

understood that the Department of Education will shortly announce a summer course at the College for Normal teachers in training, a part of the new scheme of equipping teachers for agriculture and nature study in rural public schools.

ASSOCIATIONS.

An amendment to the Associations Act provides for the recognition of The Gardeners and Florists' Association. It is proposed that this shall take up the only bit of work now left to the old Toronto District Agricultural Society, namely, holding flower shows and looking after the work of the florists in connection with the Horticultural Exhibition. The latter will be organized under the Act along lines similar to those of the two winter fairs.

WEEDS.

The Noxious Weeds Act, as it appeared in the Revised Statutes of 1897, placed the cutting of the weeds on the highways in charge of the municipal overseers, the work to be performed as a part of the ordinary state labor, and to be paid for by the municipal treasurer as directed by the council. In 1904 this provision was cut out, and the duty placed on the landowners, who were required to cut down weeds on the half-road allowance opposite their respective farms or lots. This amendment of 1904 has now been repealed, and the former section replaced, so that the responsibility is again placed in the hands of overseers of highways to have the work done by statute labor.

AUTOMOBILES.

There was a revival of the battle over this much-discussed question. The principal changes in the amending Act are as follows: (a) All paid drivers must be licensed by the Provincial Secretary; (b) no person under 17 years of age is allowed to drive a motor vehicle on any public street or highway; (c) when meeting horses which appear to be frightened, or when signalled to stop, the driver of the motor shall stop, and, also, SHUT OFF THE MOTOR, and if necessary, assist the driver of the horse to pass; (d) when meeting a funeral, the motor must be stopped, and, where practicable, the motor shall be turned into an intersecting street, road or lane, until the funeral procession has passed.

APPROPRIATIONS.

	1907.	1908.
Agricultural societies, etc.	\$102,092	\$109,412
Live-stock Branch	28,682	30,375
Institutes Branch	27,816	30,272
Dairy Branch	57,650	55,800
Fruit Branch	40,522	39,200
Bureau of Industries	5,500	5,500
Miscellaneous	30,500	73,650
Agricultural College:		
Salaries and expenses	109,375	119,835
Macdonald Institute	33,250	34,190
Forestry	4,000	9,500
Animal Department	20,610	20,250
Field Department	8,990	10,800
Exp'l Dairy	14,495	7,518
Dairy School	9,560	10,850
Poultry Department	3,835	4,990
Horticulture Department	9,626	3,874
Mechanical Department	950	1,000
Farm drainage		1,000
Total	\$507,453	\$574,016
Capital Account	77,225	82,310

The following were the expenditures in connection with agriculture during 1907: General agriculture, \$480,318; public buildings (capital account), \$66,836; total, \$547,254. These correspond to the amounts referred to above. In addition there was expended the following: \$75,000 (the last special grant under the Beet-sugar Bounty Act), and \$26,647, the cost of the head offices of the Department (Civil Government). The revenue of the Department for 1907 was \$78,598, as against \$71,814 in 1906.

LET FARMERS DO THEIR OWN THINKING.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Thanks to our "Advocate" mentor for the McKenny letter and endorsement thereof. Let farmers no longer be tongue-tied, but do a little of their own thinking; not to be like Thoreau's rustic, "the man that works as I do, and keeps the thoughts he has already got, does well." We feel our position not unlike Issacher of old—"a strong ass crouching between two burdens"—as we have our own circumstanced conditions, and the relativity in which our rulers have placed us. Let our position of the free and independent yeomanry not all evaporate on election times. Let the plain, palpable, provable facts of our position be shown and typed as our average farm balance-sheets, to show what can be met, if Governmental works pay rates beyond the farm's possibilities. We old pioneer hands look like old army mules, fit only to be dumped on some village roadside, if we may not have been "Oslerized" at the oar; but as we are allowed to be the cause of all the unearned increment now so bluffed, sure we have priority and claim on the new pensions.

Bruce Co., Ont.

DAIRY INSTRUCTION STAFF, EASTERN ONTARIO

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I enclose you a list of the names of the men who have been appointed as instructors and sanitary inspectors for cheese factories for 1908: D. J. Cameron, Campbellcroft; R. W. Ward, Peterboro'; J. B. Lowery, Frankford; R. T. Gray, Campbellford; T. H. Whattam, Picton; Hugh Howie, Belleville; G. H. Bensley, Warkworth; W. H. Brintnell, Kingston; S. S. Cheetham, Gananoque; A. H. Wilson, Athens; J. H. Echlin, Balderston; Peter Nolan, Philippsville; W. J. Ragsdale, Smith's Falls; W. G. Gardiner, Easton's Corners; C. B. Larry, Kemptonville; W. G. Graham, Vankleek Hill; Thos. J. Ellis, Chesterville; C. W. Norval, North Williamsburg; J. Villeneuve, Casselman; Jos. Charbonneau, Plantagenet; Allan MacDonnell, Alexandria; W. W. Dool, Ottawa; R. E. Elliott, Carp; Johiel Buro, Mille Roches.

Inspectors of Creameries: Jas. Stonehouse, Port Perry.

The instructors have just attended a special course at the Eastern Dairy School, Kingston. The course was of a week's duration, and the subjects dealt with in the course were those having a direct bearing on the work of instruction and inspection. While lectures were given by the staff of the School, a good deal of time was devoted to discussion. In this, special attention was given to the consideration of the causes of the defects found in our cheese, and the best methods of overcoming the same.

While general progress is being noted from year to year, we believe that it was more marked in 1907 than in any previous year, and it would appear that 1908 would be not lacking in this respect, as a special effort has been put forth during the fall and winter by a series of district dairy meetings, and the supplying of speakers to annual factory meetings. The instructors are unanimous in their opinion that splendid results will be obtained from this work. The patrons are becoming more interested in seeing that suitable conditions exist for the proper manufacture of their dairy products, and are devoting more attention to the care and production of the milk, and nothing is more gratifying to us than this, as we realize that with their co-operation in this respect, success is assured.

G. G. PUBLON,

Chief Dairy Instructor for Eastern Ontario.

OXFORD COUNTY - ROADS EXPENDITURE.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of Feb. 27th I noticed a letter from S. A. Freeman, Oxford County, denouncing the County-road system. Mr. Freeman states "that an expenditure of \$90,000 has been made, and only ten miles of road improved, and the Government has not paid one cent," and he hopes it never will. At time of writing, I have the Government's 12th Annual Report on Highway Improvement of 1907, and find that the County of Oxford expended in 1904 and 1905, \$53,043.71, instead of \$90,000, as Mr. Freeman states, and the Government paid one-third, or \$17,678.27. It would seem as if Mr. Freeman has not seen this Report, but these are the Government figures, and should bear inspection. It would be better if these reports were more freely circulated, then one would see what is being done in one's own county. The subject of adopting a county-road system is now being agitated in Huron County. I sincerely hope it may soon be carried into effect. The Act applies to both roads and bridges, and only needs to be understood to be fully appreciated.

HURON SUBSCRIBER.

[Note.—The facts submitted to us by the County Clerk of Oxford County are as follows: Up to 1904, Oxford County had toll roads. In that year they were purchased by the County for some \$53,000, and the Provincial Government paid over \$17,000 in aid thereof, the roads going back into the hands of the township municipalities. In 1907, the County proceeded to take advantage of the Good Roads Act, and spent, for machinery and road improvement, somewhere about \$90,000. The account was presented to the Government in February, with a request for one-third of this amount, but the grant has not been received as yet. The work has been approved of by the proper officers, and the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council has directed the payment to the County of over \$26,000, but through some technical error in the preparation of the by-law, the auditor refused to pass the amount, notwithstanding the fact that the Law Clerk of the Legislature prepared the by-law, but Mr. Campbell, the Deputy Minister of Public Works, informs the County that the matter will easily be remedied. Preparations are made for continuing the work during the present year, but in a more economical way.—Editor.]

A PROGRESSIVE LOCAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM.

Among the most progressive independent rural telephone lines in Ontario is that of the Harrietsville Association, which, at the end of 1907, had 205 telephones installed; 64 miles of circuit; paid-up stock, 661 shares at \$10 each; paying a dividend of six per cent. per annum. Dr. Wm. Doan is President and Manager; Jas. Smith, Vice-President, and C. B. Adams, Secretary-Treasurer.

A few years ago, the manufacture of cement in Japan was making slow progress, the amount scarcely exceeding 600,000 barrels. Of late, the demand is growing by leaps and bounds. At present, the total output throughout the country reaches about 1,300,000 barrels per month.

ANOTHER TEXT FOR MISS WATT.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of April 2nd I notice another article by Eunice Watt, attacking my remarks re military training and tuberculosis. Her scriptural quotations without doubt describe a state of affairs to be most devoutly hoped for. I agree most emphatically with Eunice Watt as to the desirability of the consummation of peace; we differ only as to the method by which this end can be best attained.

Your Nova Scotian correspondent concedes that physical culture is a desirable addition to the training received in our schools, but objects to the bearing of arms "as the first step towards conscription." Now, it is the opinion of almost all the thinkers of the day that such instruction is one of the best remedies for the same, and it stands to reason that such a deduction is correct. The necessity for conscription will be completely done away with when we have the boys of our nation trained so that they are capable of the defence of their country; for I would remind Miss Watt that the object of all military training in Canada is "defence, not defiance."

Eunice Watt also states that there are two distinct sides to a soldier's training—the military and gymnastic side—and that the latter is given to counteract the stiffness of the former. Here, again, she is in error. If she will turn to infantry training, she will find that the extension motions (which I advocated as a means of building up the minds and bodies of children) are used to set up the recruit, to develop his chest and general physique, to prepare for (not counteract) the training of a soldier.

Miss Watt is not alone in her aversion to the bearing of arms. We have, in Ontario, a transient colony of Doukhobors, who are imbued with the same prejudice. Even Miss Watt, however, would be unlikely to regard as exemplary citizens these adherents of this principle, beside whom even the degraded and wholly unregenerate Tommy Atkins would appear in quite a favorable light.

Appropos of Tommy Atkins, Eunice Watt seems to go rather far afield when quoting instances of depravity in the English regular army as a sweeping condemnation of our Canadian volunteer militia. I will not attempt a refutation of the aspersions cast on the character of Tommy Atkins (in my humble opinion that gentleman is quite capable of maintaining his character in the face of almost any odds), but, in passing, will refer you to a couple of lines of Kipling's which seem to fit the present instance:

"Yes, making mock of uniforms, that guard you while you sleep.
Is cheaper than those uniforms—and they're starvation cheap."

Never having had the privilege of attending a camp in Nova Scotia, and realizing the great difference which evidently exists between the people of Nova Scotia and Ontario, I hardly feel competent to enter into a controversy with Eunice Watt as to the conduct of her brother Nova Scotians assembled in military camp, whom she holds up as a set of vandals. Now, in Ontario, the men who compose our militia are of a decidedly different class. Occasionally we have some turbulent spirits, who are rather hard to control, but they are soon shown that unseemly conduct will not be tolerated by either their comrades or the military authorities.

I must confess, however, that I am not overwhelmed with astonishment at the statement that in an assembly of forty-one hundred men she saw some drunkenness and fighting. It would, I imagine, be a matter for greater astonishment if she had not seen something of the sort in a gathering of such a number; no matter what their calling.

As to it being injurious for boys to come into contact with the bad and idle, I would ask Eunice Watt what profession they might pursue in which they would not come into contact with those who will lead them into temptation. In every walk in life it is the same; parsons fall, medical men are not above suspicion, bank managers embezzle the funds of their employers, and in many cases the very sins of which the Tommy Atkins she goes so far afield to seek is accused, are the cause of the downfall.

Again, Miss Watt makes a rather sweeping assertion when stating that a soldier is a parasite. Why should he be singled out for criticism any more than any other Government employee? He is paid, and not too generously, by the Government. He does his appointed work, and does it well. Unlike the member of the civil service, he can hardly be accused of following his calling for "what there is in it." His opportunities for "graft" are decidedly limited. In spite of Eunice Watt's aversion to quotations, I cannot refrain from quoting a verse from Kipling, which I imagine would describe my horticultural friend's state of mind, were our country ever invaded by a foreign power:

"It's Tommy this, and Tommy that,
And 'Tommy fall behind.'
But it's 'Please to walk in front, sir,'
When there's trouble in the wind."

Thanking you, Mr. Editor, for the space occupied in your valuable journal.

A MILITARY-TRAINED FARMER.

Peterboro Co., Ont.