

under the present Government the amount expended for this purpose was some \$890,813.55, or an increase of \$506,893.92, or over 180 per cent.

We are helping to build schools and giving special grants for that purpose, something that was not done in years gone by. But we are doing more, we are giving extra grants to poor schools in the north to assist in the maintenance of them. A policy adopted last session, and one which I believe will be of lasting benefit to the school sections in the north, was the passing of an Act providing for the purchase of school debentures in unorganized districts. One of the disadvantages in a new country is the difficulty school trustees find in disposing of their debentures, and when they do find a purchaser a very high rate of interest is demanded, sometimes 8, 10 and 12 per cent. The provisions of this Act are being enlarged, and widened this present session.

#### **Agriculture.**

After education, I think all will admit that the next important matter in which we can aid the settler is in agriculture, advising him of the proper kind of stock to breed, the kind of seed to plant, the best method of cultivating and draining his land, and giving him generally all the information possible that will assist him in securing the best returns for his labors. During the last four years of Liberal rule the Government expended all told \$36,535.82 to aid agriculture in Northern Ontario. During the last four years of this Government we expended for this purpose \$159,714.01, an increase of \$123,180.19, or 339 per cent.

We feel that we are fairly entitled to some credit for the movements we have made and the work we have done along these lines. We are sending district representatives into every section to bring the benefit of expert agricultural knowledge to the very door of the settler. Not only that, but in addition to the drainage works being constructed by my own Department, about which I will speak later, the Public Works Department makes substantial grants to assist in the drainage of the older parts of New Ontario. We are giving special aid to agricultural societies to stimulate good farming by means of competition, in short, we are doing everything that we can in reason to help this new country from an agricultural standpoint. At Monteith we have an experimental farm that has done much for the development of that