

REPORT

I am pleased to see the progress of education throughout the country. This awakening is, in my opinion, the most important factor in the efficiency of our agriculture. The reading of our reports by the most potent agency of all, the thoughtful people to whom our agriculturists must look for a return for the labour they invest.

With a view to the improvement of the education of our youth, I have persistently urged (1) the establishment of a short course of lectures on the first principles of agriculture in all our Agricultural High Schools, (2) the inclusion of dairying, veterinary medicine, arithmetic, English grammar, and other subjects yet been done towards the education of our youth. I believe that, before long, the lectures on agriculture which I have mentioned in this report, if this is done, the chief cause of our agricultural depression will be removed.

The depressing circumstances which have arisen from the low price of our products have given rise to some anxiety in the minds of our agriculturists, and must continue to be so until we have denied that the agricultural crisis has passed the crisis point. It is not likely to be much better than we have had.

It may be laid down as a general principle that it is not possible without proper care and attention to the feeding of live stock and the use of manure. Accepting this principle, the agriculturists of Ontario are doing, and will do, a considerable sum of money worth of work. The returns of the Ontario agriculturists from the sale of their bred animals from year to year, the acreage of wheat, barley, and other crops, which goes to prove that our agriculture is making rapid progress and