

During the present year \$1,271,700 will be spent in improvements and enlargements to the various buildings, to make them more commodious and capable of better service.

In 1917 a beneficial measure was passed enabling alcoholic or drug addicts to secure the benefit of treatment at these institutions without objectionable notoriety. This legislation was copied in many places.

A Home For Every Child.

The Province makes large annual grants to hospitals and charities that carry on work of a public character. How these grants have grown may be seen from the following table:

1904	\$236,592
1913	416,812
1918	574,757

Ontario was the pioneer province in Canada to take up the question of the care of dependent and neglected children. Since its inception the work of the Branch has been enlarged and made more efficient. The organization maintained now extends into every part of the Province. The main features of the work are (1) the prevention of cruelty or ill-treatment of children; (2) to provide good foster homes for homeless children and not send them to orphanages or other institutions. The law was enlarged to provide for the establishment of juvenile courts for the separate trial of children. Carrying out its purpose in this respect, the Dependent and Neglected Children's Branch working through the Children's Aid Society, has sixty-two branches in Ontario. Along with these branches there are forty-five agents, whose work is having a marked result in the reduction in the number of cases that finally reach the courts. Increased governmental appropriations enable a close inspection to be kept on the 5,000 children in the foster homes, while the records of the Branch show that some 16,000 have passed through the hands of the officers of the society.

Implementing the extension of the legislative franchise to women, amendments were made to the Municipal Act, enabling women, properly qualified, to vote at municipal elections and to hold municipal offices. Heretofore this has applied only to elections for school boards or boards of education. Farmers daughters are also eligible as school trustees.

Coal and Food Shortage

To meet the situation arising out of the coal shortage, the Provincial Secretary implemented the desire of local municipalities to establish fuel yards, enabling legislation being passed. Later, municipalities were empowered to purchase seeds and plants to aid in crop production during the food scarcity.