

cold, rough months of January and February; but in many cases they will discontinue when extreme cold weather sets in. Thousands of hens commenced to lay this winter before New Year on account of the very mild spell we had during the latter part of December, but most of them shut down tight as soon as they encountered zero weather; and since the New Year until recently, we had little else but zero weather, with the result that but few poultry-keepers have been getting anything like their usual supply of winter

eggs, and prices were from 15 to 20 cents higher through February, in Toronto, than in February, 1911.

Then, look at the prices of hay and oats, brought about solely through weather conditions. Twenty dollars per ton for hay was never heard of at country points distant from Toronto before, and in many places it is being shipped in from distant parts, and is being bought by farmers, many of whom usually have hay to sell.

It is all very well to say that this or that factor is responsible for the unusually high prices of certain farm products, but we cannot ignore the fact that we have had an unusual set of weather conditions to contend against during the past 12 months, which have been a bigger factor than most people give them credit for, and yet many townspeople think the farmer is a chronic grumbler on the weather question. "FARMER."

Agricultural Legislation and Appropriations at Ottawa.

The new Government at Ottawa, in its first session, has given fairly satisfactory evidence of its appreciation of the importance of the agricultural industry to Canada. Not only have important measures, framed in the interests of agriculture been enacted, but generous votes of money have been passed for carrying on the work of the Department, administered by the Hon. Mr. Burrell, and for other undertakings on behalf of the farming industry to be looked after by other Departments of the Government service.

APPROPRIATIONS.

The following table is an itemized statement of the amounts of money voted on behalf of agriculture, besides other appropriations calculated to improve rural conditions:

	1912-13	1911-12
Experimental Farms—general vote	\$180,000	\$150,000
Publications of Ex. Farms.....	15,000	10,000
Establishment and maintenance additional Experimental Farms	200,000	100,000
New barns, Indian Head Experimental Farms	25,000	
Dairy and Cold-storage Br.....	140,000	140,000
Experiments in cold storage of fruit	28,500	28,500
Bonuses for cold-storage warehouses	200,000	200,000
Seed Branch	80,000	60,000
Live-stock Branch	102,000	102,000
Administration, Diseases of Animals Act	350,000	325,000
Administration, Meat and Canned Foods Act	175,000	150,000
Encouragement and sale, Canadian tobacco	20,000	20,000
International Institute and Publications	15,000	10,000
International Exhibitions	175,000	225,000
Exhibit, Imperial Institute.....	8,000	8,000
Dominion Exhibition	50,000	50,000
Administration and Enforcement, Destructive Insects and Pests Act	25,000	15,000
Dominion Building, Canadian National Exhibition	100,000	
Seed grain for settlers	200,000	
Appropriations to Provinces for improvement of Agriculture	500,000	
Investigations re improvement of Agriculture	10,000	
National Biological Laboratory	25,000	
Erection and leasing terminal elevators	1,500,000	
Commissions, employees, etc., re Canada Grain Act	25,000	
Extension of Rural Mail Service	200,000	

BRANCHES OF THE DEPARTMENT.

Under the new Minister and new Director, a pronounced advanced policy for the Experimental Farms has been decided upon, as evidenced by the increased vote. The recently-added Farms are being equipped to carry on important experiments, in accordance with the general policy of the Farms' system. The Superintendents of the older Farms are to be given a freer hand than formerly in carrying out such work as the local conditions require. Experiments with live stock are to be greatly increased. The Indian Head Farm is to have a modern set of barns to replace those destroyed by fire a few months ago.

Under the old Government, the Seed Commissioner took a prominent part in organizing and advertising field-crop competitions and Seed Fairs, besides providing and paying the expenses of expert judges and printing the reports. While most of the Provinces applied for and received this service, others did not. A new policy has now been decided on, under which financial assistance is offered to each Province on the basis of a refund of two-thirds of the amount awarded in prizes. The organization of competitions, selection and payment of judges is to be looked after by the Provincial Departments of Agriculture. By this arrangement the Federal Depart-

ment is prepared to spend about \$25,000 more in seed-improvement work this year than last or any previous one.

The vote for the Live-stock Branch includes, in addition to the usual work, a substantial grant to the National Live-stock Records, as well as bonuses to owners of Thoroughbred stallions who allow their horses to stand for public service. This latter assistance is based on the idea that the utility of the light-legged horse is improved by the blood of the old English breed of race-horses.

The Dominion Exhibition vote of \$50,000 this year goes to the Central Canada Exhibition Association at Ottawa. Part of the grant is to be used for paying the cost of conveying to Ottawa exhibits from any point that is beyond 100 miles from the city. A new machinery hall, 384 by 144 feet, is to be erected by the Association during the coming summer.

The Department of the Interior will administer the vote for providing seed grains for settlers on unpatented farms in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta. An investigation carried on by the Seed Commissioners showed that much of last year's crop in certain sections is not to be depended on for seed. To assist settlers doing homestead duties in such districts, the Government will provide seed at market value, to be paid for out of crops to be harvested before the patents are granted. A very low rate of interest is charged the settlers.

THE AGRICULTURAL AID ACT.

This measure provides for the contribution, by Order-in-Council, to any Province for the encouragement of agriculture a subsidy not exceeding such sum as may be voted by Parliament for that purpose. The bill further provides that the Minister of Agriculture, with the authority of the Governor-in-Council, may enter into an agreement with the Government of any Province, setting forth the terms upon which such subsidy is granted, and prescribing the conditions under which and the purposes for which it shall be expended. It is for the purpose of working out a scheme which will be a permanent basis for future Federal helps to agriculture in the several Provinces that C. C. James enters the Dominion service.

The appropriation of \$500,000 for this year is to be divided as follows:

Ontario	\$175,733.32
Quebec	138,482.40
Nova Scotia	34,288.45
New Brunswick	24,509.93
Prince Edward Island	6,529.85
British Columbia	27,334.76
Manitoba	31,730.05
Saskatchewan	34,296.29
Alberta	26,094.95

THE LIVE-STOCK PEDIGREE ACT.

The original Act, which dealt with the legislation necessary for the incorporation of the Live-stock Record Associations, was repealed by a new measure. Certain sections of the old bill were found not to be sufficiently definite to make the working of the Associations satisfactory. There are two points of difference of practical importance between the old bill and the new. Under the new Act, the various associations are given greater powers in the spending of their moneys, while the other point makes more clear the nature of the penalty for misrepresentation and the method of collecting it.

In regard to the spending of money, the old Act provided only for the registration of pedigrees, printing of books of record, etc. The various associations went beyond these powers every time they granted money for prizes at exhibitions. The new bill makes it legal for Record Associations to spend money in whatever way they see fit in promoting their work. As provided in the old measure, amendments to the constitution, including rules of entry, fees, etc., of an incorporated Record Association do not become law until approved by the Minister of Agriculture.

The old measure provided no machinery for imposing penalties for misrepresentation. The new Act places the administration in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture, very similar to the

provisions of the Meat and Canned Foods Act. Hitherto, misrepresentations were dealt with by interested Record Associations. Under the new measure, the National Record Committee is empowered to take up this work and to have it dealt with by the law officers of the Government.

RURAL MAIL DELIVERY.

The rural delivery of mail, set in operation by the late Government, proved so popular that the new powers showed no inclination to abandon it. On the contrary, routes already established are to be extended, and others laid out. This further development of the system demands the creation of a new branch of the post-office department under one official, who will have the standing of a deputy minister. Special officers are to be detailed to lay out routes in different parts of the country. To work out and carry on the system on a more extensive plan than formerly, the sum of \$200,000 was voted.

THE CANADA GRAIN ACT.

An Act respecting grain, repealing "The Manitoba Grain Act" and its amendments, "The Manitoba Inspection Act," and Chapter 85, Part II. of "The Inspection and Sale Act," and known as "The Canada Grain Act," after much study and debate in both Houses, received royal assent. It includes 248 sections, and is intended to facilitate the grading, storing, weighing, transporting and marketing of Western grain, with a view to safeguarding the interests of grain-growers and others interested in the grain trade. The Act is to be administered by a Board of Commissioners, the salaries and expenses of which are provided for in the vote of \$25,000 passed for that purpose. The Act also involves an expenditure of \$1,500,000 for acquiring, building or easing terminal elevators.

In the matter of marketing, the bill provides for shipping over loading platforms, through flat warehouses, storing in country elevators, selling direct to country elevator operators, or, if he chooses, a farmer may ship his own grain and sell it through his commission agent.

Flat warehouses are for temporary storage purposes. They have bins of one-thousand-bushels capacity, which a farmer may occupy for six days, exclusive of Sunday, for filling and loading on cars. A bin may be occupied for a longer time if cars are not available. These, like country or other larger warehouses and elevators, must be bonded and licensed.

Country elevators, of which there are more than 2,000 in operation, are allowed under the Act to store, clean and sell grain. Provisions are made to regulate all manner of cases that experience teaches may be encountered.

The Act makes provision for a new class of elevators, known as "Public Elevators." These may be stationed throughout the East as well as the West, except at terminal points. Their function is to store and ship Western grain after it has passed inspection. Grain stored in these must retain its identity. That is to say, it must grade out as it graded in, which prevents mixing.

Terminal elevators include every elevator or warehouse which receives or ships grain, and is located at any point declared by the Governor-in-Council to be a terminal. At present the only terminal elevators are situated at Fort William and Port Arthur.

Again, provision is made for "hospital elevators," which include elevators or warehouses used for cleaning or other special treatment of rejected or damaged grain, and which are equipped with special machinery for that purpose. The official grain inspector may, if he sees fit, in the interest of the owner and at his risk and expense, order a warehouse man to transfer grain out of condition, or becoming so, to a hospital elevator.

Exhaustive sections deal with transportation. Railway companies are compelled, on the written application to the Board of Commissioners by ten farmers, to construct and maintain loading platform. These platforms are for the free use of farmers in loading cars, which must be supplied on application. Cars may be ordered through railway agents who are compelled to keep open order books. In cases of car shortage the board may at its discretion order an equitable distribution according to the apparent needs. Regulations are provided for the guidance and control of commission merchants and track buyers. Under