

Legislation in Regard to Agriculture.

REVIEW OF AGRICULTURAL ENACTMENTS AT THE 1909 SESSION OF THE ONTARIO LEGISLATURE.

Live Stock.—No special legislation was introduced this year affecting any of the live-stock associations. The question of licensing stallions was presented to the Agricultural Committee, as was also the revised Sheep Protection Act. These two subjects were left over for further consideration by the Committee at the next session. There is a small vote for the holding of any meetings that may be considered advisable meanwhile, and it is understood that the Department will co-operate with the sheep-breeders in carrying on some experiments to determine whether it is profitable to feed sheep on Ontario farms under present conditions. Last year the Legislature appropriated \$20,000 towards enlarging the Winter Fair Building at Guelph. The City of Guelph voted \$10,000, but the plans, as approved, called for over \$40,000. The Government decided to increase the allowance to \$25,000, and it has been voted as a grant to the City of Guelph, made conditional upon the city erecting the addition, to cost not less than \$40,000, and the plans to be approved by the Public Works Department. It is understood that the city have taken the plans that were prepared a year ago, and are now calling for tenders. If the arrangement proposed by the Government is carried out by the city, the Winter Fair will be tied up to Guelph for another ten years, and the Horse Show heretofore held in Toronto will become a part of the great Winter Fair. Provision was made, also, for the addition of a horse show to the Eastern Ontario Live-stock Show, at Ottawa.

Dairying.—Year by year, legislation affecting dairying in Ontario is being extended. A few years ago the Province handed over \$4,000 to each of the two dairy associations, and the latter looked after inspection and instruction. Out of the large amount of fines for adulteration, the associations were able to enlarge their staffs of officials. At that time, instruction was given only to those factories that contributed a certain amount each year. The first step taken was to transfer the work from the associations to the Department, and to increase the number employed. It was quite to be expected that only the more progressive factories would contribute to such work. The consequence was that many of the least-efficient factories had not been reached, and their product had a depressing effect upon general market prices. It was felt that inspection should be universal. The annual assessment was cut out, and an increased appropriation allowed for an extension of the work. Every cheese factory and creamery in the Province is now inspected, and instruction is given wherever required. The law was amended defining the powers of these inspectors, the sanitary conditions being looked after in particular. Last year the Act was extended, so that, if desired, it could be applied to city and town milk supply, and the amended and consolidated act was put out under the title of The Milk, Cheese and Butter Act. The only amendments to this particular act this year were the striking out of the clause, of long standing, making a standard of milk for creameries, and a clause was added giving the inspectors the right to take samples for testing in any factory or creamery. The new act of this year takes a most decided step in advance. It is called The Dairy Products Act. It provides for the registration of all dairy-manufacturing establishments with the Minister during the present year. Then, after the beginning of next year, anyone wishing to start a new factory or creamery must get a permit, which will be issued by the Minister only on the recommendation of one of the inspectors. It is understood that it will be the Chief Inspector who will report on the case, not a local inspector. The factory or creamery must have a good sanitary situation, and must be properly equipped. Further, whenever any factory or creamery is found to be unsanitary or improperly equipped, it may be ordered closed by the Minister until the defects are remedied. The other important part of the act deals with the chief maker. After January 1st, 1911, every chief maker must hold a certificate. This certificate may be issued by either of the two dairy schools, or it may be issued by the Minister on the recommendation of one of the Chief Inspectors. The latter will apply to successful makers of experience now engaged in the work, who are well qualified, and whom it would be quite unfair to exclude. The working out of this legislation means that soon we shall have every factory and creamery working under license, the manufacturing directed by a certificated expert, every place inspected, and instruction available wherever desired or required. What about the producers and consumers of milk? They are not to be overlooked, for a resolution, moved by W. K. McNaught, of the City of Toronto, and seconded by J. R. Dargavel, M. P. P., President of the Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario, was passed by the Legislature, recommend-

ing the appointment of a Royal Commission to investigate and report upon the whole question of production, care and distribution of milk. Dairying interests are certainly being attended to by the Legislature.

Agricultural Societies.—The members of the Provincial Fairs Association came in large numbers to the Parliament Buildings once more to ask for another \$30,000, whereby their grants would be increased to \$100,000. It will be remembered that last year their request was presented, and, instead of adding to the general grants, \$7,000 was put in for special work, spring shows, and field-crop competitions. This year there is granted an additional \$4,000 for extending the field-crop competitions, and there is \$3,000 to be divided among the agricultural societies of the northern districts, in addition to their regular grants. Up to the revision of the act, a society was entitled to three officers and nine other directors, making a board of 12. Then, provision was made for adding six more on the petition of the society. There are a few large societies, however, where 18 does not appear to be enough, so this year an amendment was made, whereby, upon investigation by and recommendation of the Superintendent of Agricultural Societies, six more may be allowed. Special provision is made for meeting peculiar situations that had arisen in regard to Warren Agricultural Society, in Northern Ontario, and also in regard to East Middlesex Society, which is an impor-



O. W. Wetmore, Clifton, N. B.
President New Brunswick Farmers and Dairymen's Association.

tant part of the Western Fair, at London. The new affidavit as to finances seems to indicate a necessity for avoiding trouble as to horse-racing and special attractions.

Horticultural Societies.—The number of horticultural societies is increasing, and the grant of \$8,000 has not been increased. As a consequence, the average to each society must show a decrease. To make things work out fairly all round, there has been placed a limit of \$75 for new societies, and a limit of \$800 for old societies. This maximum limit of \$800 is the same as for agricultural societies. There are only two societies that will be affected, namely, Ottawa and St. Catharines. This provision of the Act does not come into force until 1910.

Fruit-growing.—In response to the request of the fruit-growers, The Yellows and Black-knot Act has been amended, so that any other disease may be added. The particular disease about which fruit-growers are concerned is that known as "little peach." The amendment seems to be a wise one, for some new disease may suddenly appear or become virulent. All that will be necessary will be to lay the matter before the Minister, have an order-in-council passed, and then the local municipal inspectors will have to look after it in the same way that they now take care of yellows and black-knot. The San Jose Scale Act was amended, whereby it is now necessary to submit the by-law appointed for local work to the Minister every year, before the first of May; the by-law will hold only for the year, and bills of expense must be presented to the Minister not later than December 15th. This should keep the municipalities up to time, and permit the work being carried on in a businesslike way. A vote of \$1,000 was made to help pay expenses of the meeting of the American Pomological Society, which comes to St. Catharines this year, on the invitation of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association. The sum of \$13,050 has been provided to

complete the buildings and equipment at the Experimental Fruit Farm in Lincoln County.

Forestry.—This year, the main vote for municipal forest reserves has been transferred from the Agricultural College to the headquarters of the Department. There is an appropriation of \$10,000 which will be expended in extending the work in Norfolk County, and in providing extensive nurseries, which will be available when the work is extended next year to Simcoe County. The Department has 300 acres now under its care in Norfolk County. The nature of the work to be undertaken was set forth in an illustrated pamphlet, laid before the House just before it adjourned.

Local Representatives.—In 1907 provision was made for six High School Agricultural teachers, who were also local representatives of the Department of Agriculture. Last year two more were added. The Legislature has this year provided for three more, making eleven in all. The Department of Education provides the salaries; the Department of Agriculture the office expenses, assistants and contingencies. Provision is made this year in both High School and Public School Acts that the county council shall make a grant of \$500 to assist every such agricultural department in connection with any High School or Public School with Continuation Classes. Through these local representatives, a large number of Farmers' Clubs have been organized and started upon right lines; horticultural societies have been organized, and classes in agriculture have been carried on at the High Schools. In the southwestern part of the Province an Ontario Corn-growers' Association has been formed, which, while made up principally from growers in Essex and Kent, promises to extend to other counties. This association has been incorporated under The Agricultural Associations Act, and has received a grant of \$250 for this year.

Veterinary College.—Last year the work of the Ontario Veterinary College was taken over from Dr. Andrew Smith and his associates by the Department of Agriculture. The old premises were leased and refitted. A staff was appointed under Dr. E. A. A. Grange, as Principal. The course was enlarged by the addition of a third year; 115 students were enrolled in the first year, 95 in the second, and 18, who had previously graduated from the College, came up for the new third-year course. To provide for this new order of affairs, and to give authority to the work, The Veterinary College Act was passed, based largely on The Agricultural College Act. This new act gives a diploma to its graduates somewhat different from that previously given. Formerly, a certificate of standing was issued, which, under the Veterinary Surgeons Act, permitted the holders to assume the title of Veterinary Surgeon. Now, all students, on successfully completing their three-years' course, are given a diploma conferring upon them the title or degree of Veterinary Surgeon, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto. Further, it provides for affiliation with the University of Toronto. In accordance with this, a statute has recently been passed by the Senate of the University, establishing the degree of Bachelor of Veterinary Science (B. V. Sc.) for students of three years' standing, leading to the degree of Doctor of Veterinary Science (D. V. Sc.) by an additional year's work in special research. A special matriculation standard is provided, and a higher percentage for third-year examinations is required for the degree. The V. S. diploma was conferred upon 17 students, and, we understand, a fair proportion of these will be entitled to receive the B. V. Sc. degree at the next University Convocation.

Automobile Legislation.—The automobile law was amended in several particulars, tending chiefly to increase the penalties for infraction. Convicting magistrates are, by the amended act, required to endorse particulars of conviction in certain cases on the back of licenses held by motor-owners or drivers. Other changes include provision for cancellation of a license for a third offence against sections 3, 8 or 11 of the act, and for the impounding of a motor on conviction of the driver for a third offence, and holding of same for a period of three months.

Agricultural College.—The report of the College, as laid before the Legislature, shows that 1,225 students were in attendance last year in all classes, and that the teaching staff now consists of 44 persons. Apart from capital expenditure, the net cost of the institution last year was \$153,257. The appropriations for this year are but slightly in advance of last year. Provision has been made, however, in both Educational and Agricultural estimates, for a new line of work. Some 250 of the teachers in training at the various Normal Schools are now being transferred to the Agricultural College, to take the last three months of their course where they will receive special instruction in nature study, horticulture, and other lines of agriculture, with a view to fitting them for carrying on their work