

for the work, and Mr. F. W. Hodson, who was well known to the farmers of the province as editor of *The Farmers' Advocate*, and as secretary of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations, was chosen for the post, his official title being Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes. During the season just ended, which was the second under Mr. Hodson's supervision, no less than forty-five speakers were employed, and 666 meetings held. At these meetings there were 2,637 papers read or addresses given, and the total attendance at the meetings amounted to 102,461.



F. W. Hodson, Guelph,
Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes, and Secretary
of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders'
Associations, and of the Provincial Winter Show.

PRESENT WORKING OF THE SYSTEM.

The working of the Farmers' Institute system is now conducted under an act of the legislature passed in 1895. Under this act the province is divided into one hundred and five districts, and an institute (of not less than fifty members, paying, each, a fee of not less than twenty-five cents) may be formed in each district. Upon complying with the regulations of the Department, each institute receives a grant of \$25, on condition that a grant of the same amount is made to it by the county in which it is organized. The sum expended by the Government for this purpose alone in 1895 was \$2,200. The Government undertakes the whole cost of the superintendent's office, and of the payment and expenses of the delegates sent out by the superintendent. It is gratifying to know that the membership at December 31, 1895, was 10,819,

and that at June 30, 1896, it had increased to 12,384. Each member is entitled to receive all the reports and bulletins issued under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture for Ontario. The work now being accomplished by the Farmers' Institutes is, beyond all question, of supreme importance to the interests of agriculture in the province.

THE DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF WESTERN ONTARIO.

It was in 1864 that Harvey Farrington, of Norwich, in Oxford county, started the first co-operative cheese factory ever established in Ontario. So rapidly did the idea of co-operation in cheesemaking meet with the approval of farmers that it is estimated that in three years after Farrington's factory was started there were no less than two hundred and thirty-five factories established in the province. The cheesemakers soon began to feel the need of an organization. It was felt that a medium was necessary by which the practical experience of the cheesemaker could be gathered and made available for others. This want was supplied by the organization of the Canadian Dairymen's Association, started at Ingersoll in 1867. The assigned objects of this association were to promote the general interests of the dairy community, and to furnish a means of mutual improvement in the science of cheesemaking.

To further stimulate the cheesemakers in the pursuit of excellence, a cheese fair was held in 1871, at Ingersoll, and it did much to arouse cheesemakers to the need of producing a better article.

DIVISION OF THE PROVINCE.

In the meantime two different dairy districts had been developed in the province, one in the east and the other in the west. For the better working out of the objects of the association in both these districts the original association was, in 1877, divided into two parts, and the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario was formed to look after the interests of the industry in the east, while the name of the parent association was changed to the Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario. Good results have followed from this division. The whole province has been covered by effective organized effort. But now it is thought that one association could again serve the interests of the industry better than two, and the status and influence of cheesemakers would be enhanced by reunion.

At the cheese markets, which had been established at Ingersoll, Stratford, Belleville, and other places, to facilitate the selling of cheese, it was soon found that there was a great diversity in