

These figures in the main have been compiled from returns made by the farmers themselves, and underestimate rather than exceed the values in some cases, as doubtless little regard is paid to those portions of products that are consumed at home. An average production of only \$1,000 per farm would amount to \$175,000,000. Some years ago the Dominion Statistician estimated the value of the annual products of Canadian farms at \$500,000,000, of which \$250,000,000 came from Ontario. All things considered, \$200,000,000 may be considered as a fair valuation of all the products of our farmers, fruit growers, and market gardeners.

### *Importance of Agriculture.*

From the preceding statements it is seen that the Department of Agriculture has to deal with a capital investment by the farmers of the Province of \$975,000,000, which, under existing conditions, yielded last year over \$158,000,000. Any improvement, therefore, in the raising of live stock or in methods of agriculture, whether applied to the farm, the dairy, or the orchard crops, adds to the income of the farmers of Ontario, now numbering about 175,000 persons.

### *Farmers' Institutes.*

Farmers' Institutes were first established in 1885 and have grown in importance every year since that date, as the following table shows :—

	No. of Regular Meetings.	Total Cost of Institutes.	No. of Persons in Attendance.
1885.....	12	\$ 502	
1890.....	77	5,387	
1895.....	303	7,667	
1896.....	666	10,522	102,461
1897.....	659	7,487	125,177
1898.....	677	9,891	119,402
1899.....	715	11,187	138,982
1900.....	730	10,323	131,653

### *Comparison with the United States.*

At a meeting held in Buffalo during the Pan-American Exhibition, the value of Farmers' Institutes was discussed by leading Americans.

The following references to the work carried on under the Department of Agriculture in Ontario are worthy of consideration :—

W. L. Hutchinson, Director of Farmers' Institutes in Mississippi, at the close of the meeting of American Association of

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