

THE FARM BULLETIN.

Agricultural and Horticultural Society Grants.

We are indebted to a communication from Mr. H. B. Cowan, Provincial Superintendent of Agricultural Societies, for a very complete statement regarding the way in which the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies of Ontario are likely to be affected by the new Agricultural Act, passed during the last session of the Legislature. Hitherto the grants to the societies have been given on the basis of membership, henceforth (i.e., beginning with 1907) the basis will be the amount of money expended by each society for actual agricultural purposes and exhibits. Amounts expended on outside amusements, etc., will not enter into the calculation at all.

In order to give the societies some indication as to the amount of the grants which they may expect to receive next year, a very comprehensive list has been prepared by the Department, giving the name of each society, the average grant for 1903-4-5, the average expenditure for the same years, and the approximate grant each society would have received on the expenditure basis this year had that been made the basis, and which it is likely to receive for 1907. The increase or decrease in the grant for each district is also specified.

In looking over the list, we find that the total grant for 1903-4-5 amounted to \$69,689, the total expenditure to \$192,046, and the total approximate grant for 1907, \$67,858. Nearly 200 of the societies will have their grants increased more or less, and 146 of them will receive a decreased amount. Three are marked "equal." Society officers will now realize the importance, in so far as they appreciate the grants, of running their shows on legitimate agricultural lines. Twenty-seven agricultural societies will receive an approximate increase of \$150 and over, the highest being Lanark, increased by \$338; Wellington S., \$319; Seneca and Oneida, \$313; Nottawasaga, \$306; Howard, \$264; Mersea, \$259, and so on. On the other hand, 34 agricultural societies will be decreased by \$150 and over, those winning the highest score in this departure being Ontario S., decreased by \$377; Hastings to \$376; G. South Western, \$375; Huron East, \$291; Ontario N., \$285; Hastings E., \$274; and Prescott, \$268. In the report, all societies holding spring stallion shows have been credited with the maximum grant of \$50.

Among the Horticultural Societies, seven—Aylmer, Windsor, St. Catharines, Clifford, Ottawa, London and Toronto—will have an increase of over \$100, while a considerable number, although not receiving so substantial an uplift as this, will find their grants materially increased. Only two of the Horticultural Societies will have their grants decreased by over \$50, these being Napanee, decreased by \$69, and Brantford, by \$66. Deseronto follows by a decrease of \$46, while Renfrew and Niagara Falls will congratulate themselves at getting off with a decrease of \$1.00 each.

Section 19, Horticultural Societies Act, 1907, reads: An amount not exceeding \$8,000 shall be subject to division among the Horticultural Societies of the Province, as follows:

(a) \$2,400 shall be subject to division among all the societies, in proportion to the total number of members of each society in any preceding year.

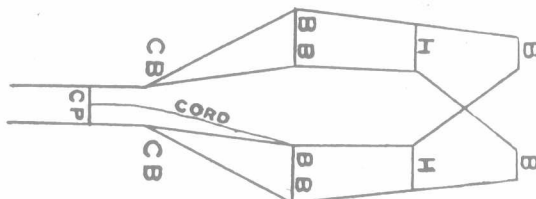
(b) \$4,800 shall be subject to division among all the societies, in proportion to the total amount expended by each society during the preceding year for horticultural purposes, as shown by their sworn statement, provided for in section 17.

(c) In addition to the above, \$800 shall be subject to division among horticultural societies in cities having a population of 30,000 or over, in proportion to the number of members in the current year, as shown by sworn statement provided for in section 17.

By the new Act, no society shall be entitled to receive a total grant of over \$800. In every case this year's grant was made on the old basis, the increase or decrease, as the case may be, going into effect next year.

A Harness Attachment.

As every horseman knows, the early fall, when most of the plowing is done, is the worst time of the year for flies, as the cool nights and warm days make them unusually bloodthirsty. By constant switching to rid himself of these pests, a horse soon acquires the habit of holding the lines whenever he can get them in the position to do so. Of course, when plowing, the line lies over his croup, where it is easily gripped by his tail, so that it is often a difficult if not a dangerous task to plow with such a horse. For those who are troubled in this way, the device described below will prove useful. It has been used for some time by the writer, and has given satisfaction. Get two ordinary rings, two buckles and a 1-inch strap 24 inches long. Punch holes in this 1½ inches apart, i.e.,



B—B, bits; H H, hames; B B, backbands; C B, center buckle; C P, cross piece.

15 holes. Turn the ends in toward the middle and use the buckles to make adjustable loops like that in a backstrap. By buckling them into the holes on each side of the middle hole, the completed piece will be 12 inches long. Put one of the rings in each end and run the lines through them. This will keep the lines about 15 inches apart, with the result that neither line is within reach of either horse; at any rate, not close enough to let him get a holding grip on it. I find that the line generally lies just across the point of the hip. The strap can be lengthened by buckling into a hole farther from the middle, or shortened by shifting the buckle into a hole farther from the end. To keep the strap from slipping back on the lines, I run a heavy cord through the middle hole and knot it behind, and tie the other end into the buckle that joins the bellyband and backband on the "nigh" side of the "off" horses. This cord must be of such length that the rings through which the lines run are about 18 inches back from the check buckles. This device is effective, though crude, and anyone may improve on it in any way he desires. One advantage of this simple form is that it can be made in a very short time, which is important in a busy time, as at present. Rope lines for plowing are out of date in our neighborhood. C. C. S.

Western Dairymen at London.

The executive of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association have been fortunate in securing the promised attendance and an address from E. H. Webster, Chief of the Dairy Division, Washington, for the annual convention, to be held in London, Ont., January 16th, 17th and 18th next. A splendid list of prizes will be offered for the exhibit of butter and cheese.

Uncle Sam's Railways.

The astonishing total of 26 deaths per day by accident on U. S. railways during the last statistical year, gives rise, perhaps, to some little interest regarding the railways themselves and the way in which they are managed. By the report of the Interstate Commerce Commission, recently issued, we find the following figures, representing statistics for the year ending June 30th, 1905.

In the United States there is a total mileage of railway track amounting to 306,796.74 miles, an increase within the year of 9,723.40 miles. The amount of single track in all is 218,101.04 miles. Upon these tracks run 48,357 locomotives and 1,842,871 cars, nearly all the locomotives and cars in the passenger service being provided with train brakes, and all but 82 locomotives with automatic couplers. Practically all the freight locomotives had both brakes and automatic couplers.

The traffic on the lines for the year amounted to 1,427,731,905 tons, and the number of passengers to 738,834,667, this being an increase of 23,414,985 over the preceding year; and the number of employees in charge of all this freightage, human, and otherwise, appears at 1,382,196, or an average of 637 employees per 100 miles of line. The total number of casualties was 9,703 killed and 86,008 injured. As the number of passengers killed was only 537, it will be seen that by far the greatest mortality was among the employees. Upon the whole, 1 passenger was killed for every 1,375,856 carried, and 1 injured for every 70,055 carried.

Uncle Sam's expenditure for all this railway line is, of course, substantial; so, also, are his revenues. During the past year the expenses were placed at \$1,390,602,152, the gross earnings at \$2,082,482,406, while at the back of all stands a capital of \$13,805,258,121, in stock, mortgage bonds, income bonds, trust obligations, etc. The amount of dividends declared during the year was \$237,964,482, or an equivalent of 5.78 per cent. on dividend-paying stock.

Ontario Vegetable Prospects.

The vegetable crops of Ontario have suffered from drought. While occasional showers fell during the month in some localities, they did not improve the situation to any marked extent. Reports received by H. B. Cowan, Secretary of the Ontario Vegetable-growers' Association, from the crop correspondents of the Association in all parts of the Province, indicate that the condition of the crops on the whole is much below the standard. Most vegetables have not reached their normal size; maturity has been retarded. Tomatoes ripened too rapidly; they are about done; the crop has been only fair. Celery has varied in the different districts. Some report a good crop, while others report a failure. On the whole, the late crop will be under the average in yield, but of fair quality. Drought and aphid have injured cauliflower and cabbage; the crop is poor. Late melons are excellent in yield and quality. Sweet corn is under average. Squash and pumpkins have turned out well. Cucumbers, poor. Fall spinach is scarce. Onions, as predicted last month, have turned out only half a crop, of good quality, but under size. Beets, parsnips, carrots and turnips are below the estimate; they are yielding less than normal. Potatoes are reported to be less than half a crop, slightly above in some localities, and a failure in others.

Investigation of Horse Industry of Ontario.

At the last session of the Legislature, Mon. Mr. Monteith, the Minister of Agriculture, secured an appropriation for the purpose of making an investigation into the condition of the horse industry in the Province of Ontario. This work is now being undertaken by the Livestock Branch of the Department of Agriculture of Ontario, and will be commenced early in October. The object of this investigation is to obtain information, to be used in deciding as to the best policy to adopt for the more extensive breeding of a better class of horses. Following are the principal points which will be considered in the course of the investigation:

1. The quality and quantity and breeding of stallions and mares in the Province.

2. What factors are at present or are affecting the quality of the stallions and mares and brood mares in the various parts of the Province, and if the effect is for good or bad, and if the conditions could be applied to the other parts of the Province, and if the conditions have not been applied, and if they should be done to remove them.

3. What class of horses are being raised in different sections of the Province, and the natural conditions found in each section.

4. The system of owning horses by a syndicate, and any other plan at present adopted in Ontario, other than private ownership.

5. The views of horsemen generally as to the advisability of a Stallion Inspection Act.

6. Suggestions from those interested in the horse business as to what can be done to improve conditions of the horse business generally.

In order to procure this information, all the stallions throughout the Province will be inspected. The Province will be divided into eight districts, and from five to six weeks spent in each district by the committee appointed for that district. The districts will be composed of a number of counties grouped together. The number of counties in each district is decided by the length of time required to go through a county. Each county will require from four to nine days. The information regarding stallions will be as detailed as possible. The information regarding mares cannot be got so accurately, but a great deal of information can be procured from the stallion owners in each district as to number, type and quality of mares, which the committee will have an opportunity of confirming by noting the appearance of the mares seen while travelling through the district. Regarding the other matters of a more general nature, information will only be procured by close observation and by conversation with those met by the committee who may have any knowledge of the local conditions.

In addition to the work as above outlined, it is

being arranged to have one public meeting in each county at some point centrally located, and where a special interest is taken in the horse industry. The object of the meeting is to give any person who so desires an opportunity of expressing his views to the committee. The meeting in each county will be held immediately after the committee has completed the work in that county.

In each Farmers' Institute district the secretary has been asked to assist in the work of procuring the names and addresses of the stallion owners, and laying out the most convenient route for the committee to follow while in his district. He has also been asked to accompany the committee, and to arrange for the public meeting in the county. In cases where the secretary was unable to do the work, the president of the Farmers' Institute has been asked to make the necessary arrangements. Arrangements have been completed for the dates allowed for each Institute division, the dates and points at which the public meetings will be held, and the points at which committees will transfer from one Institute district to the one following.

The work should have the sympathy and co-operation of all owners of stallions and of all who are interested in the horse industry. It is hoped that the committees will be given every facility for procuring the information required, and that every person interested will take advantage of the opportunity being given to express his views as to how the horse industry of this Province can best be improved.