

of Agriculture, and the money expended through that Department. Then note these figures:—

Federal Grant for Agriculture, 1904.....	Nothing
Federal Grant for Agriculture, 1914.....	\$230,880.32

which means that altogether there is available for agricultural work this year more than three times as much as in the last year of the Liberal Government. A glance at the manner in which the money is spent is equally striking.

## DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Number in 1904.....	None
Number in 1914.....	40

The need of some better means of getting in close touch with the farmer, and disseminating information gained at Agricultural Colleges and Experimental Stations, was pointed out by Sir James Whitney while in Opposition. Out of his advocacy at that time has grown the splendid system of District Representatives which is now so well known all over the province and is unstintedly praised by both Liberal and Conservative alike. The plan was inaugurated in a small way soon after the Whitney Government came into office. It consists, as is well known, of appointing a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College to reside permanently at some convenient point in the county and devote his whole time to studying the agricultural needs of that county, and doing his best to assist the farmers in meeting the conditions in which they find themselves. Each Representative has a well-equipped office, which becomes a central meeting-place for the farmers, and also an assistant to help him meet the rapidly increasing and varied demands. The plan has proven popular because it was practical and effective, and especially during the last two or three years it has been extended very rapidly until now very few counties are without a local office of the Department of Agriculture. The appointments in each case have been made after the County Council has passed a resolution and agreed to support the work with the nominal sum of \$500 per year.

Ontario has the enviable distinction of leading in this work on this continent. In the last few years it has been taken up quite extensively across the line, and is now known to a greater or less extent in almost every State in the Union. No State, however, has yet developed it to the same proportion and extent as Ontario. Likewise it is being adopted in the other provinces of Canada. It is the outstanding new feature of the Whitney Government's agricultural policy, and it is striking evidence of their initiative and progressiveness.

## COURSES FOR YOUNG MEN

Number in 1904.....	None
Number in 1914.....	30
Attendance.....	550

The appointment of District Representatives has made possible many very effective lines of instruction not hitherto possible. One of the best of these is the holding of a Course of four or five weeks in the winter time, when the young men of the farm can easily get away. This part of the work is carried on in co-operation with the Department of Education, as is also other and more extended instruction given in the High Schools in some centres. In the Short Courses, however, instruction is given in the class-room in the morning, and generally the afternoons are utilized by visiting nearby farms and going over the live-stock equipment or other features. In this way the Course is made as interesting and practical as possible, and hardly ever fails to develop a marked enthusiasm in the young men for their work on the farm. During the past winter many of these classes concluded with the formation of a permanent organization called The Young Farmers' Improvement Association. This is full of possibilities for the future.