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## THE NEW MOVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE IN ONTARIO

**The Work Being Carried on by the Branch Offices of the Ontario Department of Agriculture has Become Popular and New Branches are to be Established.**

IF THE experiment now being tried in several counties in Ontario by the Ontario Department of Agriculture proves successful—and the indications are that it will—the time is not far distant when the department will have a representative stationed at some central point in every county of the province. These representatives will be expected to devote all their time to studying the needs and advancing the interests of the farmers in their respective districts. They will be the means by which the farmers of the province will be brought into closer touch with the officials of the Department of Agriculture and with the Agricultural College at Guelph. At the same time they will make the Department and the College of greater value to the farmer.

As was announced in The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World at the time, the Department of Agriculture, at the suggestion of the capable deputy minister, Mr. C. C. James, made a start in this new line of work about a year ago. Six graduates of the Guelph College were sent out to represent the Department at Morrisburg, Perth, Lindsay, Collingwood, Galt and Essex. They were instructed to feel their way carefully the first year and to let the work develop itself. It was understood that, as part of their work, they would do what they could to introduce the teaching of agriculture in the high schools.

Almost from the outset the experiment has proved a decided success. Already these branch offices have become recognized as centers where the farmers of the locality are able to obtain expert information on almost any conceivable subject relating to agriculture. If the experts in charge are unable to give the information desired they know where and how it can be obtained and they secure it as speedily as possible.

### THE OFFICE AT LINDSAY

Recently a representative of The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World called at the office of F. H. Reed, B.S.A., the representative of the Department stationed at Lindsay. The office consisted of two rooms. One contained a large table and numerous chairs. It was at the disposal of the officers of the local agricultural society, farmers institute or any other agricultural organization that might desire to make use of it. The other room was used by Mr. Reed as his private office and contained his library of books relating to agricultural subjects. Copies of the

leading agricultural papers and the bulletins issued by the various departments of agriculture and agricultural experiment stations were on file and available for use by any farmer who might visit the office.

While we were there a farmer called at the office and arranged to have Mr. Reed visit his place that day to give him some advice as to how a portion of his farm should be cultivated to obtain certain results. On the following day Mr. Reed was to visit a section near Lindsay to show several farmers how parts of their farms could



R. S. HAMER, B.S.A.



A. MCKENNEY, B.S.A.

Two of the men representing the Ontario Department of Agriculture in the High Schools.

be drained to the best advantage. Not long before our visit Mr. Reed had been consulted by another farmer as to how his orchard should be pruned.

Last winter Mr. Reed arranged some short courses in agriculture, lasting several days, that were attended by several hundred farmers and that proved extremely successful. When we left him he was about to hurry off to the high school to look after some experimental plots he had there under cultivation as object lessons for the school children.

One of the results of the work at Lindsay has been the organization of a club composed of the breeders of pure bred stock who live in that section.

The foregoing will give some idea of the nature of the work that is carried on by these branch offices of the department of agriculture and serves to show how valuable they may become to the farmers near where they are located. As veterinary surgeons are consulted by farmers whenever their live stock becomes sick it is desired

that these representatives of the department shall be consulted by farmers whenever they desire expert information relating to any branch of agriculture but with this important difference: there is no charge for their services.

### WHAT HAS BEEN DONE

Desiring to find what has been accomplished up to date in the various centers where the stations are located, The Canadian Dairyman and Farming World wrote recently to those in charge of them, asking for information. Among the replies that have been received is the following from Lanark County. Mention of the work conducted at the other stations will be made in later issues.

R. S. Hamer, B.S.A., of Perth, who is in charge of the work in Lanark county, has written us as follows:

"The recognition of the value of the results of the new agricultural education propaganda inaugurated in Lanark County last June, is now so widespread that steady progress and future enlargement of the idea is assured. Perth, as a business center, depends almost entirely upon the agricultural resources of the surrounding country and when it was learned that the local Board of Education had succeeded in securing for the Collegiate Institute one of the six agriculturists appointed by the Government, and for the town, a Branch Office of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, the business men of the town were quite ready to support the move. Throughout the county there was naturally at first much skepticism regarding the practical value of the two new institutions but among the more enterprising farmers more general support was given to the

idea than might at first have been expected. With the development of the work and the gradual dissemination of more definite information regarding the aim and purpose of both the Agricultural Office and the school course the support of the farming community has become not only general but cordial.

### THE OFFICE APPRECIATED

"As appears to have been the case at the other points selected, a connection has been formed much more rapidly through the office than through the school. The office has gradually become the center for everything pertaining to agriculture in the district. In the first place it has been able to fulfil its purpose as a bureau of information through which a man may put himself in touch with any source of information he desires. The number of questions which are handled in this way in the course of a week would be a matter of surprise to anyone accustomed to regard the farmer as too independent to seek information regarding matters pertaining