

on World's Fair Show, and went into details and figures, which will be published in the Governmental Annual Report.

ADDRESS BY HON. JOHN DRYDEN, MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

Hon. Mr. Dryden on coming forward was received with warm applause. He said :—

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen :

I am very pleased indeed that I came in at the commencement of your meeting to-day, because I have had the privilege of hearing the report that has just been read relative to what you have accomplished at the World's Fair. You will, I know, allow me to congratulate you, first of all, on the part you have played in winning laurels, not only for yourselves, but for Ontario as a Province, at that great exhibition, and secondly, on the great success of your annual exhibition here in New Hamburg.

If we cannot boast in this Province of ours of the rich plumage of our forest birds or of their brilliant song, we can now claim superiority so far as our pure bred poultry is concerned. It is not now my opinion,—it is not the opinion of your association,—it is an established fact, which has been proven against all comers in Chicago that we hold a foremost rank in this regard. It will be useless for anyone now to say that our poultry raisers are behind those of any other country in this industry. We have succeeded in convincing ourselves and the Americans and the world that we are quite abreast of the times.

But I want to say also that no one who is at all of an observant turn but will realize as he goes about the country that all our poultry is not up to the standard of that you saw at Chicago or at this exhibition. They are away behind what we would like to see them ; they are badly bred, badly housed, badly attended to, and, as a general rule, they bring in very bad returns as well.

What I would like to do would be to devise some means to disseminate the better blood that you see here and at Chicago generally throughout the Province. The chances are that I am looking into the future in this, and see things from a different standpoint to what some of you do. But, as head of my department, I would like to accomplish something in this line, and you will not blame me when I seek to use this Association in aiding me to achieve so desirable a result.

Some people say, why should you bother so much about poultry?—Such a small thing? Such a little thing? But is it small? It is smaller than it ought to be,—but is it small? In connection with my Department we have a statistical branch known as the Bureau of Industries. I was looking over the last return in reference to this matter and I found

the number of fowls given for the Province as seven millions. These statistics are compiled from the figures sent us by the farmers and from municipal statistics as well. One million are other than what are ordinarily called chickens. But take the number at six millions ; I do not think I am unreasonable in stating that we ought to expect even at the present status of things an annual output of eggs to the value of three million dollars, and of dead poultry one million. I see that the Department in Washington has given us a statement showing that the value of their annual output is for eggs two hundred millions of dollars and for live poultry one hundred millions, making three hundred millions worth annually. We are of course a small territory as compared with the United States,—but it is no mean thing—it is not a small industry. It will not do for anyone to tell me that it is not worth bothering about—it is too great already to remain unnoticed—it is worthy of our best effort in order to develop and make further advancement.

The point I wish to make is that by introducing this better blood, we are bound to increase the value of the annual output considerably. How much that may be increased, you can tell better than I can. I do not think it would take very much effort to increase it 25 per cent, which would mean another million dollars annually.

I think an Association of this kind should keep in mind that so far as the mass of the people are concerned, to whom we direct our efforts, practical utility is what is required. I do not doubt for a moment that some of you are breeding and caring for your poultry as a recreation, that is, you are doing it for the fun of the thing. But the general farmer of this country does not do so for that reason at all, it is dollars and cents with him that forms the incentive to improve the quality and increase the quantity of his output, and you cannot bring any other motive to bear upon him. I want you to bear this in mind. It is not the particular color of the wing, or tail feathers of a particular breed that the farmer is anxious about but rather the quantity of eggs that come in the basket every day, and the quality of the bird he can send to market. We must bear this in mind in giving our information if we hope to improve the general product.

Now how are we going to accomplish this? By what means shall we disseminate information, and how shall we cause the farmers of the country generally to become more interested in this industry? My answer is by means of this Association. This is the means that I feel bound to undertake to use towards this end.

The holding of this exhibition is not the sole end you ought to have in view for your existence,—it is not the ulti-