken strongly in support of the object sought to be attained in the motion, it was withdrawn. The Minister of Education evidently does not understand or does not wish to understand what the mover of the resolution, who is a Conservative, advocates. To place the calling of a laborer or a blacksmith on the same plane as that of the farmer, in regard to education, is certainly not flattering to the latter. The comparison drawn by the hon. gentleman is the height of absurdity and is not creditable to his intelligence. It is quite apparent that unless the farmers sink their party differences and unite as one man in insisting upon a just recognition by the government of their rights in regard to educational matters, the government, which in this instance means the Minister of Education, will do nothing for fear of offending the laborer, the domestic, the blacksmith, and the seamstress. We will have something more to say on this subject.

In the Speech from the Throne at the opening of the Dominion Parliament, the following clause appears: A disposition having been manifested in the United Kingdom to impose on sea-going ships engaged in the cattle trade increased safeguards for life and greater restrictions against improper treatment, a careful enquiry has been made as to the incidents of that trade in so far as this country is concerned. While I am glad to learn that our shipping is free from reproach in that regard, your attention will be invited to a measure which will remove all reasonable apprehension of abuses arising in the future in connection with so important a branch of our commerce.



- 1st.—The great struggle of the miners of the United States for the adoption of an eight-hour work day commenced.
- 2nd.—Striking miners and the sheriffs come into collision at Morewood, Pa.; seven miners shot down and several wounded. . . . Opening of the Nova Scotia Legislature.
- 3rd.—The Parnellite candidate defeated in North Sligo. . . . Attorney-General Martin resigns his portfolio in the Manitoba Government.
- 4th.—Advices received that Lieut. Grant with 80 Indian troops captured Fort Thobal, which was garrisoned by over 900 Manipuris. . . . Destructive fire in Cote St. Paul, near Montreal, loss over \$40,000.
- 5th.—Charles Hodges, foreman in Geary's dairy establishment, London Township, fatally stabs a fellow-workman named Hubbard.
- 6th.—Sir Charles Tupper, Sir John Thompson and Hon. George E. Foster wait upon Secretary Blaine at Washington, with regard to enlarged trade relations between Canada and the States.
- 7th.—Grand Central Hotel, Listowel, Ont., destroyed by fire; loss about \$20,000. . . . Death of P. T. Barnum, the great showman, in his 80th year.
- 8th.—Three men killed by an explosion in Bradley's glycerine works, Petrolia, Ont.
- 9th.—Session of the Australian Federation closes amid a scene of great enthusiasm at Sydney, New South Wales, after adopting the Constitution bill. . . . Advices received of another brilliant victory by Lieut. Grant's forces over the Manipuris. . . . Destructive fire on King Street West, Toronto, the building occupied by the Hein'zman Piano Co., and others being gutted; loss about \$40,000.
- 10th.—The French Government consents to admit Canadian hog products into the country. . . . Death of J. A. Ma sue, ex-M.P. for Richelieu, Que.
- 11th.—Conflagration in Chicago, Ill., loss over one million dollars. . . . Death of Sheriff Scarfe, of Brant, at Brantford, Ont., and of Ald. George E. Gillespie, of Toronto, at Pasadena, California; from the grippe.
- 12th.—Collision between the military and striking weavers at Bradford, England; several severely injured on each side.
- 13th.—Premier Stambouloff orders the Bulgarian army to be in readiness for active service. . . . Great excitement by the defeat of a motion to re-elect the retiring directors at the annual meeting of the shareholders of the Grand Trunk Railway, held in London, England.
- 14th.—The Earl of Kimberley succeeds the late Earl Granville as Liberal leader in the House of Lords. . . . Employes of the Montreal & Sorel Railway, whose wages are in arrears, seize the engines and prevent trains running; five ringleaders arrested.
- 15th.—James Kane tried at the Belleville, Ont., assizes for the murder of his wife, and sentenced to be hanged on May 21st. . . . G. L. Foster, of the Department of Justice, appointed warden of the penitentiary at Stony Mountain, Man.
- 16th.—Death of Captain Huntley B. MacKay, of Montreal, the distinguished young officer, in Africa. . . . Canadian mail service transferred from the Allan line to New York.
- 17th.—Prorogation of the Manitoba Legislature. . . . Death of John Elliott, a well-known contractor, at Toronto.
- 18th.—Canadian Pacific workshops at Hochelaga destroyed by fire; loss over \$100,000.
- 19th.—Large number of election petitions lodged to day in connection with the Dominion elections. . . . Death of Mary E. Gough, widow of the great temperance lecturer.
- 20th.—The 3rd Battalion Grenadier Guards refuse to obey orders at the Chelsea barracks, London; several mutineers arrested and an investigation ordered. . . . The Local Government of Prince Edward Island resigns, and a new Government formed.
- 21st.—General Booth, of the Salvation Army, receives a bequest of \$350,000 from a lady who died in Glasgow, Scotland.
- 22nd.—The Newfoundland delegates heard at the bar of the House of Lords. . . . Rome, the Eternal City, severely shaken and public buildings damaged, by the explosion of a powder magazine; five men killed.
- 23rd.—Death of Prussian Field-Marshal Count Von Moltke, in his 90th year. . . . Two young girls drowned at St. John, N.B., by their boat capsizing. . . . A "Jack the Ripper" commences his diabolical work in New York.
- 24th.—Hon. John Carling called to the Senate.
- 25th.—Rev. Dr. Talmage's new tabernacle in Brooklyn, N.Y., opened for service.
- 26th.—Navigation opened at Montreal for the season. . . . Fertilizer works, Hamilton, destroyed by fire.
- 27th.—Grand Trunk Railway directors re-elected at the adjourned annual meeting in London, England. . . . Championship sculling match between McLean and Stansbury, on the Paramatta river, Sydney, New South Wales, for £400, won by the latter. . . . New C. P. R. steamship Empress of India, arrives at Victoria, B.C., from Yokohama, after a passage of 10 days 14 hours, beating all previous records by two days.
- 28th.—Narcisse Laroque, found guilty at the L'Orignal, Ont., Assizes, of outraging and murdering two school girls in October last, and sentenced to be hanged on June 4th. . . . Opening of the Dominion Parliament, Mr. Peter White of Renfrew elected speaker.
- 29th.—Death of Dr. Joseph Leidy, the eminent physiologist and naturalist, at Philadelphia.