

In 1916 a similar motion was tendered to the House in which the Liberals emphasized the pressing problems which the war had created as the reason for Governmental action. In reply to this the Government merely congratulated the farmers on the response made for increased production.

The action of the Liberals of the House during the session of 1917 in opposing the multiple appointments in the Agricultural Department has already been commented upon. In 1918 protests were renewed. In 1919 a further effort was made to have a change effected. Mr. Parliament (Lib. Mem. for Prince Edward County) moved and was seconded by Mr. Bowman, (the U. F. O. Member for Manitoulin), as follows:—

"That this House recognizes the serious situation at present obtaining in the rural sections of the Province, due to the scarcity of labour for the farms. That this House also recognizes that the antebellum shortage of agricultural labour had been considerably aggravated by the last four years of war during which men flocked to the cities and were attracted to the cities by war-time wages, and that thereby a situation was created which threatened to curtail the volume of agricultural production, and that this situation still exists. That this House is therefore of the opinion that in order to discover the best means of encouraging a return to rural life in the Province of Ontario, the Government should appoint a non-partizan Commission (this Commission to include representatives of agriculture and labour), to inquire into the conditions which ordinarily account for the continuous diminution of rural population in the Province and to report to this House the facts and their recommendations as to the steps which should be taken to augment and maintain our rural population."

They both emphasized the difficulty in obtaining suitable farm help under present conditions; pointed out how the war had deprived Agriculture of many of its young men; discussed the need of increased agricultural production, which the Government had been advocating in a poster and literature campaign; and pleaded again for an inquiry into the conditions which might account for the continuous reduction of the rural population, so that the House might take steps to rectify the trouble when discovered. Mr. Parliament thought that great care should be taken in the matter of immigration. Efforts should be made to secure the very best class of people.

That the Government has neither the ability nor the willingness to do anything for agriculture is proved by the above facts taken from the official records of the House.

### **Rural Credits.**

Discussing the question of Rural Credits during the course of a speech in the Legislature on April 11, 1919, Mr. Nelson Par-