

ment, and is charged to a special appropriation set apart for such purposes). The appropriation includes a grant of \$25 to each institute, conditional upon \$25 being voted from the local municipality. The provincial department of agriculture is presided over by a minister, who is a member of the government. This department is placed on the same footing as the other departments over which other ministers preside.

The history of the germ of the institute movement in Ontario (and in Canada in general) is given by C. C. James, deputy minister of agriculture for Ontario, as follows:

January, 1885, was the time of the revival of farmers' institute work in Ontario. It was the date of the beginning of the work under the name of farmers' institutes, and the main inspiration for the revival of the work at that time was the success attending the farmers' institute work in some of the United States. This, however, was not the first time that instruction of farmers had been attempted. The original agricultural societies of this Province, as well as of some of the other Provinces, had made instruction through papers and discussions an important feature of their work. Of late years agricultural societies have confined themselves to the holding of fairs, and I presume that is one reason why farmers' institute work has been so successful. In the earlier days our agricultural societies were accustomed to offer prizes for essays on various subjects, such as the growing of wheat, the growth and manufacture of hemp and flax, etc. These papers were read at the annual meeting and discussed.

The first agricultural society in Upper Canada was organized in 1792 or 1793, and we have reason to believe that the instruction of the members was of greater moment than the holding of fairs. This society formed an extensive agricultural library which was carried on for the benefit of its members for a number of years, until it was finally incorporated with the public library of the old town of Niagara. In 1830 agricultural societies were especially encouraged by an act passed in that year, and the first provincial fair was held in 1846. From that time forward these societies were under the control of a board of agriculture, which was composed of a large number of representative farmers of the Province. Prof. George Buckland was for many years secretary. He conducted a course in agriculture in connection with the Toronto University, and had a small experimental farm within the present limits of the city of Toronto. He was accustomed to make a tour of the agricultural societies and address them upon various agricultural topics. In many cases these agricultural societies devoted their energies and funds to the introduction of pure-bred stock and seed grain, and in a few sections the desire for instruction not being fully met by the agricultural societies, others known as farmers' clubs were organized. The records of these are very meager. However, I have before me reference to one which may be of interest. It is contained in an article written by Mr. Walter Biddell, sr., of Cobourg, and refers to the county of Northumberland, about 70 miles east of Toronto. He says: "There had been an agricultural society in this county before we knew it. The first society was formed in 1821. It held shows and plowing matches, and gave prizes for best managed farms, and for essays on wheat culture and other varying subjects. The farmers' club was begun in 1846, and though often dormant, it took occasionally lively starts and held sometimes ten or twelve meetings in a year. The subject for discussion at the next meeting was selected and someone appointed to undertake it, which he might do either verbally or by written paper. The subject was then discussed by the members. This has been superseded by farmers' institutes."

At the time of the organization of the farmers' institutes there were active farmers' clubs in Pushlinch Township, Wellington County, and at St. George in Brant