

Schools, and the Normal-school fee of \$10, have been abolished. In future, the teachers in these schools will receive free tuition.

TEACHERS' COURSES AT AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Special courses to fit Normal-trained teachers for rural schools are being provided. Special three-months' courses in elementary agriculture and horticulture, and in workshop training, and probably in household science, are to be given at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. Teachers with a Model-school course, and, at least, one year's teaching experience, who pass the final examinations of the Normal School by the beginning of April, will be given an opportunity of taking the special three-months' course at Guelph. Their travelling expenses to and from the College will be paid, and while there, their tuition and board will be free. It is thus hoped to provide rural schools with teachers who will interest boys and girls in country life, and impart to them instruction useful to all who intend to live on the farm. The Government is of the opinion that the first step to take in the work of reform is to provide competent teachers prepared amid proper surroundings. Without such teachers, courses of study and regulations can be of no avail.

HIGH-SCHOOL AGRICULTURAL CLASSES.

The Government is impressed by the success thus

far of the six agricultural departments in the Collegiate Institutes, and will provide two more this year. In these departments, as already announced, pupils taking the ordinary high-school course receive two years' instruction in field husbandry, animal husbandry, dairy husbandry, poultry-keeping, horticulture, forestry, agricultural botany, agricultural physics, agricultural chemistry and entomology. Short, practical courses, held in different parts of the country, for those who can leave the farm only for a few weeks, have also been provided; and, while, as was anticipated, the High-school classes have not been large, the country classes have been both large and successful. As agents of the O. A. C., the services of the teachers of the agricultural departments have also met with an enthusiastic reception from the farming community.

CONTINUATION CLASSES AND TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOLS.

The latest amendments to the law also provide for the reorganization of Continuation Class work. This policy carries out the promise made to place better school facilities within the reach of the rural population. In future the continuation classes will be divided into Continuation Schools (which will do work inclusive of and in advance of fifth-class instruction) and Fifth Classes. Both will be generously aided by grants. To show the earnest desire of the Government to provide

adequate instruction for the rural districts, it may be pointed out that the Continuation grants have increased from \$21,000 in 1905 to \$45,000 voted for 1908. The Continuation Schools will, it is expected, multiply rapidly, so that a kind of rural or township high school will be provided, with, in time, at least one in every township in the Province. The Fifth Classes, also, are expected to increase in number rapidly, and if found necessary the present regulations will be modified to stimulate and fittingly reward local effort.

EXPENDITURES.

It is announced that during the past four years the educational grants voted by the Legislature, not including the cost of administering the system, but money actually bestowed upon instruction and kindred objects, have increased by \$825,000, almost a \$1,000,000. It will take some time before the effect of this expenditure will be fully apparent. Great improvement has already been made, and there can be no doubt of the final result. In the meantime, it is gratifying to find that the efforts of the Department of Education to make the school system efficient, as a whole, are generally commended by the press and the public, and that a more hopeful spirit pervades both the teaching profession and the Province at large.

Ontario Provincial Legislature, 1908.

Notes on the Recent Session from an Agricultural Standpoint.

AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

Some years ago a convention of representatives of the old District Societies met in Toronto, and asked the Government to increase their grant. This was acceded to, and an additional \$100 provided for each of the District Societies, the grants to township societies being unaffected. The coming in of the revised Act put all societies on equal footing in qualifying for the grant, the common basis being the amount spent in the previous year for purely agricultural purposes. There have been rumors of another "attack." This came to a head at the recent meeting of the Provincial Fairs Association. They marched to the Parliament Buildings, two hundred strong, and boldly asked for another \$30,000, which, added to the \$70,000 annually provided, would round off the \$100,000. The idea apparently had gone abroad that the Government had plenty and to spare, and that, while grants were being increased along other lines, the ancient and honorable agricultural societies should receive their fair proportion. The Government "took the matter into serious consideration," and voted not the \$30,000, but the following, to be expended through the societies:

Pure-seed fairs	\$1,000
Spring stock shows	3,000
Field-crop competitions	3,000

An amendment was made to the Act, whereby the old limit of \$70,000 was removed, and the expenditure of these additional lines permitted. Evidently, the Minister of Agriculture thinks that the success of these three lines of work warrants expansion, and so the door is opened for future increases as circumstances permit and the expenditure is justified.

HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

At the recent annual meeting of the representatives of horticultural societies, the new Act was fully discussed, and changes suggested. The Minister has embodied these in an amendment Act. Hereafter, the annual meetings will be held in the first week in November, just before the Provincial Horticultural Exhibition, and, at this meeting, delegates will be appointed to the Provincial meeting. A large attendance will likely result. Further, the officers will have the entire winter to plan for the campaign of the coming year's work. New societies will still be organized in January. All reports will be in the hands of the Superintendent by Feb. 1st. The grants can immediately be appointed, and the societies notified as to what is coming to each upon their filing affidavits of membership for the current year. These grants will be payable on or before July 1st, which date is the limit for completing the membership lists. Hereafter, all societies, city and town, will have their grants based on the work and membership of the previous year. The limit of expenditure along any one line is changed from "one-third" to "one-half," and grants or donations for any specific purpose are excluded from the calculation. A grant of \$500 was made to enable the Department to send speakers to special meetings of societies.

WINTER FAIR, GUELPH.

Twenty thousand dollars was voted for enlarging the Winter Fair building at Guelph, and an increase in the appropriation for holding the Show necessitated by the addition of horses to the exhibits. There is a vote of \$1,000 for horse exhibits, and, also, a special \$3,000 for horse shows. It is presumed that the summer horse shows and the Winter Horse Show at Guelph will be provided for out of this \$4,000.

EASTERN WINTER FAIR, OTTAWA.

Apparently the appropriation has not hitherto been sufficient, for there is a grant of \$1,200 to square old accounts, and the usual vote of \$4,100 has been increased to \$5,500, besides which there is \$500 for poultry coops.

INSTITUTES.

Hitherto, the grants for Farmers' Institutes, Women's Institutes, Fruit Institutes, etc., have been voted separately. This year they are all grouped together, and the vote stands at \$21,500, an increase of \$1,500. The explanation given was that Women's Institutes are increasing rapidly, and there is a great demand for special Institutes of all kinds—Fruit Institutes, Poultry Institutes, Live-stock and Judging Institutes, etc.

DAIRY WORK.

The passing away of the old dairy school at Strathroy is indicated in a small vote to pay for the advertising and sale of the same. Report is that the building has been sold by tender, and the equipment transferred to the dairy school at Guelph. The estimates under the Guelph dairy department indicate a change in method. Hitherto, milk has been purchased from the producers, and the College has received the revenue from the sale of butter and cheese. Arrangements have been made, beginning April 1st, whereby the College makes for the producers at a fixed price per lb. of cheese and butter, and the patrons get the money received from the sale of the manufactured goods. A most important change has been made in one of the dairy Acts. The old Act to prevent fraud in the manufacture of cheese and butter now comes to us as The Milk, Cheese and Butter Act. The name is simplified, but the provisions have been extended. Formerly, the inspectors could inspect, for sanitary conditions, the premises of producers sending milk to the factories, but had not power to take and test samples of the cows' milk. Now they are given this power. Further, in villages, towns and cities, all milk sold must be genuine. Skim milk cannot be sold unless so advertised. Inspectors can be appointed by the Minister under this Act to test samples of milk at the place of production, in transit, at the milk depots, and when being delivered to customers. Watering, skimming and the using of preservatives are prohibited, unless it is clearly advertised that such is being done. The inspectors for the cheese factories and creameries are paid by the Department. The inspectors for prosecuting in the case of city or town milk supply will be paid by the city or town; but all will be appointed by Order-in-Council on the recommendation of the Minister. A strong effort was made on the representation of the Toronto Board of Health to have a milk standard established, but this was rejected, as it was not thought to be the most effective method. After this was disposed of, the Minister enlarged his proposed legislation as indicated above to meet the demand for a pure and genuine article in the city and town supply. One of the last Acts of the session was the putting through of the Act, in its consolidated form, so that the dairymen of the Province now have it in this more convenient form.

BREAD.

As farmers are more and more using bakers' bread, a reference to this, following milk, will be in order. For some years, bakers have been allowed to make bread in any size, provided it was labelled as to weight. Again and again, proposal has been made to do away with the label, and return to the old standards. The proposals have been various and conflicting. The question was attacked this year again with vigor. All the bills were gathered together—bread by the dozen was piled up before the committee. The law now is as follows: Ordinary bread made for sale, or offered for sale outside of the municipality in which it is made, must be in loaves of either one and one-half pounds, or three pounds; fancy bread, for the same purpose, must weigh 16 ozs. or 20 ozs., and must be labelled. Fancy bread is defined as bread having a certain per cent. of sugar and shortening, or of milk solids in addition to the flour.

FRUIT, VEGETABLES, ETC.

This branch of the Department is now fully organized, for provision is made for a head to be known as Director of the Fruit Industry. Mr. P. W. Hodgetts, Secretary of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association, has been appointed to the position. Hitherto, he has also been Accountant to the Department. The grants of \$6,000 for encouraging spraying are continued this year, and the grant to the Vegetable-growers' Association has been increased to \$800. The most important items deal with the new experimental fruit farm at Jordan Harbor. Fifteen thousand five hundred dollars has been appropriated for maintenance and for experimental work, and \$24,800 for buildings—administration building, greenhouses, storage plant, and residences.

DEMONSTRATION FARM.

Work has been begun on the new demonstration farm, on the Toronto and Northern Ontario Railway, 460 miles north of Toronto. One hundred acres have been cleared during the past winter. Ten thousand dollars is provided to complete this great building and begin practical work.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES.

Last year, six graduates of the Agricultural College were located in six counties, provision made for agricultural classes in the high schools and offices opened for assisting and instructing farmers. The Department of Education provides for the salaries, and the Department of Agriculture for the office, travelling and other expenses. It is proposed to add to the members this year, as well as provide assistants during the summer to at least four of those already appointed. Nine thousand six hundred dollars is voted for salaries, and \$7,700 for office and other expenses.

VETERINARY COLLEGE.

There have been rumors and suggestions that the Ontario Veterinary College was to pass into the hands of the Government. A vote of \$20,000 in the supplementary estimates indicates that this is about to be realized. The announcement was made that the College is to be taken over, a new principal and staff appointed, and the College is to be run as a branch of the Department, on lines similar to the Agricultural College. It is understood that the course is to be extended to three years, the standard of admission raised, and an effort made to put it on a par with the Agricultural College. In fact, one would not be surprised to see it ultimately federated with the latter, and more closely associated with the University.

FORESTRY.

A vote of \$5,000, entitled "grant for special forestry work," is, by itself, not likely to attract much attention, but, with the Minister's explanation, it may be the promise of a work that will ultimately lead to big things. It is proposed that the Department shall buy up cheap waste lands in the older-settled counties, start nurseries, plant, preserve, and thus inaugurate Government and municipal forest reserves. It may not mean much this year, but it is a beginning, and it is the first step which counts. The farm forester of the College has, for a year past, been quietly investigating, and, we understand, he knows just where a beginning can be made.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

Two additional teachers are provided for, a Lecturer in Economics and a Demonstrator in Fungous Diseases and Insects. Provision is also made for extending the work in demonstrating the principles of farm drainage. In the way of public works, besides completing work already under construction, the following new work is provided for: Vegetable and fruit house (\$3,000), incubator house (\$3,000), farmer's house (\$3,000), new cattle stables (\$4,000). It is also