

AN INSTRUCTOR APPOINTED.

Alive to the public interest thus awakened, and fully in sympathy with the idea, the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Dryden, determined this year to appoint a permanent official to give his whole attention to the education of the public in the matter of road-making, and Mr. A. W. Campbell, C.E., of St. Thomas, a vice-president of the association and an enthusiastic member of it from the beginning, received the appointment, his title being "Provincial Instructor in Road-making." Mr. Campbell gives his services free to any municipality intent upon improving its roads, and applications for his advice and direction come in so continuously that he has difficulty in meeting all the engagements open to him. It is not too much to say that the Good Roads Association are doing a magnificent work for the material well-being of the province, and one that is of especial advantage to agricultural industry.

The officers of the association, who have been the same from the beginning, are: President, A. Patullo, Woodstock; vice-presidents, J. F. Beam, Black Creek, and A. W. Campbell, C.E., formerly of St. Thomas, now of Toronto; secretary-treasurer, K. W. McKay, St. Thomas. Active members of the association are: J. G. Muuro, Embro; Isaac Ussher, Thorold; William Dickson, Atwood; James Sheppard, Queenston; A. F. Wood, Madoc; T. S. Henderson, Beverley; Robert Jelly, Jellyby; E. Kidd, North Gower; Alan Macdougall, C.E., Toronto; W. M. Davis, C.E., Woodstock.

DISTRICT AND TOWNSHIP AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Mention has been made in our sketch of the Agriculture and Arts Association that a large part of their duties before Confederation was the encouragement of the formation of district (or county) and township agricultural societies, and the administration connected therewith. In 1868, after Confederation, on the passing of the Agriculture and Arts Association Act, the Ontario Government took over the administration of these local societies, and they have ever since remained connected with the Department of Agriculture then constituted. In return for an annual grant of money received from the Government, these local societies hold annual exhibitions, in which a very large proportion of the prizes offered is for the encouragement of local agriculture. These grants now amount to \$800 for each electoral district, which sum is divided between the shows held by the electoral district and those held by the township and horticultural societies formed within the district. The total estimated grant for 1896 is \$76,650. It would be difficult, indeed, to over-estimate the good which has resulted to our agricultural industry from the holding of these local exhibitions, and perhaps no part of the Government's annual money contributions to agriculture has been spent to a better purpose. The number of district (or county) societies now receiving Government grants is ninety-seven; the number of township societies receiving grants is 329; of local horticultural societies, forty-three.

OUTLOOK OF THE HEAVY HORSE TRADE.

By ALEX. GALBRAITH, ESQ., Secretary American Clydesdale Studbook.

The outlook for the future of any branch of trade must necessarily be gauged by a combined view of the past with the conditions which govern the present or are likely to govern the future. We cannot, of course, rely entirely on history repeating itself, but it is always instructive to glance back over such period as our memory will carry us safely, or examine historical data beyond that time, and study the causes which brought about certain results in any branch of business or trade. Looking at the American horse trade as a whole—and by this I include that of Canada as well, for the reason that they are intertwined, and are more or less dependent on each other—there have been, during the last forty years, three periods of great depression in the horse business. From 1857 till the outbreak of the civil war in

1861 business of all kinds was very dull, but we learn, on the authority of such veterans as Mr. Berry, of Chicago, that the horse business was especially bad and unprofitable to all interested. Mr. Berry says that prices were as low during that period as they have ever been in recent years, but the war demand gave them a "fillip," and increased values enormously, with the result that the farmers obtained good paying prices up till the commercial panic of 1873. In the latter year everything in the United States seemed to go to pieces, and, although confidence was soon restored, business of all kinds was greatly depressed for a period of nearly five years. During this time horses suffered in value very greatly, the only happy exceptions to the universal rule of low prices being in the case of a comparatively few