

mind and heart, of our whole country population may be earnestly directed without any sort of danger, is that of agricultural employment. Really there is a social danger in drawing the attention of all our semi-educated people to other pursuits than the agricultural. [Applause.] It is a mistake that our schools give so little attention to those matters which in fact ought to be the pursuit of the bulk of our youngsters-whom they are bringing up. [Cheers.] You may have in this country just as many farmers as can live; but you cannot have more than a certain number of tradesmen and artisans, unless you greatly change the features of our country in respect of its manufacturing and other industrial interests; and change it as you may, you will still have the more need of agriculturists. And yet, the whole course of our teaching goes to give a boy the notion that he must be something better than a farmer! Nine-tenths of those moved by this poor ambition become worse than farmers. The axe must be laid to the root of the tree. We must give something of an agricultural character to the teaching of this agricultural country. It is important to disseminate sound views as to agriculture, while encouraging other industries. There is much to teach the people respecting agriculture; carried on wisely, on a different system, it would turn our exhausted lands into garden instead of into a desert, while it would arrest the exhaustion of other lands. This truth has to be instilled into the minds of the people; and you cannot do it, unless you make the bulk of our farmers aware of the fact that there is much to be learned and taught in this matter; you must begin everywhere to do what is destined to be a very great work indeed. [Cheers.] This item is regarded by the Government simply as an initiatory vote. I regard it simply as a beginning, as a pledge that something is to be done earnestly in this direction. I believe the country will be well satisfied that we should give this pledge, and that the Government should do its best to redeem it to the country. Adding all those items together, we get a grand total of \$374,590, to be expended in connection with educational objects proper.

I turn now to a matter very nearly connected with that of which I have been speaking; agriculture, immigration and colonization. In connexion with this matter, the House will not forget the \$14,400 for agricultural teaching, of which I have just spoken. Besides this, for agricultural societies, \$80,058.60 are set down; \$46,000 or more, of which have been already expended for last season, under the statute which appropriates money to these societies. I have not put into the estimates the double of that sum; because the Government have come to the conclusion to suggest to the House a certain modicum of change in regard to those societies. I believe it is the strong feeling of the Agricultural Committee, that our system of agricultural societies is open to some improvement. The machinery we have is not perfect by any means. The present law gives to those societies, when organized, from the public funds, three times the amount of their subscriptions; the grant in any county not exceeding \$800. I think that this is for us, in the present state of the country, too much; that a less proportion would serve every public end quite as well, and perhaps a better. [Cheers.] If agricultural societies contributed more than one-fourth of their revenue, they would be more shrewd and practical; and, in a public point of view, more just in regard to the exhibitions, than they are now. The rule that they should contribute only one-fourth of the money