

entering on its twenty-fifth year. Taking both of these movements into consideration, the wonder is that the agricultural population has stood the strain as well as it has. Looking over such statistics as are available and studying a number of districts personally as I have been able to do during the past few years, I have come to the conclusion that agriculture in Ontario has entered upon an upward movement that is already making itself felt. Rural population showed a steady increase from Confederation in 1867 to 1886, when the Canadian Pacific Railway was opened. From that year the decrease was just as marked down to 1906. Now we are on the upgrade again, though the increase as yet is not very great. In addition, there is a decided increase in the total farm values of the province and the total values of farm products also are showing most encouraging increases year by year.

**The Solution:** Intensive agriculture and the production of high grade food are what we are aiming at. Those who have studied the problem are aware that it is not an easy task. Again and again we are advised of what the well-farmed countries of Europe are doing—and it is well to keep this example before our people—but, of course, the conditions are quite different. There, land is dear and labour is cheap; here, land is cheap and labour is dear. It becomes, therefore, an interesting and complicated problem to work out, with cheap land and dear labour, plans and methods of work that will result in procuring adequate reward for labour and at the same time conserve our soil resources. As far as Ontario is concerned at the present time and with our present style of farming, it is not so much a question of conserving our soil as conserving our labour. What we are aiming at is to make the labour now being expended more effective. We have some millions of acres that need draining. If drained, they could be worked more easily and they would produce more abundantly,—hence, a campaign for underdrainage is being carried on. We have in Ontario the finest apple growing section of large area on the North American continent. We have a few thousand trees well cared for, productive of good fruit, but we have (I think I am not putting it extravagantly) millions of trees neglected, uncared for, whose production is uncertain and more or less unprofitable. We have been demonstrating in the past few years that in the neglected apple orchards we have one of our greatest assets,—hence, our orchard demonstration campaign. We have over one million milch cows on the farms producing on the average not over 4,000 pounds of milk a year. If 200,000 of the unprofitable animals were exterminated, there would be a saving of labour, a saving of food, and