

addition to the grant of \$9,500 to the fairs, an additional sum of \$5,000 has been added. The stockmen are using every opportunity to further their interests.

Encouragement is given to the holding of sales of pure-bred stock by the voting of \$800, to be used for advertising and other necessary expenses.

The passing of the Act respecting the Enrollment and Inspection of Stallions is a very great stride toward the gradual elimination of the inferior stallions now in use in some parts of the Province. Last year it was not allowed to reach the House, but passed this year without any serious difficulty. A Stallion Enrollment Board will be formed, consisting of five men. The Board will issue certificates upon the receipt of sufficient evidence of breeding and ownership, and upon the payment of the necessary fee. Competent persons will be appointed by the Minister to make inspections, under the direction of the Board; three such inspectors will form a committee. No person will be allowed to stand, travel or offer for use any stallion unless and until the name, description and pedigree of such stallion has been enrolled and a certificate granted. These certificates must be renewed annually. All stallions must be inspected every two years, except those which had reached the age of eight years at the time of the first inspection. The fees accompanying this Act are—For enrollment, \$2.00; for inspection, \$5.00; for renewal of enrollment, \$1.00; for transfer certificate, \$1.00. It will come into force on August 1st, 1912.

FARMER'S INSTITUTES.

The Shortcourse work is rapidly becoming heavier yearly, due principally to the activity of the District Representatives. The Women's Institutes are growing very fast; there are 700 in the Province up to date. Farmers' Clubs are becoming very popular. An additional \$1,300 was voted for increased expenses and to aid in running the "Better-farming Special." The C. P. R. furnished a train, and the Agricultural Department, through the Institute Branch and O. A. College furnished the material for exhibition and arranged for speakers. The territory from Windsor to Montreal, and from Toronto to Goderich and Owen Sound, was covered.

DAIRY.

The granting of \$63,950 toward dairy instruction and inspection work throughout Ontario every year, with moderate increases, is an indication of the extent and importance of the industry. Greater care is being exercised in the appointment of competent men as inspectors for cheese and butter factories. Experimental work is being carried on, and exhibits, especially of an educational nature, are being held at every opportunity.

FRUIT BRANCH.

Ontario's fruit industry is growing by leaps and bounds. The fruit-growers are entitled to all the support that can be given for investigation and extension work. An additional \$3,000 will be used for instruction and inspection connected with proper spraying of orchards. Instruction is given in pruning wherever necessary. Packing demonstrations are becoming very popular. Orchard competitions will be held. Demonstration orchards are now being managed in many more sections than formerly. This year, Elgin, Huron, Grey, Simcoe, Dufferin, York, Ontario, Northumberland, Durham, Hastings, Dundas and Glengarry will all have orchards under supervision.

The November Apple Show will be enlarged, allowing for the exhibition of apples in large lots, for which prizes will be arranged. More space for the regular exhibits will be offered.

The Jordan Harbor Farm will be made more complete by a fruit-storage building costing \$3,000. The present barn will be completed.

The apiary inspection work will be extended under similar methods of those of last year. The need for close inspection is great, and \$1,000 extra will greatly facilitate matters.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES.

Up to date, there are twenty-one District Representatives of the Department throughout Ontario. An increased grant of \$8,000, making a total of \$36,500, has been made for defraying expenses only; their salaries are provided by the Education Department. These men aid greatly in the extension work carried on by the Fruit Branch, and also engage in the Institute work. There will be new offices opened up during this year, but their location has not yet been decided upon. Since last June, the offices at Sault Ste. Marie and Fort William have been made permanent, and the office at New Liskeard opened. The scale of salaries has been changed: the minimum is \$1,200, with an increase of \$100 per year, to a maximum of \$1,500 per year.

COLONIZATION.

The regular work of bringing out settlers, farm laborers and domestics has been carried on as

usual by the bonus and assisted-passage schemes. The question of extensive advertising is a serious one at the present time.

With the development of New Ontario, the Demonstration Farm at Monteith requires more attention. A new barn has been erected. Further experiments with seeds will be carried on under the direction of C. A. Galbraith, the District Representative at New Liskeard. The grant of \$11,000 will cover building, clearing, wages, equipment and miscellaneous expenses.

ACT TO AID PUBLICITY.

The great possibilities of Ontario have become apparent to many, and the bringing of this fact before intending investors and present owners requires a local publicity campaign in nearly all cases. So far this work has been carried on by local grants entirely, but in the future, every county entering upon such work will receive from the department one dollar for every two they expend, with a limit of \$1,000 for total expenditure. A vote of \$3,000 has been made, which will give aid to nine counties, if the maximum is reached.

ACT RESPECTING FEDERAL GRANTS FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES.

The Dominion Government, realizing that the contention held by some that they should each year vote a subsidy to the Provincial Department of Agriculture, was justifiable, have this year granted \$500,000 for this purpose, of which \$175,733.32 comes to Ontario. This money will be spent according to the agreement entered upon between the Provincial and Dominion Departments. As yet, no hard-and-fast rules have been made, and no doubt the fund will be divided among the various departments, District Representatives and the Ontario Agricultural College. Nothing definite can be said, except that the money will be spent where greatest returns can be had.

Several Acts have been amended during the session. The protection of sheep against dogs has been made more perfect; the protection of bees during the period of full bloom of the fruit trees is also provided for. It is useless, harmful and wasteful to spray when the blossoms are advanced and the bees can work; spraying should be done earlier and later. The amending of the Noxious Weeds Act and the Fruit Pest Act will aid in keeping weeds and diseases in check, by more forcibly bringing the matter before farmers; \$1,000 has been voted for the enforcement of the Fruit Pests Act. Special investigation will be made by Mr. Caesar upon Yellow and Little Peach. Under his direction, further work will be carried on concerning the railroad worm and apple maggot.

The granting of \$5,000,000 for the development of New Ontario will have a very great bearing upon Ontario's agriculture. Part of this money will be used for agricultural purposes. New and larger markets will be opened for Older Ontario; proper marketing of surplus crops from the Clay Belt will no doubt be arranged. Many new districts will be opened for settlement. The possibilities of that country will become known not in other countries only, but in our own Province, as well.

W. R. R.

The Ontario Teachers' Convention

The annual meeting of the Ontario Association of Teachers, Inspectors and School Trustees was held this year, as usual, in Toronto, during Easter week. The attendance was up to former records; the Secretary reported on the second day the issue of over 700 membership tickets. The general meetings are held in the evenings; this year they were not well attended. The real work of the convention is carried on during the day sessions, in the seventeen sections into which the Association is divided.

Looking over the nineteen pages of topics and titles making up the year's collective programme, one does not find so much as usual bearing directly on rural and agricultural education. The words "curriculum," "examinations," "regulations," appear over and over again—indeed, the Strathcona Trust is more in evidence than agriculture. Speaking on that topic, Principal Auden, of Upper Canada College, combated the arguments against cadet drill in schools; while Principal Hutton, of University College, who had charge of the "Strathcona Trust" in the Public School section, argued that, because this is a peaceful time, there is the more need to have military training in our schools. He pleaded that Greece's decay began with the decline of militarism, and that Canadians should heed the warning of history. There was no trouble in

getting the teachers to endorse physical training; they went so far as to accept military exercises, but they balked against approving of rifle-shooting in the schools.

Bi-lingualism figures in several sections. The Public and High School Trustees' Department went so far as to appoint a committee to promote the amendment of the Act to make it impossible to have any other language than English dominant in any Ontario school.

The insufficiency and inefficiency of the teacher-supply was debated in several rooms. Inspector Froats had calculated that fourteen hundred teachers are now needed to catch up with the shortage and supply the ordinary depletion from the marrying of lady teachers and other causes. To meet this need, only about 800 trained recruits are forthcoming. Principal McIntyre, of Winnipeg, testified that the continuous single Normal School term had not proved a success in Manitoba. They are now, except for graduates, dividing the term into two periods—a short one, of about the duration of our former Model School term, with an intervening year of actual teaching; and then a longer period at the Normal School, of about six months. The proposition of a divided term was favored by speakers in several departments.

The stay-in-the-Province pledge, which it is proposed to require, was scored rather hardly. Inspector Campbell was applauded for saying that, instead of blaming teachers for going to the Canadian West, he would bid them God-speed! Canada needs teachers with Ontario ideals to take charge of the youth of the unformed West.

In the trustees' section, Inspector Putman, of the City of Ottawa, grappled with what was called the rural-school-teacher problem. He argued that the present system, which was a good one in Dr. Ryerson's day, is totally unsuited to this 20th century. Capable young men and women are not now, as they were formerly, attracted to the teaching profession. He instanced a township of ten schools that at one time within the past two years had not a single teacher holding a certificate of even the lowest grade. The remedy he proposed is Consolidation. Build fine, big schools, he said, in central locations, with teacher's residence attached, and even dormitories for the children who have to come long distances. Mr. McDougall, of North Bay Normal School, supported the plea for Consolidated Schools. He related the good results in one of the new townships, where three teams—one of them belonging to the school board—were employed to haul the children back and forth. When asked about the winter roads, he replied, that near North Bay the deep snow is rolled, and becomes hard enough to carry a wagon. He was sure that, were the consolidated school once introduced into Old Ontario, the preference for it would soon become general.

Agriculture came in for some attention as incidental to manual training and vocational education. Prof. S. B. McCready stated that, up to the present there are only 33 schools in the Province with teachers in agriculture, a circumstance probably due to the fact that neither the people nor the teachers understand the regulations on the subject. He will shortly send out charts, outlining lessons on a particular grain, and he entertains hope of much benefit from the distribution of seed packets and the circulation of Circular No. 13. A New Zealand teacher, R. H. Ferguson, stated that agriculture and dairying are optional subjects of instruction in the schools of that island. The teachers teaching these subjects receive an additional grant.

A Whiff of Country Life.

I have much pleasure in enclosing herewith bank cheque for \$4.50. This will cover my arrears and subscription for current year towards "The Farmer's Advocate."

I appreciate very much your generosity in forwarding the paper so regularly. It is the most welcomed paper we have, and brings a whiff of wholesome country life to our home every week that helps us to forget the cares and worries of artificial town life, by keeping us in touch with nature.

I sincerely believe that if more townspeople read your paper the whole world would benefit. In many of our towns and cities there are virgin fields for an active subscription campaign.

Missisquoi Co., Que.

CHAS. E. HERD.

The tide of interest must be rising. The April 4th number of "The Farmer's Advocate" contained specific answers to one hundred and five questions, asked by subscribers, while many other answers had to be held over, as usual, for want of space.