

HOW OUR GOVERNMENT AIDS

Before the Canadian Club in Toronto, on Monday, Nov. 16, Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, delivered an address on "Agricultural Problems of Ontario." In pointing out that Ontario is the premier province of the Dominion, he declared it to be to the interest of all city dwellers to maintain it in that position. He said there were 175,000 farms in the province, with an investment of \$1,200,000,000 and an annual product of \$200,000,000. A ten per cent. increase on this would mean \$20,000,000 a year. He believed the increase possible, and even to the amount of 20 or 30 per cent., if the farmers would put into operation the best methods known. The farmer was now buying and selling for cash, and city business men were more than ever interested in him. As controlling the food products, and as a producer of surplus cash, the farmer also deserved the attention of city men. The moral effect or influence which the farmer has upon the country was another important point to note. The source of danger to a country was in the congested districts of the country. **The development of a strong, healthy, contented rural community would be one of the important assets in the future of the nation.**

It was a comparatively easy thing to add \$100 a year to the income of a farmer. In any district around a rural town with 200 farms adjacent this meant \$20,000 a year more to spend in it. The Government had nine agencies at work in the education and development of the farm. The head office looked after statistics, issued reports, did special work and represented generally. The agricultural and horticultural societies had been at work for 116 years, the longest established organizations outside the Legislature. The live stock branch directed cattle and poultry shows and looked after these interests. The Farmers' Institute work brought the latest word to the farmer about his business. The dairy

branch with forty odd instructors in cheese factories and creameries, also went into the homes of the farmers to improve dairy conditions there. The first branch had recently been active in the city and raised the standard of packing and marketing. The colonization bureau was occupied with bringing the right sort of immigrants to the farming communities and in supplying labor to the farmer. The Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph was well known, and the Veterinary College was the latest addition to the Government's work. A drainage department was in its infancy, having only been in existence for three or four years. A scheme for dealing with lands which were deforested and unfit for farming is being considered to buy back the lands from those who only eked out a miserable existence, and turn the lands back to the forest reserves.

If the improved seeds developed by the agricultural society were used by farmers all over the country, 25 per cent. increase would be quite possible. In ten years the live stock trade had increased from 30 to 60 millions. Mr. James suggested that if a prospectus were prepared of the farm industry of Ontario, showing the investment and present revenue, and estimating the possible increases, ten per cent. on live stock, ten per cent. in dairying, ten per cent. in fruit, ten per cent. in each department, doubling the revenue, it would attract attention.

"Put a prospectus of that sort beside the most glowing Cobalt prospectus ever seen, and which would you prefer?" (Applause).

That more had not been done was partly because of the want of the men, partly because of the want of money. The Government was giving all the assistance the revenue would permit. He could only hope the revenue would increase. The Northwest had drained Ontario of its young men. Everywhere the farmer was crying out that he was crippled and could not get his work done. The labor problem was acute.

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