

THE 1907 SESSION'S WORK OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.—The new Agricultural Societies Act, passed in 1906, comes into operation for the first time this year. A short amendment act was passed at the recent session, providing for the incorporation of a few societies whose affairs were in a somewhat uncertain condition, and changed two societies, those of Forest and Chesley, from horticultural societies into agricultural societies. It appears that for some years these two societies have been carrying on agricultural work, and as the two classes are now controlled by separate acts, it was necessary to transfer them from the one class to the other. The old question of horse-racing at fairs has been a subject of much discussion. The Provincial Fairs Association twice asked the Minister to take the ban off horse-racing and leave it to local option. The Government has not seen fit to do so. Then the representatives asked the Government to protect the directors from prosecution by takers and confidence men, who threatened revenge through being excluded from the grounds. The Minister decided that as the enforcement of this part of the act has always been a local enforcement measure, he would protect the directors thus far, in that prosecutions must be inaugurated by members of two years' standing. The fact is that agricultural exhibitions are run by the directors and not by the members. The result is that directors cannot ignore the wish of the members in this regard. For the first time a vote of \$5,000 appears, to be divided among the Toronto, London and Ottawa exhibitions, which do not share in the \$70,000 grant for agricultural societies.

LIVE STOCK.—The report of the commissioners appointed to enquire into the horse industry was presented to the Legislature, and is now being printed. The Minister did not introduce any legislation based upon it. Opportunity will be given for a full consideration of the evidence, and meetings will probably be held to discuss the subject. There appears to be a wide diversity of views as to what should be done. The Minister proposes to move cautiously, and allow all sides to be heard. The grant for the spring stallion show was increased from \$1,000 to \$2,000, and \$4,000 is allowed to continue the horse investigation and make grants to local horse shows. The Premier announced that the question of enlarging the Winter Fair buildings at Guelph will be considered and decided before the next session. Provision was made for special swine sales in Eastern Ontario, with a view to increasing the supply of bacon hogs. There is a vote of \$2,000 to pay the transportation of Ontario horses to the London, England, horse show.

INSTITUTES.—The only noticeable change here is an increase in the contingencies vote, which is intended, we understand, to provide for the salary of an assistant to the Superintendent.

DAIRY BRANCH.—The grant for instruction and inspection has been increased from \$32,500 to \$35,000. This, however, does not really represent the increase. Hitherto, the factories benefited have been charged a fee of \$15. This is abolished. All the instructors will be inspectors as well, and every factory in the Province will be visited. The aim is to enforce the act, so that all factories will be required to provide sanitary conditions. A large deputation pressed upon the Minister to assist by a substantial vote the holding of a Provincial Dairy Show. This was not acceded to. The Minister, apparently, is of the opinion that the strengthening of the Winter Fair at Guelph calls for more immediate attention.

FRUIT.—The new experimental fruit farm in Lincoln County has demanded a good-sized vote; \$15,000 is available for new buildings, equipment and expenses. We understand that no pains are being spared in searching for a live expert, who will take charge of the important work. It would be easy to find a man who could grow fruit, but what is wanted is a man who can produce new varieties of fruit. Ten thousand dollars was voted for spraying, San Jose scale and assisting co-operative associations. The Department and the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association are encouraging these very promising organizations. Five thousand dollars has been set aside to be voted to these associations, based on the work done by power sprayers. An amendment was made to the Scale Act. The section providing for the appointment of township inspectors was enlarged as follows:

"Upon the report of the inspector to the council that there is scale upon the trees or shrubs on any lot within the municipality, the council may direct that notice be given personally by the inspector, or by being sent by registered letter to the owner or occupant of the lot, to have the trees or shrubs forthwith sprayed, and in case the same are not sprayed within ten days, the inspector may cause the spraying to be done, and the cost of same shall be charged on the lot and be collected as a special tax, in addition to the other taxes imposed by the municipal council on the lot."

This provides for a full and complete enforcement of the Scale Act by the local authorities. It is understood that more municipalities are every year appointing inspectors. This is the most promising line of work whereby the scale may be kept in check.

HONEY.—Last year the Foul Brood Act was amended, permitting the Minister to appoint as many inspectors as he thought necessary to enforce the act. The grant has been increased to \$1,200. The Minister has explained that he intends to appoint six inspectors to cover the Province, so as to expedite the work. The

beekeepers are now for the first time in direct touch with the Department's work.

PIONEER FARM.—It is proposed to start a new experimental farm in the clay belt of Northern Ontario. Three thousand dollars was provided for clearing and beginning the work.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.—Provision is made for the continuing of the work already in hand, and also for extension. There will be increased work in plant-breeding and in testing wheats and flours. Several votes were required to complete the work begun in 1906 in the Mechanics' Building, Chemical Laboratories and greenhouses. In addition, there will be a new mammoth coal house, a storehouse for vegetables, new roof for main building, and an addition to accommodate 40 additional students. The total vote in capital account amounts to \$77,225.

TOTAL EXPENDITURE.—Apart from capital account, the total appropriation for agriculture was \$505,453, as against \$460,557 in 1906.

IMMIGRATION.—The Governor's message announced that special efforts would be made during the year to assist farmers to procure help. The appropriation this year is \$55,665, an increase of \$17,000 over 1906.

AGRICULTURAL TEACHING.—A beginning is to be made in introducing agricultural courses in half a dozen high schools; \$6,000 was provided for the purpose. The intention, as announced, is to select six high schools. Teachers are to be provided by the Agricultural College. The courses have been arranged. The Government will grant \$1,000 to each school. Class work will be given, and experimental plots will be established. The teaching will be adapted to the agricultural conditions of the section in which the school is located.

COMPANIES ACT.—Hitherto, various special acts provided for the organization of cheese and butter manufacturing companies and co-operative fruit companies. All these have now been provided for in the new Companies Act. The companies already organized will be continued, but hereafter all companies must be incorporated under the new act of the Provincial Secretary's Department. The methods of incorporation will be simple and the fees low. The aim is to have them all registered in one place, have all report to the one office, and thus keep them somewhat uniform. It has been felt that the modes of organization were somewhat crude and uncertain, and that the farmers' organizations should receive as much consideration and protection as the more ambitious organizations of larger capitalization.

VETERINARY SURGEONS.—According to statute no one is allowed to use the title "veterinary surgeon" unless he holds the diploma of the Ontario Veterinary College, or the certificate of the Ontario Veterinary Association, which practically amounts to the same thing. Occasionally a petition is presented to the Legislature to permit someone to use this title who has not taken the course at the Ontario Veterinary College, the ground being that of experience. At the recent session two bills were presented and passed, authorizing Jerry Brisson and Thomas Johnston to practice as veterinary surgeons. Announcement was made during the past year that the Government propose to take over the Ontario Veterinary College and conduct it along lines similar to those of the Ontario Agricultural College. Nothing was presented to the Legislature, as the announcement was made that Dr. Andrew Smith will complete the education of the present classes, but students entering in October, 1907, will be required to take a three years' course, and the Government will take over the work in 1908. Terms are now being arranged between the Government and Dr. Smith, and it is expected that the new Principal will be selected during the coming summer.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—One of the most noticeable increases in grants occurs under the heading of Public and Separate School education. In 1906 the grant was \$629,178; this year it is \$896,667. The Act amending the Public Schools Act sets forth a new basis for the payment of salaries of teachers in rural public schools. In every school section whose average equalized assessment for the three preceding years has been at least \$30,000, the head teachers must be paid at least \$300 per year, and every assistant at least \$200 per year. In every school section of an organized county having an assessment of less than \$30,000, and in every school section in a territorial or judicial district, the head teacher must be paid at least \$150, and every assistant at least \$100 per year. The townships are required to raise the amounts to pay these salaries. The counties raise in addition an amount equal to the grants paid by the Government. It will be seen that the regular grants to public-school work are this year very largely increased. The regulations of the Department which are authorized by the School Act provide that the Government pay 40 per cent. of any salaries in excess of the minimum salaries above stated (\$300 and \$150) up to \$600; also, an unconditional grant of \$15 for each section, and a grant for equipment and accommodation. The Premier announced that the grants to rural public schools have been as follows: 1901, \$118,000; 1906, \$178,000; 1907, \$380,000.

There are other increases; for instance, the grants for continuation classes have been increased from \$32,000 to \$40,000. There is a grant of \$5,000 for the use of flags for rural public schools.

ROAD GRANTS. The Minister of Public Works introduced and put through the House an Act, appropriating \$1,000,000 for road improvement. County boards may now by-law adopting a system of improvement, assuming any township roads necessary

to complete their general plan. Toll roads may be purchased and included. Villages and towns (not separated) may be assisted in improving roads that form part of the plan. The plans are to be approved by the Government, and the by-law also by the rate-payers. Then the Government is prepared to pay one-third of the cost of the improvements.

SUGAR BEETS.—The bounty of \$75,000 a year has been paid to the beet-sugar manufacturers for the past five years. The first act (1902) provided for three years, then an extension took place for two years more. Urgent appeals have been made to continue this bounty. It was laid before the Minister, and after full consideration the decision apparently reached not to continue it, as nothing appears in regard to it, either in legislation or estimates.

CATTLE POISONING.—Hitherto, Provincial coroners have had the power to hold inquests to investigate the causes of fires, but it was found difficult to gather evidence as to the poisoning or injuring of live stock. An amendment has been passed, whereby the same officers "shall have the power to investigate cases of maiming or suspected poisoning of horses, cattle, and other domestic animals." The proper course now to pursue is for the owner thus injured to apply at once direct to the Attorney-General.

TOTAL VOTES.—For the first time the appropriations have crossed the seven million dollar mark—to be exact, the appropriations for all purposes this year amount to \$7,044,382.28. The Provincial Treasurer reported cash balances on hand on the first of January, \$3,497,240, and he estimated receipts during the year amounting to \$7,612,287. It will perhaps interest the readers of this article to know where this money is to come from. Here are the principal items:

Dominion Subsidy	\$ 1,339,287
Interest on Trust Funds and Investments.....	170,000
Timber Dues, Bonus and Ground Rents.....	1,715,000
Crown Lands, Leases and Sales	267,000
Royalty and Crown Mines	200,000
Mining Licenses	100,000
Cobalt and Kerr Lakes	1,155,000
Taxes on Corporations	640,000
Liquor Licenses	550,000
Succession Duties	700,000
Provincial Secretary's Dept. (charters, etc.)..	175,000
Public Institutions	135,000
Central Prison Industries	60,000
Agricultural Department	74,000
Education	45,000
Other Revenue	287,000
	\$7,612,287

DALGETY BROS.' CLYDESDALE SALE.

The 18 imported Clydesdale fillies, advertised by Dalgety Bros. to be sold by auction at London, Ont., on April 24th, was attended by a medium-size but good-bidding crowd. The fillies were a real good lot, such as this firm handles, and although a number of them were quite thin, and nearly all looking gaunt from their long and tedious journey, they were readily taken at fair prices; the highest price, \$600, being paid by Prof. Day, of the Ontario Agricultural College farm, for the grand and typical bay four-year-old, Sunflower, by Martinet (10594). Following is the sale list:

Sunflower, foaled 1903; Ont. Agri. College, Guelph.....	\$600
Blackhall Maid, 1904; D. McCrae, Glencoe.....	405
Peggie H., '03; A. B. McDonald, Appin.....	330
Flowerdale, '04; John Stewart, Springbank.....	325
Miss Ramsay, '04; John McLean, Aldboro.....	275
Corskie Bridesmaid, '03; Wm. Boyle, Lucknow.....	305
Miss Ironside, '04; Col. Garthshore, London.....	310
Lady Perth, '04; John Stewart.....	340
Lady Rose, '05; C. B. Fitzgerald, Rebecca.....	230
Lady Overton, '04; Wm. Boyle.....	315
Lily of Hilton, 1897; Wm. Boyle.....	305
Lot 12, '03; Walter Nixon, Arva.....	375
Lot 13, '04; Chas. Cundick, Watford.....	305
Lot 14, '01; P. A. McDevitt, Alvinston.....	440
Happrew Fancy, '04; John Stewart.....	290
Minnie, '03; Jas. Cobban, Middlemiss.....	275
Roving Lass, '04; Hy. Seargeant, Bellwood.....	300
Miss Maggie; Walter H. Brownlee, Aughrim.....	300
18 fillies sold; average, \$334.	

Prof. Andrew M. Soule, a Canadian, who has distinguished himself in public service in the United States, has resigned his position as Dean and Director of the Virginia College of Agriculture, to become head of the new agricultural college at Athens, Georgia, at a salary of \$5,000 per annum. He will also have charge of the State Institute system, and advise in the management of the new State agricultural high schools.

The Government at Ottawa have appropriated \$15,000 to connect the Central Experimental Farm by electric railway with the city. It is proposed to extend the Ottawa street railway tracks along Wellington to Preston, and then down that street to the Farm. The move is a good one. Heretofore when a visitor to the National Capital inquired of a citizen or policeman the way out to the Experimental Farm, he was lugubriously told that he might go either of two ways. He might go to the end of the car line, and then walk a mile, or if he preferred he could take a short cut through the bush.