

and fruit-growers were growing more important and demanding governmental care and regulation. The Government, therefore, wisely decided to entrust the care of all the agricultural interests of the province to a minister of the Crown, who should be entitled Minister of Agriculture, and the Department of Agriculture was thereupon instituted, and the Hon. Charles Drury became its first official head. The Minister of Agriculture also assumed control of the Bureau

and the diffusion of knowledge, and the dissemination of practical information and the results of practical experience, which, as we have seen, is the peculiar duty of a governmental chief officer.

#### MR. DRURY AS MINISTER.

The Hon. Charles Drury, who was our first Minister of Agriculture, was in every way qualified to discharge successfully the high and important duties entrusted to him. A man of the strictest honor and integrity, a forcible and fluent



The Hon. John Dryden, Brooklin,  
Minister of Agriculture for Ontario.

of Industries, which had been constituted six years before. Recognition was thus fittingly given to the important place that agriculture holds in our province. The Minister of Agriculture is a member of the Executive Council, and is responsible to the legislature for the work of his department. He is at the head of the agricultural interests of the country, and is supposed to carry out and direct that policy of education

speaker, an able debater, and a gentleman of infinite tact and most affable and approachable disposition, he not only lent dignity and grace to the position, but also, by his solid sound sense, practical experience, and economical though just administration of the affairs of his department, gained for himself the approval even of political opponents, who would have been quick to detect faults in his work if faults there were to be found.