

in this province. During the last half a blight has come upon the enterprise of farmers. Added returns from lessened production seem to have developed rather than corrected the trouble. In Ontario the deposits of farmers aggregate tens of millions of dollars accumulating steadily, while the farmer cripples the output of his farm by continuing the use of inferior seed, by refusing to do away with wornout stock, by neglecting the profits possible through good drainage, by denying the land the benefit of fertilizers, and by failure to exercise the type of intelligence which requires capital to supplement it, and which capital he is depositing in banks and securing for it a return of 3 per cent. per annum. I speak of farmers as a whole. There are notable exceptions, where the same character of intelligence and active enterprise is shown as in other activities in the country.

If you will consult the Annual Report of the Bureau of Industry for the Province of Ontario 1908, published by your Department, you will find tables showing the yield per acre of grain, hay and roots in detail for each year, for ten years prior to and including 1908, and in bulk for twenty-seven years prior to and including 1908. These tables, it is true, establish the fact that during the last ten years of the period as compared with the previous seventeen, there was a moderate to an excellent increase in the yield per acre of the above field crops. You should not, however, fail to be impressed with the significance of the detailed statement showing the average yield per acre for the last ten years, and the average yield per acre for the last five years as compared with the previous five of this ten year period. Development has apparently ceased. You may well inquire why continued betterment has not been sustained, in view of the educational work which is being carried on by your Department. In estimating the result of education as reflected in increased returns to the farmer, care should be taken to distinguish clearly between the money value per acre of the crop produced and the yield in bushels or tons secured. In the first instance you have the increased value determined by markets reflecting world-wide conditions, over which neither you nor the farmer have any control. In the other, increased returns are due to increased yield per acre secured in response to the intelligent effort of the individual farmer, with which you are most intimately concerned. Hence while an inquiry into market conditions which affect the price of products may be useful, or interesting, or necessary, or all three, your department has chiefly to consider what can be done to influence the individual farmer to increase his yield per