

Nova Scotia Agricultural Legislation.

The recent session of the Nova Scotia Legislature had very little legislation pertaining to agriculture, it being generally considered that the new college which was promised in the Governor's speech would absorb as large a part of the revenue of the Province as the agriculturists could expect. The paragraph in the Governor's speech referring to the College was as follows:

"In pursuance of the policy of extending the educational work of the Province so as to increase its practical utility, I am pleased to announce that during the past year the Agricultural College at Truro has been completed, and will be formally opened in a few days. A capable staff of instructors has been provided, who will, I believe, obtain the confidence of the agriculturists of the Province, and a course of study will be afforded best designed to meet the practical requirements of this large class of our population."

The College was formally opened by Premier Murray on Feb. 14th, there being a large number of visitors and students in attendance, although not nearly as many as would have been had the farmers from Annapolis Valley, who were snow-bound, been able to reach Truro.

The staff in charge of the College and Farm at present consists of Melville Cumming, Principal; F. C. Sears, in charge of Horticultural Department; F. L. Fuller, Agriculturist, and Joseph Landry, in charge of Poultry Department. At the present time, Principal Cumming, who is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, is making a tour of the Province, partly in the interest of the College, and partly to ascertain wherein our conditions vary with those of Ontario, in which Province he obtained most of his experience.

Prof. Sears has been busily engaged since spring opened setting out experimental orchards. By an Act of Legislature of 1902, it was decided to set out six acres of experimental orchards in each county of the Province, dividing each county with three orchards of two acres each.

The other expenditures for agriculture remain about the same as in the past, and embrace grants of \$10,000 to agricultural societies. These grants are probably reaching nearer the general farmer who needs encouragement than any other Government expenditure, unless it be the travelling dairies under the management of Miss Laura Rose and Miss Bella Millar. Grants are given to Provincial exhibition at Halifax yearly, and to any county desiring to hold a local exhibition, to the Maritime Fat-stock Show at Amherst, to Nova Scotia Farmers' Association, and to county associations, the total expenditure for the encouragement of agriculture amounting to about \$40,000 yearly, with an additional increase this year of \$12,000 for the purchase of improved stock—some of this stock for the Farm at Truro, and the balance to be sold during exhibition at Halifax to farmers or others residing within the

Province and agreeing to keep said stock for a period of time in the Province.

Some sharp newspaper criticism regarding this latter expenditure has taken place in the Eastern part of our Province, where a gentleman conducting a newspaper is a strong advocate of the Standard-bred trotter in preference to the Hackney, which seems to be the breed in horses that the advisers of the Government considered the best breed to improve the carriage horses of our Province.

Ontario Agricultural Legislation of 1905.

It was from time to time announced that as the new Government came into office, almost immediately before the calling of the Legislature, it would be neither advisable nor practicable to introduce much fresh legislation. The new ministers, with much reason, claimed that they should be permitted to study certain questions from the inside before asking the Legislature to put their findings on the Statute Book. Keeping this in mind, a session of routine and conservative enactment was expected. Along some lines, of course, the Government have caused some surprise and aroused enquiry, but in the main the legislation has been confined to matters that required immediate attention. We do not find, therefore, a great deal to attract our attention. What was done, however, should be noted, and we propose to direct the attention of our readers to a few things that concern them in particular.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.—As it is understood that the reorganization of the entire agricultural society system is now under consideration and the matter will come up for discussion next year, only two small items were dealt with this year. The amendment of this year requires the directors of a township society to hold the annual meeting in January at the township hall, or at the place where the annual municipal elections are held. This will necessitate the holding of the meeting at township headquarters and avoid the possibility of taking the meeting to some inconvenient or extreme point. The other section provides for the holding of a district fair outside of the district. Thus, if fifty members petition the minister for permission to hold their fair outside the limits of their district, the minister may have an order-in-council passed granting the same for the current year.

CO-OPERATIVE COLD STORAGE ASSOCIATIONS.—The grant or bonus to such associations to assist in the erection of buildings expired this year. In response to the request of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association, the time to earn this grant (\$500) has been extended for another five years. The section referring to the powers of such associations has been amended by inserting words so as to make it read as follows:

"At any time hereafter, any five or more persons who desire to associate themselves together for the purpose of carrying on the business of storage of fruits, dairy products, animal products, canned

goods, evaporated or dried vegetables, and all similar food products, and for the purchase or sale or disposal of same, may make, sign and acknowledge before a notary public, commissioner or justice of the peace, in duplicate, and file in the office of the registrar of the registry division in which the business is to be carried on, a certificate in writing, in the form mentioned in the schedule to this Act, or to the same effect, together with the rules and regulations signed by such persons, respectively."

The force of this is that it makes it clear that such an association has the power to purchase fruit to add to the productions of its members. The reason advanced for this is as follows: Frequently the members of the association may not have enough of a certain kind of fruit to make a complete shipment. Under this amendment they may buy the extra fruit thus required.

HIGHWAYS.—In 1901 the Legislature set aside \$1,000,000 to assist in highway improvement. In 1903 the time for earning the grant was extended to 1906. It has now been extended to 1907. The amendment of this year seems to leave the payment of the grant less dependent upon Government supervision or inspection. The new section reads as follows:

"6a. The Lieutenant-Governor in Council may by Order-in-Council direct the payment to any county corporation out of the fund set apart under this Act, as a sum equal to one-third of the amount expended by the county upon such roads as have been designated by the law approved of by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council, as provided by section 4 of the Act, passed in the third year of His Majesty's reign, chapter 26."

The section 4 of the 1903 Act referred to requires that the by-law for a county road system shall be passed and then be approved by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

AUTOMOBILES.—Every automobile must carry its number "securely fixed" on the back of the body of the vehicle, and the figures must be five inches in height, instead of three as at present. Lamps must be carried in the front of the vehicle, and the number of the vehicle must be displayed on the glass of the lamps. The section requiring the motorist to be careful not to frighten horses and to stop on signal is amended so as to compel the motorist to slow down within a hundred yards, and to pass a horse at a speed not greater than seven miles an hour. The necessity of signalling to the motorist has been removed. The Provincial Secretary is given power to suspend or revoke licenses, and the same Minister is required to send to every municipal clerk on 1st May and 1st September a list of licenses granted. In case of accident through runaway of a horse, the onus of proof as to cause of damage is cast upon the owner or driver of the motor vehicle. This law comes into force July 15th, 1905.

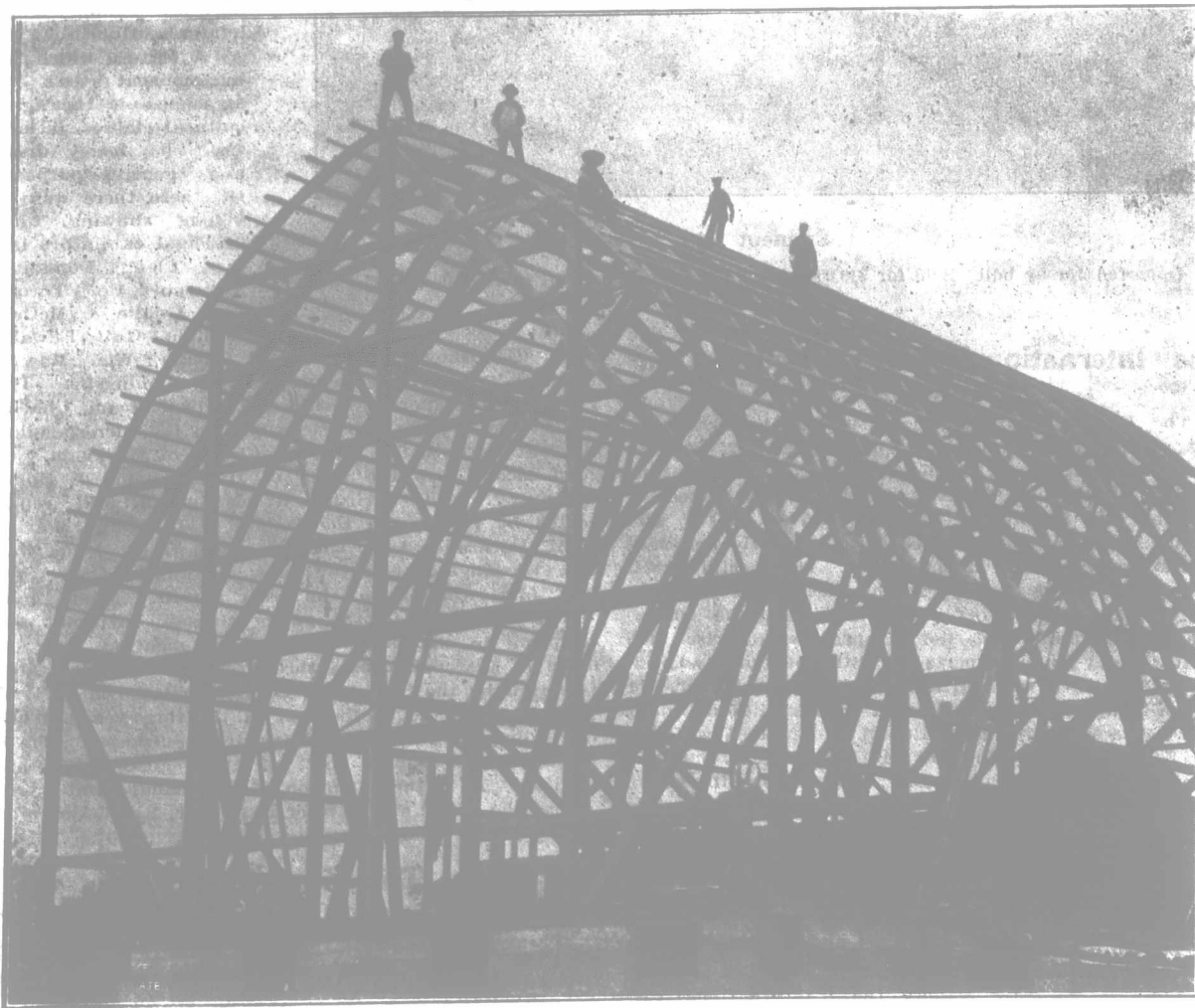
SLEIGHS.—Section 29 of the Act to amend the Statute Law would be a first-class example for criticism by a public school class in grammar and composition. We reproduce it here:

"29.—(1) On and after the coming into force of this section, no person shall use on any public highway, except within the limits of any city, any sleigh or other vehicle upon runners drawn by horses or other animals (except cutters) manufactured after the 1st day of December, 1906, unless the same is so constructed that the distance between the outer edges of such runners at the bottom is not less than four feet."

"(2) This section shall be given effect to, notwithstanding any by-law or by-laws that may have been passed by the council of any county under paragraph number 6 of section 559 of the Consolidated Municipal Act, 1903; provided that the council of any county may pass a by-law exempting such county from the operation of this Act."

The meaning of the enactment probably is that country sleighs made after Dec. 1st, 1906, must measure four feet wide in the runners, and that any county council may pass a by-law exempting that county from this requirement. Others may, however, get other meanings out of it.

APPROPRIATIONS.—The amount voted in 1904 for agricultural work, exclusive of the expenditures on capital account, was \$397,756. The amount expended was \$468,847. In this, however, is included \$71,716 as bounty on beet sugar, which is provided for by special statute and not voted in the estimates. Deducting this amount, there was an expenditure of \$397,134, or \$625 less than the amount estimated. There was a revenue, however, of \$56,989 in connection with agricultural work, consisting of fees at the College, receipts for students' board, sale of produce, revenue from dairy schools, etc. So that the net expenditure was \$340,142. This year the appropriations are net amounts; that is, the revenue at the College and the Dairy schools is to be credited direct to these accounts, so that the appropriations at first sight appear to be less than last year. The net total amount voted for 1905 is \$339,543, about \$600 less than the net expenditure of 1904. A fair inference,



View of Plank-Frame Barn Erected on the Farm of Messrs. John Dryden & Son, Ontario Co., Ont.