

Buying Eggs on a Loss-off Basis.

On Tuesday of last week, a meeting of the London Poultry Producers' Association was held, and the important business of agreeing to commence on June the ninth to buy eggs on a loss-off basis done. From that date on no bad eggs will be paid for. The meeting also passed a

resolution asking the Government to appoint capable inspectors to act as referees in any case of dispute arising. Gradually the bad eggs is being driven out of the market, and the sooner the better. When the dealer knows he is not paying for bad eggs he will be able to pay a higher price. The producer will get more money for his product, and will be encouraged to market his eggs in the

best possible condition. Buying on a loss-off basis means better eggs for the consumer and higher prices for the producer. Merchants handling eggs as "trade" and producers will require a little education in the handling of their eggs which should be gathered and marketed regularly, and often, and not allowed to remain around the store for weeks before being marketed.

Large Federal Appropriations for Agriculture

During the second session of the twelfth parliament of Canada, which was prorogued on Friday last, considerable legislation was disposed of which is of special interest to farmers. An important departure was made by the Hon. Minister of Agriculture in a new bill, the object of which is to provide money to the provinces for agricultural education. A number of amendments were made to already existing acts, aiming to increase their value, and there has been a very substantial increase in the appropriations for the different branches of the Department of Agriculture, which will enable them to extend their work.

THE AGRICULTURAL INSTRUCTIONS ACT.

The most important and far-reaching legislation introduced this session by the Minister of Agriculture is the Agricultural Instructions Act. From the Consolidated Revenue Fund \$10,000,000 is set apart to be expended during a period of ten years to forward agricultural education in the different provinces. This will be distributed on a population basis with slight modifications, which include \$20,000 a year to be divided between the veterinary colleges granting degrees up to the required standard and allotting \$20,000 to each province regardless of population. The object of this is to give some special consideration to the provinces where rural population predominates to a larger extent than in the provinces containing the large centres of population. The \$10,000,000 is to be spent during a period of ten years, and the provinces will share as follows :-

	1918	Yearly Increase	1917-23
Prince Edward Island	\$ 26,529.85	\$ 1,306	\$ 31,753.78
New Brunswick	44,509.93	4,902	64,117.87
Alberta	46,094.95	5,219	66,970.91
British Columbia	47,334.76	5,467	69,202.56
Manitoba	51,730.05	6,346	77,114.09
Nova Scotia	54,288.43	6,858	81,719.21
Saskatchewan	54,296.29	6,859	81,733.32
Quebec	159,482.40	27,896	271,068.22
Ontario	195,733.32	35,147	336,319.98

If in any year a province does not spend the full amount of its grant, this may be used at a later date; or a larger amount, or even the whole grant to any province, may be spent in one year if approved by the Governor-in-Council and the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council of the province.

INCREASED COMPENSATION FOR HORSES SLAUGHTERED.

An amendment to the Animals Contagious Diseases Act provides for increased compensation to owners of horses slaughtered by officers of the Department under the Act. At present the maximum valuation for a grade horse is \$150, and compensation can only be paid up to two-thirds of the value, or \$100. Under the amendment the maximum valuation is raised to \$200, and compensation may be paid up to \$133.33. For pure-bred horses the value is raised from \$300 to \$500, so that compensation may be paid up to \$333.33. When introducing the amendment the Hon. Mr. Burrell explained that under the old standards injustices were often done to owners of horses. When the Act was put into force in 1904, the price of a horse was practically half what it is to-day. A farmer will often have to pay \$200 or more to replace a horse for which he was paid only \$100. During last year for glanders alone \$60,000 was paid out in compensation. The number of horses destroyed was 638, divided as follows :-

New Brunswick	10
Quebec	17
Ontario	7
Manitoba	24
Saskatchewan	428
Alberta	152
Total	638

Although the figures for Saskatchewan are still large, there has been a gratifying decrease over the previous year, when there were 722 destroyed in Saskatchewan out of a total of 853 for the whole of Canada. The Act empowers

the Governor-in-Council to deal with the matter of compensation, and as a few regulations have to be issued for the guidance of inspectors, it will probably be September before the new amendment takes effect.

IMPORTED FRUIT TO BE GRADED.

The Inspection and Sales Act has been amended to empower the Governor-in-Council to provide for grading and marking imported fruit. This is a matter which especially concerns fruit growers and consumers in Western Canada, although the regulations apply throughout the Dominion. The original Fruit Marks Act was intended to apply to the export trade only, but Parliament extended this to include domestic fruit for inspection, although no provision was made for marking and inspecting imported fruit. During the last few years large quantities of fruit have been coming into Canada, especially in the Prairie Provinces and British Columbia, which is not marked in accordance with the Dominion Act. Canadian fruit growers who have to comply with the Act feel that they are under unfair competition. As the Canadian law can not be made to apply to American packers, the amendment aims to have the Act applied to the importer of fruit instead of to the packer, and make him responsible for grading and marking the fruit.

INCREASED APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE WORK OF THE DEPARTMENT.

In most cases the estimates provide for liberal increases in the amount available to the different

TO ACQUIRE TERMINAL ELEVATORS.

The Government is preparing to meet the requests of the Western grain growers in acquiring terminal elevators. The item in estimates of the Trade and Commerce Department for an appropriation of \$4,700,000 for this purpose was adopted.

The Co-operative Credit Society Bill, introduced by Arthur Meighen, Portage la Prairie, Man., aims to facilitate the organization of co-operative societies among farmers which will be of assistance to them in securing credit as well as doing ordinary business. This bill was not put through this session owing to the pressure of other business, but it will likely be re-introduced and its supporters claim that it will be a valuable adjunct to the present banking system.

In the limited revision of the tariff which was made, the items of special interest to farmers are the placing of ditching machines on the free list, and the reduction of the duty on cement from 12½ to 10 cents per hundred. The duty on sugar was also reduced. The removal of the duty from dredging machines will be especially welcome to those farmers who have land to be tile-drained.

The bill providing for a system of parcels post in Canada was passed during the last days of the session. The appropriation of the Post Office Department includes \$150,000 for rural mail boxes, and extra expenditure in connection with rural mail service.

The bill providing for a money grant to the provinces for the construction of good roads was re-introduced, but amended by the Senate so that it was not acceptable to the Commons.

Parcels-Post Bill Passed.

The House of Commons and Senate at Ottawa have adopted the Parcels-Post Bill, introduced by Hon. L.P. Pelletier, Postmaster-General, to go into operation within a year. The weight limit is eleven pounds; combined length and circumference seventy-two inches; each province to be a zone, the three Maritime Provinces, however, being considered as one. In addition there will be a local zone irrespective of provincial boundaries, the centre being the point at which the parcel is posted, designed to protect local dealers against the big departmental stores.

branches of the Department of Agriculture, as the following summary will show :-

	Appropriation 1913-14	Increase over last year.
Experimental farms, including the maintenance of the older organized farms at Ottawa, which takes almost one-half of the amount	\$250,000	\$ 70,000
Experimental farms, toward establishment and maintenance of additional branch stations	350,000	150,000
Experimental farms (from Public Works Department), new buildings and improvements, tobacco-curing station, renewals, repairs, etc., in connection with existing buildings, fences, etc., and re-construction of the Indian Head buildings	150,000	65,000
Experimental farms, printing and distributing reports and bulletins	30,000	15,000
Exhibitions, for the support of large international exhibitions. This year's vote is largely for the international exhibition at Ghent, Belgium. A considerable sum will also be used for preliminary expenses in connection with the Panama exhibition of 1915	375,000	200,000
For renewing and improving Canadian exhibit at Imperial Institute, London, and assisting in its maintenance	8,000	None.
For the development of the dairy and fruit industries, and the improvement in the transportation, sale and trade in fruit and other agricultural products	205,000	65,000
To enforce the Seed Control Act, test seeds for farmers and seed merchants, to encourage the production and use of superior seeds, and to encourage the production of farm and garden crops	115,000	35,000
Toward the encouragement of the establishment of cold storage warehouses for the preservation and handling of perishable fruit products	200,000	None
For the development of the live-stock industry, including the purchase of improved sires for use by local agricultural organizations	200,000	98,000
Health of animals, including the administration of the Animal Contagious Diseases Act, and payment of compensation for animals slaughtered	450,000	100,000
For the administration and enforcement of the Meat and Canned Foods Act	200,000	25,000
To encourage the production and sale of Canadian tobacco	30,000	10,000
Publications Branch, including contribution toward maintenance and expenses of representative at International Institute of Agriculture, Rome,	32,000	17,000
For experiments in cold storage for fruit	28,500	None
Grant for Dominion Exhibition	50,000	5,000
For the administration and enforcement of Destructive Insects and Pests Act	30,000	5,000
For the administration and enforcement of the Meat and Canned Foods Act	60,000	None
Dominion cattle quarantine building, repairs, renewals, etc.	25,000	None
National biological laboratory, maintained at the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, for investigation work	25,000	None
For the administration and carrying out of the provisions of the Agricultural Act	25,000	New