M.A. Lepp, C.L.

RURAL PROGRESS IN OLD ONTARIO.

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Chapter 1.

THE UNEVEN TREND OF PROGRESS.

That progress ebbs and flows, is generally conceded by students of sociology and history. Its advance is rarely steady and unbroken. Like the ocean tides, it rises and falls advances and recedes; but each time it encroaches a little more upon the land, gradually wearing away the unprotected share. And so it is with the tide of progress, experiencing many reverses but at each advance registering a higher mark than at the last advance, and as the years and centuries roll by, the battle against ignorance, aganist folly, against selfishness and greed, against all the primal obstacles of life turns more and more in the tide of progress.

Much has been written lately of rural depletion in the population of Canada. In many counties, and townships of Ontario are to be found deserted farmhouses and farms given over to pasture land, churches closed and fallen into dilapidation, and school houses with only two or three pupils. This is the dark side of the picture. The purpose of this thesis is to show the reverse side, to suggest, to prove if possible, that the retrogression in certain counties and townships has been more than balanced by the progress in the majority of the counties and townships, more especially in the last decade or thereabouts. Granted that the population of rural Ontario has fallen off enormously in the last half century, can we not point to greater comforts, great progressiveness, greater luxuries, and advantages for the rural population that still

remains. Since the dawn of the Twentieth Century the rural telephone, rural Mail Delivery, and Hydro Electric Power have come as three great booms to the Farmer brightening more than any other advantages could the hitherto lonely and isolated life of the sparsely settled sideroads and concessions, and bring the Farmer into closer touch with the great World beyond his homestead and native township.

And now the tide of population is flowing back again, not so noticeably or so rapidly perhaps as it rushed away to other provinces, or states, but it has at least commenced to flow back to Old Ontario. Men who left this Province for the West in the 90's or earlier are coming back again. The lure of the plains, of the vaster lands, and more arable, but not more fertile, soil has lost its charm. The spell is broken and Old Ontario is calling her Sons and Daughters home again.

Progress in Old Ontario was steady and fairly unbroken during the first half of the Nineteenth Century and continued in the latter half up to the Seventies. Then the tide of Emigration began. Michigan, New York, and other border states called with greater opportunities for enterprising youth and young men crossed the Border in great numbers. The steadily growing cities of the province also called the Farmer Boy and Girl away from their quiet Homestead to the life and bustle and activity of the city and town.

But it was not until after the termination of the Red River Rebellion, when Manitoba and the other Prairie states were opened up, following the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway, that the strong tide of Emigration really began. Whole families, and in some cases almost entire communities, indeed

whole groups of neighbors, left Ontario by the Hundreds and thousands, and this tide of emigration continued well into the Twentieth Century. Now hundreds of these Ontarians are returning home with their families, and with wider ideas, and knowledge of new methods of agriculture, acquired during their stay in the West, where contacts with Emigrants from the Western States and other Countries increased their interest in life and in the mastery of life and its problems.

There is also a strong homeward tide from the United States. And what is more, several counties in Ontario have been invaded in force by American Farmers. The City of Detroit and other cities and towns of Michigan for years drew largely on Western Ontario for increase in their population, In a great many of the towns and cities of Michigan one would find a very high percentage of the population to be Canadian born. Particularly is this true of the border cities of Detroit and Port Huron. Several years ago the Michigan farmer looked for cheaper and better land, for fruit growing and intensive farming, discovered it practically at his very door, but across the Detroit River in the County of Essex. Now the County of Essex is almost entirely given over to intensive farming. The population has been greatly increased and the County is one of the most progressive in the Province. The Michigan Farmer is still coming and finding all the available land in Essex County taken up he is invading in turn Kent, and Lambton Counties.

Similarly in the Eastern Counties although perhaps to a less marked extent, Canadians are returning from the United States and American are coming with them. Boston, Mass., is often referred to as the Third largest Canadian city, because its population includes 200,000 natives of Canada

Of course this emigration of Canadians has been largely drawn from Quebec and the Maritime Provinces but just as Boston and New England drew so heavily from Quebec and the Maritime so have the towns and cities of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Michigan, drew very largely from Ontario. Of course only a part of the emigration to the United States was from the rural districts of Ontario but it may be taken for granted that it was a large part and for every urban emigrant, the city which he left drew from the adjoining country a farmer boy to take his place.

Farmers' associations in the last few years have exhibited new life and activity; the advantage of co-operating in the buying of supplies and the marketing of products has been realized by the Farmer and co-operative fruit- growers Associations are to be found throughout Ontario. Co-operative Creameries and Cheese Factories are coming more into favor, and taking an example from the Grain Growers' Association of the prairie Provinces, the Ontario Farmer is slowing but steadily coming to the conclusion that where all other industries and activities of trade, Commerce and Manufacture are united in their own interests and very often against the farmers interests, it is the height of folly for the Farmer to overlook the strength and advantage of Farmers' Unions and Associations.

School Fair Associations and school gardens and the extension of rural school libraries and other institutions have greatly benefited rural life in the last few years. The use of the school as a social centre is still in the embryo stage of experimentation, but is bound to prove favorable. The rural church is experiencing a marked awakening to the close relations which the every-day life of the people bear to their

spiritual condition, and hundreds of earnest, capable and high minded rural pastors are lending their best efforts to the assistance, encouragement and inspiration of the parishioners in every phase, and sphere of life.

Chapter 2.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN FARMERS' ORGANIZATIONS.

"The difficulty in uniting the farmers of America for any form of co-operative endeavor long ago became proverbial. The business of farming encouraged indivualism; co-operative isolation bred independence; and restricted means of communication made union physically difficult, even amongst those who might be disposed to unite. It was not strange, therefore, that the agricultural masses developed a state of mind unfavorable for organization, that they became suspicious of one another, jealous of leadership, unwilling to keep the pledges of Union, and unable to sink personal views and prejudices."

"It must not be supposed, however, that the farmers themselves have failed to realize the situation, or that no genuinely progressive steps have been taken to remedy it. During the last four decades at least, the strongest men that the rural classes have produced have labored with their fellows, both in season and out of season, for union of efforts; and their efforts have been by no means in vain. It is true that sime of the attempts at co-operation have been ill- judged, even fantastic. It is true that much of the machinery of organization failed to work and can be found on the social junk-pile, in company with the other discarded implements not wholly rural in origin. But it is also true that great progress has been made; that the spirit of co-operation is rapidly emerging as a factor in rural social life; and that the weapons of rural organization have a temper all the better, perhaps, because they were fashioned on the anvil of defeat".[1]

1 & 2" Chapters in Rural Progress " by K.L. Butterfield P.

President Butterfield in writing these lines had especially in mind the organization and career of the National Grange of the United States. To a large extent they are applicable also to the organization and career of the Dominion Grange and similar farmers' organizations in Old Ontario

The Grange was founded in 1867 by O.H. Kelly, a clerk in the Department of Agriculture at Washington under the name of the "National Grange of the Patrons of Husbandry". In 1870 progress was evident in the State of Minnesota and Iowa amd by May 1873 there was 3,360 Granges in the United States. In 1875 these had increased to 21, 697 Granges with 758,767 members. This was the zenith of the Order in the United States, the number of Granges decreasing between five and six thousand shortly afterwards, somewhat greater activity and growth following in the eighties, with ups and downs, until the present , when it is fairly strong and active in a number of the States.

In 1872 their first step was taken to plant the Granges in Canada, Ben Thompson being authorized in that year by the National Grange to organize Granges in the Province of Quebec. He succeeded in founding eleven, the first being the " International" at Stanstead. Others followed rapidly at Dicksville, Danville, Frelighsburg, Dunham , and other points. The first Grange in Ontario was founded at L'Orginal but once instituted in this Province the Order spread rapidly, while in Quebec the movement was largely ephemeral. J.F.Cass who was deputed to assist Mr. Thompson organized the twelfth Canadian

Grange at Cass Bridge Ont. and named it the " Winchester". Thompson's commission as Canadian Organizer expired in 1874 and he was refused a renewal by the National Grange. Not discouraged, he returned to Canada, and securing the co-operation of others actively interested in the benefit of the Canadian Farmer notably Mr. Weld , editor of the " Farmers' Advocate", of London, steps were taken towards the organization of the Dominion Grange. The National Grange had promised to issue a Charter for the establishment of such a body, as soon as the fifteen subordinate Granges should be organized in Canada. By the Spring of 1874 this number had been organized and the National Grange was asked to fulfil this pledge, but the communication from the Canadian Grangers was never answered. A meeting was called, by officers of the Forest City Grange, of all the Masters, Secretaries, and Lecturers , of the Canadian Granges to meet at London, June 2nd, 1874. Twenty- Five delegates attended, and the Dominion Grange was launched with S.W. Hill of Ridgeville, a worthy Master and I.W. Dyas, as Secretary. Some difficulty was experienced through several subordinate Granges revolting against the Dpminion Grange in favor of the National and the National Grange issued a circular calling for delegates to meet at London for the organization of a state Grange for Canada. Only one delegate arrived besides the Masters of the National Grange and the Michigan State Grange. The Executive of the Dominion Grange was in session and invited the American Masters to lunch, peace being established and the National and Dominion Granges, continued henceforth as sister institutions. Seventy- three delegates attended the first annual convention of the Dominion Grange held in Toronto, September 22nd. Forty-four subordinate Granges were in existence with a total membership of Two Hundred and thirty

Five, Within a year this number was increased to Two Hundred and Forty- Seven subordinate Granges and Twenty- Two division Granges, the latter corresponding to the County Granges of the National Grange. In 1879 there were 51 Division Granges, 766 Subordinate Granges, and a total estimate of a membership of more than 31,000. In 1886 there were fity-Six division Granges and 921 subordinate Granges, but unfortunately many of the subordinate Granges dropped their activities almost as soon as they were organized. From 1888 the Grange declined rapidly . In 1890 there were 21 Division Granges and 100 Subordinate Granges. In 1906 there were only five divisions and thirty- two Subordinate Granges. During the history of the movement 821 Subordinate Granges in all were organized in the Province of Ontario. From London where the Dominion Grange was organized, the Order spread rapidly over all Western Ontario, Grey and Middlesex Counties leading the movement. The Ontario provincial Grange instituted in 1882 came to an end in 1887. It appears to have been a largely superflous organization established in a desire to emulate the State Granges of the United States, The only other Provincial Grange organized was one for the Maritime Provinces.

The Ontario Provincial Grange was remarkable for its rather reckless dissipation of its funds, the amount of $1,276 being paid out in 1884 to members of the Provincial Grange as " Sessional Indemnity". By 1886 the treasury was practicall exhausted, and the Provincial Grange was absorbed by the Dominion Grange.

Unsucceesful commercial ventures in mutual Fire Insurance Companies, supply houses, and " The Grange Trust Company" helped to retard the growth of the Order. The"Trust Company" aimed to co-operatively borrow money at favorable rate

but through mis-management and for other reasons went out of business.

" The Grange Co-Operative Company", established at Napanee was succeesful in maintaining a co-operative store for Grangers, so succeesful that the business was moved to Toronto in 1879, and a Branch opened at Halifax which subsequently was closed. Large sales of produce were made for the Grangers through the Toronto Store but disputes with Managers occurred and shortly after costly litigation with two successive Managers in 1894 the concern dropped out of business.

To some extent the Dominion Grange was able to influence Legislation in favor of the Farmer. In 1878 they secured the passing of an Act respecting investments in tile drain Debentures allowing Townships to borrow money, and re-loan it to farmers for the purpose of draining their Farms. The Grangers largely secured the appointment of the Ontarion Agricultural Commission. In 1897, which prepared a valuable rxxxx reppрt on Agriculture in the Province. Acts limiting Town Councils in the charge of market fees for produce sold by Farmers on the town markets providing for the extermination of noxious weeds; finding a standard weight for salt barrels; exempting farm stock from taxation; and requiring spark arresters on all steam threshing engines, were among the acts of legislation, largely secured by Grange activities. Besides disastrous experiments in finance internal dissensions and reckless financial managements, as causes contributing ~~thereto~~ to the decline of the Grange, it must be remembered that the Grange suffered much from the counter attraction of the Farmers' Institutes organized and encouraged by the Government.

But despite xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

But despite its checkered career, the Grange in Ontario served highly beneficial purposes, and its influence is not yet dead. As one Writer says; # " It is very easy to speak of the very many and obvious faults and mistakes that so marred the course of the Grange, and still easier to dismiss the whole movement as a failure. And yet nothing could be more unjust or lacking in insight. The Grange was not a failure in Canada. The name"Grange " defamed by every charlatan and put to all ignoble use has stood in the past and still stands for high and brave ideas. The testimony of many competent witnesses is undeniable, and puts on record that with all its mistakes, disasters and dissensions,no other organization has ever had so great an influence for good on the farmers of Canada. As one old gentlemab has said" It set the farmers thinking and got them to-gether and gave them a sense of common interests." Unquestionably the Grange was of great benefit to the agricultural class in Canada."

As has already been pointed out, the Grange in its declining years had to meet besides numerous other difficulties, the rivalry of the Government- Established and Government-fostered Farmers' Institutes. In many ways the Grange paved the way for the Farmers' Institute and the Farmers' Club, and now under the advantage and safe-guard of government regulations, the Farmers' Institute is steadily and rapidly growing and extending →

H. Mitchell in " The Grange in Canada" page 19
bulletin of the Departments of History and
Economic Science in Queen's University King's

its educational work among the Ontario farmers. A few figures from the report of Farmers' Institutes for 1913 will perhaps best impart the importance and extent of the work carried on.

We find no less than ninety-nine institute districts with a membership in December 1912 of 18,758 membership to June, 1913, 18,290. A total number of 1,415 meetings were held during the twleve months previous, with a total attandance at those meetings of 94,266, and at which a total number of 2,894 papers were read or addresses given. Receipts for the year totalled $18, 671. with a total expenditure of $ 12,306. During the year ending May 31st., 1913, Parry Sound, East, district held no less than thirty-two meetings; North Hastings following with thirty-one; North Waterloo 28; East York 23; Centre Gray, East Huron, Centre Simcoe and Welland, each holding 22 meetings. Six Institutes held twenty meetings each, three Nineteen, and six 18 meetings each. North Middlesex Institute lead with a total attendance of 2,477, North Waterloo following with an attendance of 2,425. Eight Institutes in all had attendance of 2000 or more and six had attendance between 1500 and 2000. North Waterloo had a membership of 493, East Lambton 471, and Carleton 449. Fifteen institutes had a membership varying from 300 to 392. Stock-judging classes were held at approximately 90 places during the year. Since 1913 the growth of the Farmers' Institutes has been rapid and steady.

Subjects of addresses from annual report issued by the government in 1909 will convey some idea of the scope and value of the work;" Artificial Fertilizers; Their Nature and Use"; debate on " Specialized Farming vs Mixed Farming"; " Cow Testing Associations"; "Training Colts"; " The Raising of Fodder for Dairy Cattle"; Principles of Horse Breeding" " Stock Breeding"

" Why Underdrains Are Valuable"; " Alfalfa, The Greatest of C Crops";" Beef Rings" ;"Possibilities of Milk Production" " Desirable Confirmation of Draft Horses"; " The Young Men Should Stay on the Farm"; " Management of the Apple Orchard"; " Methods of Breeding Beef Cattle"; " Telephone for the Farmer"; " Law and Gospel relating To Noxious Weeds"; " Co-operation in Marketing Fruit"; " Rearing the Dairy Calf"; " Winter Egg Production"; " Silos and Their Construction"; " The Codling Moth"; " The Seed Control Act and its apolication"; " Wire Worms and White Grubs"Etcetra.

The 1913 report includes a list of about sixty, the majority being practical farmers, available for institute lectures, each with a list of from three to ten topics on practical agriculture or subjects, relating to farm-life and its problems, difficulties and experiences. About 20 women lecturers available for women's Institutes are also listed. It is not too much to say that in the majority of cases these speakers have been developed by the Farmers' Institutes, and in addition to their work directly through the Institutes, one can not over-emphasize the value of having such men and women distributed over the Province, each in his or her community, helping and inspiring fellow men and women in all spheres in rural life and activity.

Under the direction of a Provincial Superintendent for two decades past, the Farmers' Institute have been making firm and noteworthy progress. About 18 years ago the Women's Institute was organized as a separate body. In 1900 there were 33 Women's institutes, with a membership of 1,600. In March 1913, these had increased to organzations at a total number of 750 points, with a total membership of 23,841. At the present time practically all Farmers' Institute districts

have Womens' Institutes, the meetings of which are usually held concurrently with the Farmers' Institutes, separate meetings being held in the afternoon, with joint meetings in the evening. In 1913, the total membership was 22, 042; the total number of meetings for the last official year was 7,581, with a total attendance of 178,858; and the total number of papers read or addresses delivered was 9, 909. The total receipts were $ 46,193. with an expenditure of $ 27,872 and a balance of $ 18,321.

Another Farmers' Organization that has contributed largely to the bettering of agricultural methods, the improvement of varieties of grain and other farm crops, and has tended remarkably to the cultivation of scientific method, observation, and deliberation on the part of farmers is the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union, instituted about Thirty- Seven years ago. It is one of the most valuable extension features of the Ontario Agricubtural College, which for more than forty years has been doing a great work for the uplift, improvement, and advancement of farming in the province. From the College Experimental Farm, grain, root and other seeds are distributed free to the farmers throughout the province, each being expected to report to the department, the comparative result of different varieties of the same grain or other crops, grown or the same land and under similar conditions. From 1910 to 1913 the average number of experimenters per annum, was 4,538, a steady increase from an average number of 2,058 for the years, 1894- 1897 and a remarkable growth from the beginning of the years 1886- 1889, with an average number of only 79 experimenters. Besides co-operative experiments in general field crops, are held in the use of

other branches and phases of agricultural work.

Still another organization that has largely made for the improvement of the strains and varieties of farm crops grown in Ontario is the Canadian Seed Growers' Association. This organization had its beginning in the Macdonald Seed Competition instituted in 1900, and continued for three years, extending over the entire Dominion and including about 1500 competitors. The competition had as its object the growing of pure and productive seed throughout Canada and to demonstrate to the farmers the advantage of using such seed. At the close of the Competition, the Canadian Seed Growers' Association was formed with a view to advancing in an organized way, a continued interest in the pure seed question. Members are farmers who make the growing of seed a special branch of their farming operations, and who wish to have their seed registered in the records of the Association in Ottawa. The organization has a proportionately large membership in the Province of Ontario, and steps have been taken to interest the school children of the province, in furthering the pure seed movement.

Co-operation among farmers along various lines has in recent years registered a great deal of progress in the Province of Ontario. Perhaps it has exhibited the most remarkable success in co-operative fruit-marketing societies. There are approximately forty of th ose societies in active operation their chief value consisting in enabling the farmer to secure fair and favorable transportation rates from the railways, to ship in carloads or train lots, to fill large orders, and to obtain good prices for first class products. The district representatives of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, with the consent of the Minister of Agriculture have adopted regu-

lations, by-laws and plans for organization of these societies which are usually incorporated under the Companies Act for Non-Share Capital Associations. Credit capital is provided by each member, giving to the Treasurer a note payable on demand to the association, and which becomes the property of the association as collateral security. Whenfunds are required for the expenses of the organization or the purchase of supplies, a sufficient number of these notes are deposited with bankers who advance from 85 to 95 per cent of the face value of the notes at any time. When the supplies are paid for or the debts discharged, the notes are released and will be again available for a future transaction. In this way the society's capital is never permanently impaired.

The need of organization on the part of farmers is clearly set forthin a pamphlet on " Agricultural Co-operation" by S.E. Todd B.S.A., district representative for Lambton county. After emphasizing the necessity of organization, he proceeds as follows; " There are two means by which Agriculture may be organized (1) By means of a force from without, such as a middleman, working to secure the result of organization for his own benefit. Such organization to be complete, must presently control the most elementary acts of production. Thus little by little the independence of the farmer would be lost and he must soon be reduced to the position of the workman of the towns and cities."

(2) By means of aforce within the agriculturist himself. Such organization would have for its object the securing of the results and advantages of organization to the farmer. As the

organization became complete it would restore the independence of the farmer and secure to him the just rewards of his toil. All successful industrial organization has come from within the industry. So too agriculture must organize its own forces Such organization must solve three problems. First; It must break the isolation of farmers by drawing them together under a common bond and community of interest. Secondly; It must place the farmer as nearly as possible on the same financial basis as his prosperous city brother. It must secure to him a fair share of the fruit of his toil. It must restore agriculture to its proper position and dignity, which have been lost through bad business methods. Thirdly; It must replace bad business methods, with good business methods. Because the farmer from the nature of his work can never become familiar with the minutiae of buying and selling, organization must attach directly to farming interest a class of men who shall assume this work and become a farmer's middleman. This class must be directly controlled by, and responsible to the farmers".

The co-operative Egg Circle movement is another example of agricultural co-operation which has become popular in Ontario. Eggs are stamped as a guarantee of quality and co-operative collection and marketing, places them on the market in a fresh condition and secures the highest available price. Somewhat along co-operative lines are organized the many township farmers' Mutual Fire insurance Companies, which are composed only of farmers, and insure only farm and village properties in their own or adjacent districts. Because only rural risks are carried a lower rate of premium is usually offered the farmer than if he insured in general fire insurance companies which carry heavy urban risks. Similarly co-operative

or mutual organizations have been formed in recent years to insure crops and property against destruction by wind and hail.

In recent years a large number of agricultural societies devoted to the advancement of various branches of farming have been organized and are doing such a considerable work in its own sphere for the betterment of the condition of their members . In March 1910 under " An Act representing Agricultural Associations" the following societies were incorporated;" The Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario"; The Entomological Society of Ontario" The Dairymen's Association of Eastern Ontario; The Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario; The Western Ontario Poultry Association; The Eastern Ontario Poultry Association; The Ontario Bee- Keeper's Association; The Ontario Agricultural Experimental Union; The Dominion Sheep Breeder's Association The Dominion Swine Breeder's Association; The Dominion Cattle Breeder's Association; The Canadian Horsemen's Association; The Ontario Horse Breeder's Association; The Ontario Vegetable Grower's Association; The Gardeners' and Florists' Association; The Ontario Corn Grower's Association; and the Ontario Plowmen's Association." Plans of organization, election of officers, and conduct of business and affairs generally are provided for in the act insuring a proper and careful control of the business of each organization.

A Large amount of educational work is carried on by many of the agricultural societies, notably the Horticultural Society, which arranges public lectures at central points throughout the province. Annual corn exhibitions for several years past have been held by the Corn Grower's Association with the practical result of greatly increasing the acreage of this important farm crop.

Such organization as the Canadian Society for the protection of birds appeal to a considerable extent to the young people of the farm and exert a moral and human tendency in addition to the practical education in the value of encouraging insectivorous birds which do much to protect farm and fruit crops against the ravages of insect pests.

Another class of agricultural societies, locally organized, but which come under the direct supervision of the Ontario Department of Agriculture are those agricultural associations, the chief activity of which is the holding of township, district of country fairs, throughout the province.

In the government report for 1913 on "The Agricultural Societies of Ontario and the Convention of the Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions;" a total number of nearlyv 350 Fall Fairs and fair associations are listed. They received total grants of $73,117.00 in 1912, and $73,168.00 in 1913. Special grants to societies in the districts of Northern Ontario amounted to $ 5,000. each year. A total of $555.00 was granted to 45 Spring Fairs held in 1913; $ 178.00 to 10 seed fairs in 1913; $2,060. to 10 societies owning oure bred stock; $300. in 1912 and $225.00 in 1913 to three Indian Societies; $ 7 650.00 to 153 Societies holding field crop competitions in 1912. In addition generous grants are annually made by the department of societies suffering losses in gate receipts through wet weather. In 1912 we find that the various township and district fair associations of the province received a total revenue of $504,684. with a total actual expenditure of $489,781..

The value of the Fall district or township fair can not be too highly estimated. A friendly and desirably rivalry is produced among the farmers as to who can produce the best fruits,

roots; grains, live stock and other produce. For one or two or more days, the fair serves as a place of assembly for the people of the district, furthering social intercourse and brightening the often dreary year-round isolation of farm life with a little gala day of amusement, instruction, and recreation. In recent years laws have been passed by the legislature restricting the class of concessions allowed on the grounds and many fair associations are voluntarily descriminating against the " Wheel of fortune" and other games of chance which are practically the only questionable feature of the small fair.

Prizes in the domestic, art, dairying, and cooking classes interest the farmer's wives and daughters in an endeavor to outclass their neighbors in the making of bread , pies, cakes preserved fruit, butter, quilts, rugs, and in fancy work, painting and other branches of fine arts. Literary and drawing competitions in weed classifications and seed competition interest the school children.

Some very creditable art exhibits are made in connection with many of the fall fairs, the love of beauty and an interest in fine arts, being enhanced and furthered in this way. School fairs recently inaugurated serve an admirable purpose in increasing the interest of the boys and girls in farm life and also in establishing a community feeling, interest or consciousness in each school district or group of school sections. The annual, semi-annual, or other periodical exhibitions held by the dairy, poultry, live stock, horticultural, vegetable growers, and corn growers' associations, are all highly educational. During the summer many horticultural societies hold monthly or quarterly flower shows at which no admission is charged. In a number of cases, these are, of course, held at urban points so that the value of the rural community is not so evident

marked, but where such shows are held in small towns they necessarily attract the majority of their attendance from the surrounding country.

Chapter 3.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN MEANS OF COMMUNICATION.

" The depressing effect of isolation has always been the most serious enemy of country life in America" says G.Walter Fiske, junior Dean of the Oberlin Theological Seminary, Oberlin Ohio, in " The Challenge of the Country". " Nowhere else in the world have farm homes been so scattered. Instead of living in hamlets like the rest of the rural world, with outlying farms in the open country, American pioneers with characteristic independence have lived on their farms regardless of distance to neighbors. But social hungers especially of the young people, could not safely be disregarded, and in various ways the social instincts have had their revenge. Isolation has proved to be the curse of the Country, as its opposite, congestion, has been the curse of the city. The wonder is that the rural population of the country as a whole has steadily gained, nearly doubling in a generation, in spite of this handicap. Obviously the social handicap of isolation must be in a measure overcome, if country life becomes permanently satisfying. We are not surprised therefore to find that the new rural civilization has developed many means of intercommunication, bringing the remotest country districts into vital touch with the world.

" Among the factors that have revolutionized the life of the country people and hastened the new rural civilization are the telephone, the daily mail service by rural free delivery, the rapid extension of good roads, the introduction of newspapers and magazines and farm journals , and travelling libraries as well, the extension of the trolley systems throughout

the older states, and the rapid introduction of automobibes especially in the West". Mr. Fiske in writing of rural life in the United States, but what he says is in many ways applicable to the rural situation and conditions in the province of Ontario. Dicsussing the social value of the telephone, he says" Socially the telephone is a priceless boon to the country home, especially for women, who have been most affected by isolation. They can now lighten the lonely hours by a chat with neighbors over household matters or even have a neighborhood council, with five on the line, to settle some question of village scandal: All sorts of community doings are speedily passed from ear to ear. Details of social plans for church or grange are conveniently arranged by wire. Symptons are described which will cure the baby before the horse could be even harnessed. Or at any hour of the day or night, the Doctor in the village will be quickly summoned and a critical hour saved which means the saving of precious life.

" On some country lines a general ring at six o'Clock calls all who cares to hear the daily market quotation, and at noon the weather report of the day is issued. If the weather is not right the gang of men coming from the village can be intercepted by telephone. Or if the quotations are not satisfactory a distant city can be called on the wire and the day's shipment sent to the highest bidder saving money, time and miles of travel.

" All things considered the telephone is fully as valuable in the country as in the city and its developement has been just as remarkable. In recent years the rural telephone has made

" The Challenge of the Country" by G. Walter Fiske" p. 65

astomishing progress in nearly all of the older settlements of Ontario. The progress has however been largely confined to the past ten years. In" Telephone Systems", an Extract from the report of the the Ontario Railway and Municipal Board of 1910, we read; " Whereas five years ago there were less than two thousand telephones in farm houses of Ontario, to-day there are approximately 460 systems owned by provincially incopporated companies, co-operative associations, partnerships, and individuals operating nearly 500,000 telephones and representing a capital investment estimated at $ 4,000,000. Ninety per cent of these systems which do not include the Bell Telephone Company, were organized by farmers, who of their own initiative, have established this service and furnished most of the necessary capital, not so much with the object of earning dividends, as from a desire to provide themselves with what experience has demonstrated to be a necessary adjunct to modern farm life.

" A few years ago the telephone was unknown among ~~to~~ the farming communities. This was, no doubt, due to the fact that the rural field did not offer as profitable returns to the stockholders of large companies as the towns and cities. The farmers of Ontario therefore, sought relief in the experiment of building and equipping their own lines, and with the assistance of the manufacturers, who were only too anxious to aid in increasing a market for their apparatus , they soon realized that they could provide ~~for~~ themselves with an efficient service at a lower cost than was possible under other conditions. It is therefore, not surprising that these systems have multiplied, until they extend to every part of the province, and in some districts form an unbroken chain of over a hundred miles in length. " In the government report from which this extract is taken, the systems in operation are classified as follows;

(1) " Systems operated by individuals, partners and in-

corporated companies charging rental varying from $5.00 to $15.00 per annum. Where the rental is under $10.00, the subscribers usually purchased their own phones at a cost of from $13.00 to $18.00.

(2) " Co-operative systems, each subscriber paying his share of the cost of the plant and an annual assessment of from $1.00 to $5.00 to cove the cost of maintenance and operation. In some cases no assessment is made each subscriber being responsible for the maintenance of his own system.

(3) " Separate party lines of two stations or over, the subscriber building the necessary pole line to the nearest main line of the Bell Telephone Company, and paying a rental of $8.00 to $12.00 per mile per annum, for a wire to th "Bell" switchboard. The subscriber also purchases his telephone from the Company, and pays an annual renatal, usually $ 5.00 for local service at the exchange where the line terminates."

(4) " Systems built under "The Local Municipal Telephone Act, 1908", which provided that upon the petition of the subscribers being rate payers, the municipality funishes by the issue of debentures, the cost of the system, each subscriber re-paying his proportion in ten annual installments of principal and interest in addition to the cost of maintenance and operation. There are 15 such systems in operation at this date, the largest of which is that of the municipality of Brussels, with nearly 600 telephones at an assessment of $11.36, including the cost of operation and maintenance. The lowest assessment is that of the township of Rochester, viz, .$6.44 with 222 subscribers."

"There is no doubt that the Local Municipal Telephone Act offers the best solution to the rural telephone problem by reason of the sound method of financing, the convenient means of repayment, and the ultimate low annual cost of service to the sub-

scriber at the end of ten years. With a more wide spread knowledge of the Act, a better understanding of its provisions, and some slight assistance from the Government in organization, these systems should rapidly increase, and eventually outnumber all others." And these systems are rapidly increasing as reference to more recent reports of the Government will show. According to the 1913 report we find three , Fort William Port Arthur, and Kenora, systems, operating under Part 1. of " The Ontario Telephone Act" by which the corporation of any municipality may construct and operate a telephone system, expropriate an existing system, fix its own tarriffs, and otherwise regulate the operation of its system. This virtual municipal ownership so far has only been undertaken by urban or town municipalities, and has therefore no direct relation to the question of the rural telephones. But under part 11 of the Telephone Act (Substantially Sec. 4 above) we find no less than 46 systems in operation, all but two being township systems, the exceptions being Fort Frances and Brussels,and the latter system extending into the townships of Morris and Grey. A total of 463 independent telephone companies, associations, and systems submitted reports,as required by the Act, to the Government in 1913.

As has already been indicated the developement of the rural telephone in Ontario belongs almost entirely to the last decade. It has in many districts become a commonplace,everyday convenience, which the users now having become accustomed to,could not conceive of doing without. Farmers order supplies from the nearest town or city to be delivered either directly by the merchant or dealer, depending on the distance or the value of the order, or by parcel post delivery, rural stage, trolley line, or nearby railroad. The telephone together with the electric railway has made

many farming districts veritably suburbs of the cities, and as a result farmers are taking a greater interest in the business, social and other life of the urban centres. A far greater number of farmers will be found on Boards of directors or administration of public institutions, such as hospitals, schools and universities; business corporations, such as insurance companies, banking firms industrial concerns, etc. than a few years ago. And the director who resides ten miles distant in the country is summoned by telephone to an emergency meeting of his board just as naturally, and as conveniently as the director who lives in the next block in the city or town where the institution or concern is located or has its head office.

The urbanization of rural Ontario is growing at a rapid pace in many districts. On the other hand it must be admitted that in some districts depopulation is going on so rapidly that whole blocks in some townships are becoming ranch territory devoted solely to stock- grazing carried on by a farmer who lives in a neighboring town, the cattle being watered and looked after by hired help residing probably several miles away. This should be regarded as a temporary condition. It is a phase of the progress rather than an evidence of general retardment. It will readily be admitted that rural developement will naturally be accelerated in some districts while it will be much slower in other districts. The trend of population is naturally towards the more progressive districts. Not all the farmers who are leaving their farms are going to the city. Many of them are merely going into the adjoining townships where for a variety of reasons, the advantages of the rural telephone the rural electric railways, the rural free delivery, and greater population and consequent greater and brighter social life, have already become realities. In a few years the more progressive districts

will gradually expand back again into the now deserted territories.

Equal in importance, or rather far more important, in the sense that it is rapidly being brought within the reach of a greater number of farmers, is rural free mail delivery. A press dispatch of recent date from Ottawa will give some idea of the rapid growth of this system; " From September 30th, 1908 to the same date in 1911 there were opened 614 rural mail routes, with 16,015 boxes, while from the latter date until last February, the new routes numbered 2,225 with 105,385 boxes.

Instead of having to drive from two to five miles to a Post Office in order to secure the weekly county paper or farm journal and the occasional letters and other mail which he received, the farmer now finds every morning or afternoon in the mail box at his gate his daily paper of that same morning or if he prefers an evening paper, the paper of the previous day, published in the nearest city, the metropolis of his district, or in Toronto. The weekly and other periodicals which he reads, reach him as promptly as possible after their day of issue, and in many ways is the farmer made to feel himself a part of the great world beyond his homestead. As a result of the introduction of rural mail delivery, the farmer of Ontario is subscribing to daily papers instead of weekly papers. He receives replies to his letters promptly and he therfore writes more, not alone business communications, but the young people, and the women of the farm, have their lives brightened by the greater facilities of correspondence with friends and relatives who live in distant cities or other districts.

His daily paper, he receives, within a few hours after it leaves the presses. In the larger cities of the province special editions are published with the sole purpose in view of giving the

farmer on the rural route the latest possible news of the world, the hour of publication being carefully timed with a view of making the necessary connections . Brought into closer touch with the great centres of life and activity, the farmer takes a greater interest in his own life and activity and besides the daily paper he reads one or more of the farm weeklies, one or more good magazines, his denominational church paper, and in addition each member of his family usually subscribes to some favorite periodical.

The parcel post system now being extended over the rural routes brings to the farmers' door the great department store of provincial metropolis, the twenty mile favored zone of the system working out slightly to the advantage of the store in the district centre desiring a rural mail order trade. Of course the local store keeper suffers but not to the extent one might expect. Competition with the outside world forces him to carry a better and fresher stock of goods and in many cases farmers find it convenient to market a large part of their dairy produce, eggs and fruit through the local village or town merchant. If, however, the farmer has a "Special" customers in the neighboring town or city, he can forward them small shipments of eggs or butter through the parcel posts, and at a much lower cost than if he had to drive to town himself.

The Dominion Government has now under consideration the establishing of an insurance system of parcels carried by parcels post, the desirability of such a system being fully recognized by the farmer. In the majority of cases Parcels post syst in some classes of goods, is now operating at lower rate than Express Companies and is securing considerable patronage even in the city. The advantage to the farmer who has lived so long remote from the zone of operation of express companies can not be over-emphasized.

Through the parcels post system the equivalent of the express office is brought to his very door. All of which is a great step in rural progress and a step which is especially evident in this province which by a long distance leads the other provinces in the number and extension of rural delivery routes.

Fraught with a far greater economic value than the rural telephone and the rural mail delivery, is the improvement of rural highways in the province, and it is generally admitted to-day that economic factors largely influence social, religious, and other factors. " Progressive farmers have discovered that a bad road is a tax upon every kind of produce hauled to market; that in effect it lengthens a three mile trip to ten; that a trip requires three hours instead of one; and that a good macadam road, or some form of pavement, varying with the nearness of materials, pays for itself again and again, in the saving of time and money, and wear and tear on rolling stock and teams, The social effects of good roads are almost as clear as the industrial benefits. There is more social co-operation. People go oftener to town, they gather more easily at church and social functions, and the intermingling means better acquaintance and more helpful friendships. Better business, better social life, better neighborhood, follow the trail of better roads--- and a far better chance for the country church."

Under the stimilus of the "Highway Improvement Act", roadway improvement in Old Ontario has made marked progress within the last few years. The Government grants of on third of the cost of all main highways has greatly encouraged the improvement of rural roads and the " Good Roads Improvement, is one of the livest topics of discussion among farmers and at all farmers' meetings and conventions,

In 1910 seventeen counties were operating under The Highway Improvement Act.; Carleton, Frontenac, Halton, Hastings

Lanark, Leeds, and Grenville, Lennox and Addington, Lincoln, Middlesex, Oxford, Peel, Perth, Prince Edward, Simcoe, Waterloo, Wellington, and Wentworth. In 1912 the number had increased to twenty including including York, Haldimand, and Welland. Later counties to take up the Goods Roads Movement in an active manner, are Dundas, Stormont, and Glengarry, Norfolk, Huron, Essex and Lambton.

Wentworth County was the first in line, commencing as early as 1902, and now has a total length of county system of 140 miles, the county share of the cost being met by an annual levy and a small debenture debt. Lanark, Simcoe and Wellington followed suit in 1903, the rapid developement and extention of the movement being more evident however since 1905. Up to 1912 the total mileage of the county systems was 3,772.5 miles, the total expenditure being $898, 631.18, the counties having raised two- thirds of this amount, either by an annual levy or debentures, or by both methods. Other counties have since 1912 fallen into line, or are considering the movement, so that it will only be a matter of several years until good roads are to be found everywhere throughout Old Ontario, which embraces 40,000 square miles, out of a total area of a province of 260,000 swuare miles. Even where the county roads system is not yet fully developed or even under way, improvement in rural roads is following the commuting or the abolishing the institution of statute labor. Many of the townships of the province have already taken this step and have placed road construction and maintenance on an entirely cash basis. Instead of being obliged to do " Road work", the farmers pays for the work in his taxes. The paid Superintendent sees that the work is done in the proper way and on an ecomical basis. Much of the"road work "

done by the farmers under the statute labor system, was wasteful, superflous and of very little value.

Following the report of the " Public Roads and Highways Commission" appointed in 1913, and the educational campaign, carried on by the government, the Good Roads Association, the Automobile Association, and many progressive Farmers' organizations, township and county councils are coming to realize, or have already realized the value of good roads and more generous grants are being made, larger undertakings in road improvements entered into, and less objection to the higher tax rates necessitated are being met with.

Another feature of rural progress, although not yet so common as the rural telephone,, free mail delivery, county roads, and improved highways, is the inter-urban railway. But where the inter-urban railway has comes its influence has been even more marked and characteristic, and in some respects greater than any of these other rural improvements. The inter-urban railway has its name implies is not primarly intended as a rural advantage. To be profitable, it usually joins two or more important centres of population whose proximity to each unites them in more or less common or mutual interests or benefits. But to the farmer whose home the inter-urban road passes the increased advantages accruing are out of all proportion to the advantages resulting to the residents of the urban centres, united by the inter-urban road. The farmer living along the electric railway becomes virtually a suburbanite. A few minutes or at most an hour or two places him conveniently, and comfortably, and at a reasonably small cost in the city or large town. In unpleasant weather he rides to town in a warm comfortable car instead of being exposed to the wind, rain or snow, as he would be if required to harness his horse and drive out in an open vehicle. His horses are better able to

do the work of the farm, freed from the additional labor of drawing the farmer and his produce to market or to town on business. The advantages of the theatre, Lyceum course, grand opera, music, the social and intellectual life of the city, are open to him. His children go and come, to and from high school, college and university on the electric trolley. He can attend church in the city on Sunday or he can attend a concert some evening when a world famous singer visits the neighboring city. His land increases in value. Suburban fammers, and " Back to the soil" enthusiasts purchase gardens or small farms in his vicinity. The radial and inter-urban railway in a phrase" brings the city to the farmer's door".

Throughout the province of Ontario are a number of radials and inter-urban roads which are and have for some years been successfully operated. An electric road connects the thriving towns of Galt Hespler and Berlin; another electric road connects the cities of London and St. Thomas with Lake Erie; another road unites Windsor and Walkerville with Sandwich, and Amherstburg. Electric roads radiate from Toronto, Ottawa and Hamilton, and connect the growing cities and towns of the Niagara Penninsula. Brantford , Chatham, Woodstock, and other cities and larger towns are connected by radial roads with small towns with mutual advantage. The small town residents find increased shopping and business facilities in the larger town or city, while they enjoy the lower tax rate and quieter life of the small town. The residents of the city or larger town are attracted to the small town in considerable numbers, finding it the desirable place for suburban residence. Or perhaps the small town is a lake or pleasure resort where the resident of the city finds a cheap and pleasant place of outing. Such factors enable the privately-owned electric road to be profitably constructed . Where such roads

have been constructed, the farmers without exception along the line have benefited largely. But the developement of Hydro power provincially owned or controlled electric roads, are aimed at, and it is only reasonable to expect that these will possess still greater advantages for the farmer. From London to Port Stanley a municipally owned road to be operated by Hydro Electric power is now well under construction. Numerous lines have been laid out throughout the province, and the aim is not only to bring cities and towns into closer, quicker, and more convenient communication, but to open up rich agricultural territories now suffering and hampered in their developement by the entire lack of railway transportation or the lack of railway transportation advantageous or convenient to the farmer.

The proportion of rural to total population of the province of Ontario fell during the ten year period from 1901 to 1911 from 57 to 47 per cent. This fact has been regarded at too close an angle not only by "blue ruin" pessimists but also by optimistic reformers and capable sociologists, so that is has been obsessed into our minds; we have accepted it as a proof of retrogression; it has alarmed and harried us altogether too much and altogether needlessly.

Rural Ontario has made her sacrifice to the progress and advancement of her sister provinces in the west and to the expansion and growth of her own cities. It is a sacrifice which will favorably react before the present decade is past. The province in which large cities are located possesses many advantages over the province which does not possess large cities and if we wait a few years more, we will find the wave of advancement will flow back to the rural Ontario community repaying the sacrifices made to the commonwealth of the Dominion.

Rev. John MacDougall in his remarkably interesting book "Rural Life in Canada; Its Trend and Tasks", dwells much upon the rural depletion of population in certain districts and in the province as a whole. "Grenville had 21,021 people in 1901;" he says, "now it has 17, 545. Stormont numbered 27, 042 a decade ago, but to-day 24, 775. North Lanark by the previous census was credited with 17, 236, by the

recent one with 14,624. Frontenac, having then 24,746 now numbers 21, 944. Lennox and Addington, eleven years ago were 23, 346, one year ago 20, 386. East Hastings from 27, 943 had fallen off to 24, 978. Lambton East from 26, 219 had dwindled to 22, 223; North Bruce from 27, 424 had diminished to 23, 783 . . . . . .

"North Wellington lost 14.6 per cent in the decade; East Huron decreased 15.2 per cent during the ten years; Dufferin's population diminished by 15.6 in the same period; North Middlesex fell away by 16.3; Grenville parted with 16.6 per cent of her people, but was outclassed by South Bruce with a loss of 16.9 per cent. These three last-named counties saw just one-sixth of their population leave their bounds within the ten-year period."[1]

All of which is regrettable, it is true. But I repeat in reply, the argument advanced in the opening paragraphs of this thesis, that progress ebbs and flows, now here, now there; it never advances evenly or uniformly.

Some of these counties and electorates enumerated have no large cities within their bounds and the decrease in population has obviously been for the present a total loss. Others are adjacent to growing cities which doubtless have claimed a fair share of the county's losses. This, Rev. Mr. MacDougall has noted. He says;

"We may perhaps realize the contrast more vividly still by placing ~~population of~~ rural loss over against urban gain in certain counties. Carleton lost 2, 561 in rural population and gained 6, 587 in urban population; in Elgin the respective loss and gain were 3,302 and 4, 128; in Grey 10, 782 and 7, 083; in Haldimand, 1, 139 and 1, 468; in West Hastings 1, 586 and 1, 063; in Kent 2, 701 and 1, 502 West Lambton's rural loss of 2, 594 stands over against an urban gain of 1, 980; South Lanark's loss of 1, 460 over against a gain of 1215.

1. " RURAL LIFE IN CANADA " by Rev. John MacDougall p.24

Leeds suffered a rural loss of 2, 150 but with an offset in urban gain of 1, 118; Ontario -- the county of that name -- met with a rural loss of 2, 091 but had an urban increase of 689; in Parry Sound the respective loss and gain were 1, 970 and 3, 581; In Perth 3, 792 and 3, 013; in Renfrew 2, 724 and 1, 961. Russell lost 1, 202 in rural population; Wellington 4, 189; and Simcoe 5, 431 while gaining respectively 5, 472, 3035, and 5, 472 in urban growth."

These enumerations show, it must be admitted, that many counties lost out of all satisfactory proportion to their urban gain. Were we to analyze each instance we would probably find that local causes and conditions had something to do with this.

Some counties and townships however, did make gains in rural population during the ten years from 1901 to 1911. A glance at a chart or map issued by the Ontario Public Roads and Highways Commission in 1914, shows us that the townships of Sandwich East and West, increased their rural population by more than ten people to each square mile. Within their bounds is situated the growing city of Windsor, just across the Detroit River from the City of Detroit. Brantford township increased its population in the same proportion and during the same period the city of the same name grew rapidly. Saltfleet township near Hamilton; Grantham in which the growing city of St. Catharine is located and Louth the township adjoining are in the same class; so are Crowland township near Welland; Stamford, containing the town of Niagara Falls; Etobicoke, York and Scarboro townships surrounding Toronto; North Monaghan, adjacent to the city of Peterboro; and Hawkesbury West, near L'Orignal. The townships of Carleton, surrounding the city of Ottawa, are however notable exceptions, decreasing in population from 1 to 10 per square mile. Townships increasing their rural population at the rate of from five to ten people per square mile are London and Westminster, surrounding the city of London which made a steady gain in population during this period; Grimsby and

Clinton, of which latter township Beamsville is the chief centre; Pelham near Welland; Niagara township; Toronto township, and in which Port Credit is located; Whitby East, of which Oshawa is the centre and Nollaston, of which Coehill is the centre.

Townships which increased in population at rates not exceeding five people per square mile are Colchester south, in Essex; Sarnia township in Lambton county; Yarmouth township in which the city of St. Thomas is situated; South Dorchester adjoining and also in the county of Elgin. Oakland township adjacent to Brantford township; Oneida, Canboro and Rainham in Haldimand; Ancaster and Barton in Wentworth; Humberstone and Bertie in Welland; Guelph township in which the city of that name is situated; Flamboro East, near Hamilton; Nelson, Trafalgar and Esquesing townships in Halton; the township in which the town of Lindsay is situated; Smith and Burleich in Peterboro county; Seymour in which the town of Campbellford lies;. Thurlow surrounding the city of Belleville, and three other townships in Hastings county; four townships in Lennox and Addington; Adolphustin across the inlet from the town of Picton; Russell and Cambridge in Russell county; and Caledonia and Longueil in Prescott county.

Only eight townships in Old Ontario decreased in population at a rate exceeding ten people per square mile but more than 70 lost at rates of from 5 to 10 people. The majority of townships lost in population at rates not exceeding five people per square mile. All of which is a cold, hard fact of the absence of progress but it does not prove that the loss will be permanent.

We find that the townships increasing their population at the highest rates per square mile are in the vicinities of rapidly in-

creasing urban centres of population, the Windsor district, the London district, the Brantford district, the northern part of the Niagara peninsula extending from the Niagara River to Hamilton and the Toronto district; all in the western part of the province. Why the population of Carleton county did not make some gains in keeping with the growth of the city of Ottawa does not appear. But it is significant in the growth of the faster growing cities of the western part of the province, Toronto, Hamilton, the Niagara cities and towns, Brantford, London and Windsor, that the adjacent townships kept pace with the urban growth.

The more rapidly growing town and city offers the better market and better prices for the farmer's produce. Naturally enough there is an intra-rural movement from the outlying districts to the metropolitan or near-metropolitan districts. The days of pioneering in old Ontario are past. There are no more wilds to be conquered. The province is retrenching her population in the more favored districts. But within the next few years the wave of progress will flow back again. The faster growing districts, cities and centres of population will radiate out again their influence to the districts beyond. The radial railway will have much to do with this.

Another map issued by the Public Roads and Highways Commission shows the urban supporting areas required by the various centres, were each city to confine its purchases of Canadian grown foods to its immediate vicinity. It is interesting to note that the area required by Toronto would extend in a radius as far north as Lake Simcoe and would overlap with the areaequired by Hamilton, the Hamilton area in turn overlapping with the area required by Brantford. The Niagara area would reach very nearly to the Hamilton area and the areas required by Guelph, Waterloo-Berlin and Galt-Preston would very nearly touch. St. Thomas and London areas would overlap considerably and the area required by Windsor would embrace approximately the three townships of Sandwich. Certain cities offer a home market for the farmer's produce and he naturally gravitates towards them.

Another parallel to the development of certain townships can be drawn from another chart issued by the same commission. We find that a large proportion of the townships which showed increases in population, have more than 50 people to the square mile and a considerable number a population of from 35 to 50, indicating that progress is more even, steady and unbroken after a certain advance has already been registered. The decreases in population were largely in townships having less than 35 people to the square mile. Exceptions to this parallel were the townships in the vicinity of Berlin and Waterloo, already thickly populated, but decreasing at a rate not exceeding five people to the square mile.

Still another chart issued by the same commission shows the value in dollars per acre of the produce of the townships of the Province in 1911. Districts producing more than $20 per acre extend over Toronto-Hamilton-Niagara (grouping districts which overlap or touch each other in unbroken contiguity); the Waterloo-Berlin-Presto.

Galt- Paris-; The St. Thomas- London- Woodstock- Stratford; the Chatham district embracing nearly all Kent County ; and the Windsor embracing more than half of the County of Essex, the remaining townships producing $15.00 to $20.00 per acre; and three townships on the county of Dundas.

Looking at another companion chart we find that during the ten year period, 1901- 1911, these same chains of townships have made marked increases in the value of their products per acre the increse to a large extent being more than $10.00, although some of the townships in these chains making increases of only $5.00 to $10.00 per acre. Only a few exceptions made less than $ 5.00 increase per acre.

Only one township in Old Ontario decreased the value of its products by more than $ 5.00 per acre, the township of Otonabee, adjacent to the city of Peterboro. Nine other townships, St. Edmund at the extreme north of the Bruce Penninsula, Maryborough and Wellington, Glenelg in Grey County, five northerly townships in Frontenac and Lennox and Addington and one township in Renfrew, decreased their production by less than $ 5.00 per acre. All the other townships in Old Ontario, registered increases in production, predominately in Western Ontario from $5.00 to $10.. per acre, and in Eastern Ontario, the greater number to a less extent, although the Lake Ontario Counties present a nearly unbroken line of townships which increased their production from $ 5.00 to $10.00 per acre, excepting the Toronto, Hamilton and Niagara Group, the majority of which exceeded this increase as before observed.

Chapter 5.

GROWTH IN RURAL WEALTH.

Still discussing the last census decade, let us turn to the annual report of the Bureau of Industry, for Ontario for the year 1913. We find remarkable increases in the value of nearly all farm live stock. In 1900 the average, price obtained for horses sold in the province of Ontario was only $79.00; the average estimated value of stock on hand was only $76.00; for 1905 the firgures are, $1[illegible]9.00 and $ 110.00; 1910 ,$136.00 and $128.00; 1912, $155.00 and $ 14[illegible].00 ; 1913, $160.00 and $151.00. Similarly the average price of cattle sold during the year 1900 was on $32.12; in 1910, it was $37.44; in 1913, it was $44.02. The average estimated value of Milch cows on hand increased from $ 31.01 in 1900 to $50.56 in 1913 ; of other cattle, $17.93 to $27.29. Proportionate increases are shown in the value of sheep, swine and poultry.

The acreage in grain crops does not show any marked increases; rather it shows in most cases considerable decreases; but the yield per acre and the price per bushel have increased so that the value of Ontario grain crops with the exception of wheat have made generous increases, in the case of some grains actually doubling in value of crop output in the last thirty-two years, and steadily gaining since the beginning of the century. In the last thirty-two years the Bureau of Industries, estimates that the yield of grain per acre in the province has been increased as follows; barley 20 per cent; fall wheat ten per cent; the percentage being the ave age increase for the last sixteen years over the average for the preceeding sixteen years. The value of the total increases in yield per acre of these three crops for the ten years prior to 1913 is estimated by the Department of Industries at nearly $7,000,0[illegible]

Another evidence of rural progress is to be found in the same Department Report on Chattel mortgages. The number of Mortgages against farmers to secure existing debts, decreased in number from 6,816 in 1909 to 4, 831 in 1913 and in amount from $ 2,790, 119 to $ $2,279, 301; Chattel Mortgages against farmers for future endorsation decreased from 29 to 16 and in amount from $12,394. to $ 4, 012. This would indicate that while the farmers of Ontario are becoming fewer in number they are becoming wealthier in pocket, and more financially independent..

Chapter. 6

ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH EDUCATION.

"The little brick schoolhouse" is often heralded abroad by enthusiasts as the bulwark of Old Ontario's civilization. Its value and importance in shaping the life of rural Ontario cannot be over-estimated. The charge on the other hand is often brought against it that it educates the country boy and girl away from the farm. There doubtless is some foundation for this charge but it is not a fair charge to make. The cities must have a certain proportion of the boys and girls of the country or the cities would hopelessly stagnate. Statistics have time and again been produced to show that urban families die out or degenerate in a certain number of generations unless there be an inter-mixture of the virile blood of the country. And then many young people are temperamentally and psychologically better adapted for success in the city than in the country. The rural school would be greatly at fault if through its instruction it constrained such pupils to continue in the vocation of their fathers to their own disadvantage and to the disadvantage of their country and their race.

But before enlarging on the merits or defects of the country school in Ontario, a few sentences regarding its organization will not be out of place. Under the superintendence of the Minister of Education, his deputies and the Advisory Council of Education (members of which are elected in numbers varying from one to four by the senates of five universities within the province, by the inspectors, the school trustees, the high school teachers, the separate school teachers, and the public school teachers) are the county school districts, each presided over by a rural school inspector,

the inspector or inspectors in each county regularly reporting to the county council, but each practically supreme in authority within his inspectorate or county, and appointed by and responsible directly to the Department of Education. County grants are made to continuation schools and high schools within their boundaries. The rural public schools are supported by the school rate, which varies with each school section, assisted by the provincial grants, given for requirements of equipment, teachers' qualifications, and other regulations laid down by the department. The school section is the smallest unit of organization in the country and its boundaries in the organized townships are laid out by the township of which it is a subdivision.

Ratepayers of two or more sections or districts have the right to unite for the purpose of maintaining consolidated schools, but the consolidated school movement has not gained much headway in Ontario although in the province of Manitoba it has met with marked success. In the more progressive districts of the province are found second-class teachers, having academic standings equivalent to or in some branches slighting higher than the university matriculation requirement and in professional training at least one year at Normal School. First class teachers have academic standing slightly in advance of first year university standing and have had one years' training in a Faculty of Education at Toronto or Queen's University. Many rural schools employ first class teachers, the majority of rural teachers are however second class teachers. In less progressive districts third class teachers who have taken a shorter term or lower course of professional training usually at a Model School are employed. On account of comparatively low salaries in contrast to more lucrative employment in other professions readily open to the young man who has the education required

for school-teaching, few male teachers are now found in the Ontario rural schools. Probably the majority are young women born and educated in the town and city, whose interests are naturally yrban, who intend to teach only a few years, and who therefore do not, it is charged, study deeply the rural school problem with which they come in contact. It is largely within the last decade or two that this situation has become especially evident but that it is radically undesirable is not as obvious as some would have us think. A certain amount of urbanization is desirable, and it does not necessarily follow that the young woman school teacher from the city will be responsible for an undue amount of this urbanization.

Under the gentle and tactful administration of the woman teacher, the "rowdyism", rebellion and general unpleasantness, excited by untactful and often unduly harsh male teachers of a generation ago has entirely disappeared from the country school. Brute strength, the chief asset possessed by the male teacher that is not possessed by the woman teacher, may excite loyalty and admiration in some pupils; more frequently it excited the spirit of rebellion against what seemed to the boy's naturally acute recognition, injustice or unfairness on the part of the teacher. The displacement of male teachers by woman teachers in the rural school, I believe to be amark of progress rather than of retrogression. There is little likelihood of a country boy growing up with any lack of strength of character, manliness, courage, or other desirable masculine trait of character, merely because he is taught in school by a woman instead of by a man. And from the standpoint of advantage to the girl pupils, there are many points in favor of the woman teacher.

The rural school in its building, equipment, curriculum, standards, and in other respects, has made rapid progress and is,

for school-teaching, few male teachers are now found in the Ontario rural schools. Probably the majority are young women born and educated in the town and city, whose interests are naturally yrban, who intend to teach only a few years, and who therefore do not, it is charged, study deeply the rural school problem with which they come in contact. It is largely within the last decade or two that this situation has become especially evident but that it is radically undesirable is not as obvious as some would have us think. A certain amount of urbanization is desirable, and it does not necessarily follow that the young woman school teacher from the city will be responsible for an undue amount of this urbanization.

Under the gentle and tactful administration of the woman teacher, the "rowdyism", rebellion and general unpleasantness, excited by untactful and often unduly harsh male teachers of a generation ago has entirely disappeared from the country school. Brute strength, the chief asset possessed by the male teacher that is not possessed by the woman teacher, may excite loyalty and admiration in some pupils; more frequently it excited the spirit of rebellion against what seemed to the boy's naturally acute recognition injustice or unfairness on the part of the teacher. The displacement of male teachers by woman teachers in the rural school, I believe to be amark of progress rather than of retrogression. There is little likelihood of a country boy growing up with any lack of strength of character, manliness, courage, or other desirable masculine trait of character, merely because he is taught in school by a woman instead of by a man. And from the standpoint of advantage to the girl pupils, there are many points in favor of the woman teacher.

The rural school in its building, equipment, curriculum, standards, and in other respects, has made rapid progress and is,

I believe, progressing as rapidly as trained minds entrusted with the problem can accelerate its progress. Agriculture, horticulture, nature study, household science, elementary science and other subjects of value to the future farmer or the future farmer's wife are now included in the curriculum of the rural school. The real danger is that the country boy who does not go beyond the rural school will find himself upon reaching manhood lacking in the general and literary education requisite to the farmer of to-morrow taking his rightful place in the forefront of his province and his country's affairs.

In too many schools is there a tendency on the part of both teachers and school boards to drop the old "Fifth Classes", once the ideal and height of the country boy's ambition. The literary and general knowledge imparted in these old "fifth Classes" has enabled many a country boy to forge his way to success in leading professions and lines of business. But especially valuable has their training proved to the boy who stayed on the farm, broadening his mind and outlook and laying the foundation for a lifelong self-education through the reading of good literature. An admirable purpose was served by the old Public School Leaving courses followed for a few years by the Part 1, Junior Leaving courses, and which have since been replaced by the Junior and Senior Graduation Diploma courses. In many school districts what are known as "Continuation Schools" or Continuation classes are held at the larger schools or village centres and high school work is taken up to and including the second or third form in high school. These schools posses practically all the advantages of the high school up to a certain stage, but it is doubtful if their beneficial effect on the rural community is as great as the old "Fifth Class" or "Leaving" class which at one time nearly every rural school possessed. For the young or precocious pupil undoubt

an advantage lies with the continuation class being held in his own school. He does not need to leave home or go to another school for the first year or two of high school work. The presence of the "Fifth Class" serves as a stimulus to the other classes; the Fifth class pupils take an active part in the local literary society, the young People's church societies, the Bible class in their Sunday-school and otherwise play a part in the social and intellectual life of their community which gradually prepares tham to take an active part in the life of the world. Whereas when the public school graduate at an early age leaves home to attend high school in the nearest town or the collegiate institute in the nearest city,"he loses his bearing" so to speak, for a year or two. He is a high school boy or girl, a trifle proud or conscious perhaps of his or her advancement, that is all. The rare advantage of three or four or at most half a dozen advanced pupils studying under the direction and counsels of a capable teacher and in the friendly and helpful rivalry of the small class is not found in the high school. The Fifth class pupil on the other hand in the little country school enjoys in a remarkable degree the growing consciousness of young manhood and young womanhood that the pupil in the city or town high school does not experience.

Keep the pupil in the country school as long as possible. He will be the better for it and community will be the better for it. This is my argument in brief. The rural schoolteacher largely occupied with attention to the public school classes places the continuation class to a certain extend on its honor. The members are expected to do their work faithfully but the teacher relaxes necessarily a good deal of the closer scrutinizing of work that is required with the other classes. And this in itself is a good thing. At the head of the

school and in a small class the pupil does not abuse this advantage. In the lower form of the high school, especially where many of the pupils have suddenly been thrust into new surroundings and experiances, this closer supervision by the teacher could not wisely be relaxed. I firmly believe that the rural school continuation class tends to make pupils grow up quicker and better than the lower high school course and in a busy world with the work of life rapidly growing fuller and more complex, the advantage is obvious. Everyone knows how boys and girls of fourteen or fifteen prefer to be called "young people" instead of "children" or "boys and girls" and in the rural school Fifth class, the teacher naturally meets these pupils more on a level, treating them largely as grown-ups like herself. I do not argue that it is a wise or desirable thing for children to grow up too rapidly, but I do believe that since there is growing tendency for them to do so, that the rural school continuation class is the best place for their rapid growth. The Department of Education has wisely made provision for these advanced rural classes. Some teachers and school boards take advantage of this provision. Others hold that it detracts too much of the teacher's time from the work of the junior pupils. Some teachers claim it makes their work too burdensome, and some parents unwisely hurry their children off to the high school even when such classes are available. I hold that school boards should generously make it worth while for the teacher to teach continuation classes. The school day is not excessively long, even if occasionally it requires half an hour after four to get through the additional work of the Fifth class. Under the right management and direction, rather the right leadership, the work of the Fifth class should not require the same close attention or labor that the junior classes require. It should rather prove to some extent a recreation on the part of the

teacher. Junior Graduation diplomas admit the holders to the second form in high school. Senior Diplomas taken with certain options in elementary science and other subjects admit the pupil to the third form in high school. The country school would be a far greater social factor were the advantages of these high school privileges for continuation classes fully realized and in this way the country boy and girl ambitious for learning would be kept on the farm one or two years longer.

The idea of the school as a social centre is comparatively new in rural Ontario, in urban Ontario too for that matter. In the United States both in town and country greater advantage is taken of the school building. There is no logical reason why the school house should not serve as a community meeting house in the absence of an other suitable building. Extra salaries paid to school janitors, if necessary, would be well invested in this respect. In many communities local literary societies regularly meet in the rural school house. Why not ? Lectures are held from time to time in others, some by speakers from various departments of the Government, others by good lyceum speakers. Even the travelling moving picture operator who occasionally exhibits his films in the country schoolhouse accomplished a beneficial work. Social evenings, Farmers' and Womens' Institute meetings, study classes on literary or agricultural subjects music clubs if a piano is available, Chautaqua classes, can accomplish good work by meeting in the country school. Evening classes for advanced pupils and adults ought to be and doubtless will in the future, be part of the purpose of the rural school building.

The University Extension course can very well be brought occasionally to the country school. Lectures from nearby colleges, high schools and universities can sometimes be secured. Even now an

an important work is being carried on by local district representatives of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Lectures and addresses are given on agricultural and other topics.

In many districts volunteer teachers could be secured to conduct classes in agricultural book-keeping, commercial and business forms and correspondence, and similar branches of education helpful and indeed necessary for the farmer.

Local dramatic societies can improve the talents of their members and brighten the life of the community by essaying the presentation of simple but standard plays. The old-fashioned dialogue so long popular at church and school entertainment has had its day and clean and moral though it undoubtedly was, it is perhaps partly respons ible for much of the popular preference for melodrama of the "Thorns and Orange Blossoms" type rather than Shakespearean drama or the plays of Bernard Shaw Pinere, or Augustus Thomas, evidenced not only by the so-called lower classes but also by a large proportion of the middle classes both of rural and urban origin.

The rural school library, which has become increasingly common in recent years, is another immense factor of social betterment. The average country parent has not the comprehensive view or survey of the world of literature that the college trained man or woman has. Hence the average rural parent would not know what books to buy for his family even if he were predisposed to do so. Under the guidance of lists pre pared by the Department of Education, the really worth while masterpieces of English literature and translations in English from the best in Latin, Greek and other literatures are placed in the school library, only a few books perhaps, but books that count, books that it is a misfortune and a handicap for him not even to have heard of. In the operation of most school libraries, to-day books can be drawn not

only by the pupils of the school but by all the adult residents of the school section. Men and women are to-day learning to appreciate the best in the literature of the Anglo-Saxon race, who in their youth read nothing more intellectual than the "goody-goody" moral-tagged, books, which 15 or 20 years ago predominated in the Sunday-school libraries, good reading perhaps for the child of twelve but never intended for adult minds. Sunday-school libraries to-day are in many rural districts progressive and place on their shelves a fairly generous proportion of real literature. Orthodox Sunday-schools have no qualms of conscience in encouraging their young people to read Emerson, Carlyle, Ruskin and Spencer, writers whose "heresies" once placed them under the ban of the greater part of the Christain church. To be sure a large proportion of the books on the Sunday-library shelves to-day are of the "Ralph Connor" type, but such books while not to be compared with the more classic and standard works of English literature, are helpful and valuable in that they strengthen and uplift the growing consciousness of Canadian nationality, besides teaching as an essential trait of character "Christian manliness and womanliness". Besides the Sunday-school is under no obligation to teach English literature. This is the province of the day school. The Sunday-school library of yesterday accomplished a great and good work. Many a man or woman in the fore-front of Canadian life to-day had his or her ideals shaped in the Sunday afternoon reading of the "library book" brought home from Sunday school. That the public schools are now steadily increasing their apportionments of funds for school libraries is in itself a matter for national rejoicing. And the Department of Education cannot make too generous grants for the encouragement of this work.

Also an incalculably great agent of good is the rural school fair. This comparatively new institution for several years now has

met with remarkable success. School fairs have been orderly organized by the district representatives of the Department of Agriculture in whatever counties such departments have been established. The district representative co-operates with the teachers of a certain group of schools and pupils of these schools themselves elect officers and boards for each school fair association, the district representative and teachers acting as advisors. Exhibits are held annually or semi-annually at a central school or in turn at different schools, the pupils showing fruit, flowers, and vegetables, grown by themselves at home or in the school garden plot, insects and weeds they have mounted and catalogues, drawings and pictures, art work they have learned to do at school, purebred poultry they have raised and other exhibits of farm produce and products. Prizes are offered for the best essays on helpful themes and altogether the interest and activity created among the pupils could not be more beneficial than it is on the day of the school fair, parents and friends come together, the advantages of the social intercourse being obvious.

The school garden idea has also been worked out by many rural schools and followed perseveringly and successfully by the pupils. The practical training supplements the classroom instruction in agriculture, nature study and horticulture and the ideals and ambitions of the pupils are shaped towards the art, science and profession of agriculture. The social value of school gardening and individual plots cared for at home come fron the free open-air excercise together with the creating of an objective interest in the child mind and for the development of the social activity of the pupil. The social activity is developed by school gardening where the children work together with a common aim. Again they may have individual plots either at school or at their own home. They love to exchange fruits and seed with one another. They have a deep regard for the beautiful. But the

social value of individual plots does not end with the school, it extends to the homes and to the entire community. The choldren take a pride in beautifying their own home. Many of them begin to think deeper with the subject; they reason cause and effect; they want to find out the scientific aspects of the soil, and cultivation. Although these children may not take this as a life-work, they have opened for themselves, a broader outlook on life.

Neighborhood entertainments of a diversified and helpful character frequently are arranged with the assistance of the rural teacher and held in the schoolhouse. The old-fashioned spelling-bee and singing school which did much good work in their time are perpetuated in a variety of periodical entertainments. Christmas, Easter, Arbor Day, Thanksgiving, Empire and Dominion Day programmes brighten the round of the school year and are looked forward to by the pupils for weeks in advance..Arbor day once utilized by over thrifty trustees to have pupils clean up long neglected school yards, repair fences and repile wood in the woodshed are now the occasion of more elaborate and helpful programmes, in addition to the planting of flowers, trees and shrubs by the pupils.

Chapter. 7

ACHIEVEMENTS IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

An evidence of rural progress in Ontario is well illustrated in the keener interest the farmer takes in his own vocation to-day than he took a generation ago. Farmers in districts which the Grange never extended to now have their Farmers' Institutes, send their sons to the Ontario Agricultural College, attend short courses in agriculture and dairying themselves, and read progressive farm journals and

books on agriculture that have multiplied in recent years.

However, the beginnings of agricultural education extend a long way back into the history of the Dominion. As early as 1833 the question of agricultural and manual training in Canadian schools discussed. In 1845 was issued the "Canadian Agricultural Reader". In 1847 when the first Ontario Normal school for the training of teachers was established at Toronto, daily lectures on agricultural chemistry were given by Mr. Hind, the science master, and practical experiments in field crops and fertilizers were conducted on the grounds, Lord Elgin, the Governor-General giving prizes to the candidates taking the highest places in examination. In 1870 the first textbook on Agriculture was issued by the Council of Public Instruction, Dr. Ryerson's "First Lessons on Agriculture". The second textbook, authorized by the Minister of Education for use in the Public Schools of Ontario was Mill's and Shaw's "Public School Agriculture". In 1893 the first summer school for public school teachers was held at the Ontario Agricultural College, founded about twenty years previously. In 1898 the third textbook, Dr. C. C. James' "Agriculture" was authorized for use as a textbook "in any High School or Public School in Ontario, if so ordered by resolution of the Trustees."/

In 1903 the Macdonald Institute was established at the Ontario Agricultural College, with the especial object in view of training teachers in agriculture and five "Macdonald School Gardens" as they were then called were commenced in Carleton county.

In 1904 a summer school for teachers was held at MacDonald Institute and the First Interprovincial Teachers' Class was held during the fall term under the MacDonald Scholarship scheme. In the same year Nature Study was incorporated into the Public School

/ Dept. of Education, Circular No. 3, August, 1912.

course of study, and the work in elementary science for the first two years of the high school course was rearranged giving considerable prominence to agricultural affairs. Special grants available to schools and teachers for carrying on school gardening were made by the Government in 1907. The first Normal Teachers' Class in Elementary Agriculture and Horticulture was held at the Ontario Agricultural College in 1909. In 1910 fifteen schools qualified for grants for school gardening. In 1911 thirty-three schools qualified and a Director of Elementary Agriculture was appointed to direct and promote the work. In 1912 regulations made the teaching of agriculture the basis for special grants to schools, more than one hundred schools signifying their intention to take advantage of these grants, practical work to be carried on in school gardens and systematic instruction in agriculture to be given in the class room.

In later years the development of Nature Study in the public schools has been marked and special attention has been given and is being given to agriculture in school gardens, home gardens, corn clubs poultry clubs, Progress Clubs and other associations designed to interest the country boy and girl. A circular issued by the Department of Education in 1913 suggested as work for these "Progress Clubs" experiments with select seed obtained from the taking up of work outlined by local district agriculture representatives, the improvement of the school and school grounds, planting trees, shrubs and flowers, the holding of school fairs, inviting the public to attend special meetings of the club, the securing of agricultural books for the school library the purchase of club badges and pins for the members and other like activities. Canning clubs were suggested for the girls and many schools have organized such clubs. In 1911 continuation shhools at Carp and Markdale; high schools at Dutton, Essex, Newmarket, Norwood, Orangeville

Petrolia, Port Hope, Simcoe and Stirling; and Collegiate Institutes at Galt, Collingwood, Lindsay, Morrisburg, Perth, Picton and Whitby organized regular courses of study in the agricultural departments. In 1912 agriculture was taught in 284 high and continuation schools and the so-called Elementary Science taught to all pupils in all high schools has a distinctly agricultural basis and liberal options are allowed at the discretion of teachers wishing to adapt their courses to the especial needs or interests of the agricultural community catered to. In the Normal Schools in Nature Study and Science, emphasis is laid upon agricultural studies for rural schools and special teacher- training courses in agriculture have sine 1904 been carried on at the Ontario Agricultural College, more than 800 teachers receiving instruction up to 1912. Courses leading up to the degree of Bachelor of Science (Agriculture) and covering two years' work, are taught in Toronto, Queen's and McMaster universities. The remaining two years of the course are spent at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The Schools Division of the Ontario Experimental Union was established in 1909 and distributes agricultural books and bulletins, flower and vegetable seeds, grain, bulbs, shrubs, vines and forest tree seedlings and issues instruction sheets to teachers and circulars for the pupils. Similarly helpful instruction sheets and bulletins are sent out from the office of the Director of Elementary Agriculture, Ontario Agricultural College Guelph.

Many schools co-operate with the Women's Institure movement and at Belleville High School in March, 1911, a High School Women's Institute was organized by the teachers and mothers connected with the school to promote rural and social progress, scientific child study, and to co-operate with the Board of Education in its work.

Bulletin No. 6 "Agricultural Education" April, 1913.

Altogether the development of the study of agriculture and its branches and associated sciences in the rural schools during the past decade has been little short of marvellous. Agriculture is coming into its own. The ideal in view is well set forth in the following extract from Circular No. 3 issued by the Director of Elementary Agricultural Education.

"The country school of the future will be teaching agriculture. It will not be a new kind of school simply because it has added a new subject to its list of studies. But in the teaching of this new subject it will find a new service in the community and a new meaning for education for country people."

"It will be the local experimental farm in a simple, but effective way; it will intoruce new varieties of field crops and test methods of cultivation through the children's school-farm; it will be the local beauty spot with neat fences, well kept buildings lawns, and flower beds; it will be the local play ground, not only for the children, but for the grown-ups; it will be the local centre for social gatherings; its library will serve everyone with books, magazines, bulletins, and reports that concern themselves with the farm work in home and field as well as with literary matter."

"In the school work it will not consider examinations as the be-all and end-all of its effort; it will not cheat the many for the sake of preparing a few for advanced work in a higher school; it will remember that most of the pupils will have only a short time at school and a long time at work, and it will make its instruction fitthe needs of the worker no less tham the future needs of the scholar; it will try to keep the boy who is not clever in book-studies at school and to educate him through practical activities with tools and in the garden; it will remember that children are educated for life through activities in play, in work at home, in handling tools, in expeniences in Nature's Workshop, no less than by learning from books; it will bring the fathers and mothers back to school again in using the daily home interests as the means of education of their children. It will give to our boys and girls in the country an education for life."

Chapter 8

ACHIEVEMENTS THROUGH THE COUNTRY CHURCH

" In all ages the evangels of religion have been the pioneers, not only of religious teachings in newly settled territories, but have beeh the pioneers of organization for all forms of social work" says George Frederick Wells, assistant to executive secretary of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, writing on "The Rural Church" in a symposium on "Country Life" in the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science. " The increase of attention to organized religion among rural people is not only a recognition of the great power and importance which the institutions of religion have attained, but it shows a deepening sense of need that we make sure that the country church shall not lose her place and leadership in the social advance of modern civilization as a whole. "

The rural church in Ontario is awakening to a fuller and completer vision of her mission, social and spiritual, and naturally for several years past this awakening has been tinged somewhat with a not altogether pleasant realization of her weaknesses, mistakes and neglected opportunities. A spirit of pessimism has been noticeable here and there but on the whole it has been a healthy pessimism and has only served to call closer attention to the church's mistakes and weaknesses. In the

more progressive rural districts the church has been making progress. Better church edifices, better and warmer sheds for the farmers' horses, better Sunday School rooms and in many cases parish halls, lecture rooms and reading rooms have been built. On the other hand in sparsely settled districts, rural churches have declined greatly in their membership. Some have been closed altogether. In the majority of cases their place is being filled to a great extent by churches of sister denominations. There is no logical or good reason why the Methodist church should try to truggle on in a Presbyterian community or an Anglican church in a Baptist community or vice versa. Too much sectarianism is largely responsible for the condition of many country churches in Ontario. Rural Ontario is predominately Protestant or Roman Catholic. The differences of creed which separate the various orthodox Protestant churches are not sufficient to justify competition in sparsely settled districts. Church individuality has its merits and the danger of the church union movement is that this individuality will be sacrificed, but crowding and overlapping of the Protestant churches in rural Ontario in many places, is deplorable in its results. Here and there are Quaker, Mennonite and communities of other denominations sufficiently divergent from the five leading evangelical Protestant denominations, the Methodist, Presbyterian, Anglican, Baptist, and Congregational, to justify their maintenance of separate churches. But throughout the province we find in villages of from 100 to 300 people, three or more of the five leading denominations, each with a naturally small attendance and unnecessarily competing with one another. All five churches are essentially evangelical and essentially orthodox but the question of churches grouping themselves into conferences on the one hand or presbyteries and symods on the other hand, the question of

episcopal headship or a mode of baptism, or whether or not individual churches shall have local or congregational autonomy, are allowed to keep them apart. It is true that the Methodist, Presbyterian and Congregational churches have effected arrangements to prevent overlapping and as a result in many places the church of locally weaker denomination is amicably withdrawing in favor of the stronger. Union churches have already been built in some districts. (Baptists and Disciples of Christ might co-operate to a similar extent in some districts. Yet we still find largely similar denominations each maintaining a struggling church in rural communities where a united church in rural communities could perform a much more valuable and active work.

In one district which I have in mind the Society of Friends is being largely annexed by the Methodist churches, and this despite the fact that this particular Quaker community was founded by Hicksites, or Liberal Friends not generally regarded as an evangelical or orthodox Christain denomination. A victory for the evangelical or orthodox Christianity you say ? A doubtful victory. I am told that this particular Quaker community despite its liberal theology still adheres to its old Quaker customs and social views. The Quaker life of the community is too staid too narrow to suit the young people who are growing up. The older Friends are still opposed to dancing, card-playing and "parties"..The Methodist church in recent years has largely dropped its opposition to dancing and the Quaker young people are hence joining the Methodist church. In brief dancing is more vital to the Quaker young people than the noble traditions of the Friends' movement. Are these young people likely to attach a great deal of weight to the doctrines of the Atonement, justification by faith, and the divinity of Christ, which are regarded as essential doctrines of the church they are joining but were not emphasized

or held by the Hickaite Quakers. It is doubtful. In fact I question if the theological doctrines of the Protestant churches are given as much thought by young people brought up in these churches as would naturally be expected. I am inclined to believe that the theology of the church is accepted largely in a nominal "Take-it-for-granted" sort of way, not only by young people but by many older members of the church. On the other hand, the Quaker thought a great deal about his doctrines and held to them firmly. He was honest and sincere in his convictions although other Christians might believe him to be wrong. And his opposition to war, lawsuits, "swearing" and other things forbidden by his faith, served in many communities as a leaven of idealistic and progressive thought.

On the other hand we find the Progressive Friends as the orthodox or evangelical Quakers call themselves, competing in some districts with Methodist churches, although the difference between these two denominations are infinitesimal. An earnest adherence to doctrines of faith, so long as this adherence does not make the adherent tyrannical and unjust, is to be desired. But to-day it is not so much doctrines of faith that keep the Protestant Evangelical churches apart as questions of church government.

But this growing disregard for theological tenets ? How shall it be met ? Assuredly, not by fighting it. Earnest men there have been and are, who, rightly or wrongly, assert that Jesus did not teach theology. No, the remedy for loss of religious or theological conviction is to replace it by active Christian social service Too much concentration on "other worldliness" has tended to lose this world to the church, and despite this concentration there has been growing aversion to this "other worldliness". The best way for the church to prove her earnestness of conviction regarding the next

world, is undoubtedly to tackle manfully and unreservedly the problems of this world. It must be admitted that the church is partly to blame for the fact that the "humanitarians", by which let me designate all those who wish to better th condition of humanity, are divided into two hostile camps, the Christian reformer and the anti-Christian or non-Christian reformer including the Socialist, The Industrialist, the Syndicalist and the philosophical Anarchist. Non-Christian humanitarians are few in rural Ontario. A practically undivided field still awaits the Christian Church and for economic reasons peculiar to agriculture it is likely to remain the church's field for some years yet. But there is no time to waste.

"It is hopeless to expect that the church can fulfil its mission among the people who live upon the land unless it conceives its function in terms of the fundamental needs of those people. Furthermore, it must interpret those underlying needs in the light of the actual conditions which exist in the industrial and social life of the times." [1]

"The only way to an understanding of the relation of the church to rural progress is through an appreciation of the place which the church as a social institution may have among other social institutions affecting rural life. Moreoever, to know the value of these institutions one must first know the rural social needs." [2]

"The farmer is engaged in a struggle which is affecting every situation in the country and every institution. It is in this struggle that the farmer needs religious help. Shall the church give him in this crisis theological teaching-pure, it may be, as to its source in the Word of God, but still purely theological ? Or shall she, not turning aside from this, busy herself also

1 "The Church and the Rural Problem" by K. L. Butterfield p. 67
2 "Chapters in Rural Progress" " " " p.170

with all his varied interests, social, educational, recreational, and even economic ?[1] "The conditions for the rural community to-day, in failing to provide for so man human needs that these when God designed to dwell in the country are fleeing thence, constitute an emphatic call to the church to become institutional in regard to every unanswered rural human need, until she heal country life."[2]

And the rural church in the last few years has been nobly responding to the call but she has met great difficulties. Conservation is stronger in the country than in the city and new movements in the church are discountenced by many rural members just as they would frown on new movements in po litics or other phases of life. Sectarian differences are stronger in the country. Sectarian disputes in the country take longer to heal, and the comparatively small number of denominations found in the country emphasizes in the mind of the rural Christian the importance of sectarian differences. In the country, the evangelical church has no opposition while in the city the existence of Unitarian, Universalist, Swedenbergian, Christian Science and other churches not classed as evangelical churches, make the Methodist, Presbyterian and Baptist realize a certain bond of unity and to some extent overlook their doctrinal and formal differences.

A Commission on the Problem of the Rural Church reported at the Toronto Methodist Conference Institute, March 1912, that : "We are convinced that the rural church of to-day in Ontario is laboring under many difficulties, namely :-

(1) A cityward andwestward movement of population.

(2) An individualism which renders difficult community life and co-operation among the people of the rural districts.

(3) A materialism which is prevalent everywhere- - that makes it impossible to reach the higher levels of moral and spiritual life.

1. "Rural Life in Canada" by Rev. J. MacDougall p 151
2. p 164

(4) A church which in methods and directing agencies has not changed with the changing conditions and the changing outlook.

(5) A pastorate which by virtue of the system under which it works lacks continuity and permanency.

(6) A leadership which for similar reasons is untrained in rural problems.

(7) An overlapping of territory and a smallness of salary that prevent the rural pastorate under present conditions from rendering the most effective service."

The same difficulties or corresponding difficulties have become evident to other denominations working in rural Ontario and active and whole-hearted endeavors are now being bent to successfully coping with these difficulties.

Low ministerial salaries have made it difficult for earnest capable pastors to properly maintain their homes and families. Economically often much more distressed and unfortunately situated than the bulk of his parishioners, it is not to be wondered at that many country ministers, harrassed by their own need, failed to fully realize their parishioners' social needs.

New ministers are receiving better salaries, many denominations fixing a minimum and the church unable or unwilling to pay that amount becoming a home mission or assisted charge, which most farming communities find repugnant to their sense of independence, although they may have neglected to pay the ministers' salaries in past years without feeling any such humiliation. Capable young men, well trained, are volunteering for country parishes and are facing squarely and earnestly the problems to be faced. The Laymen's Missionary movement has gained headway in the country as in the city and has done much to moderate sectarian prejudices and militant denominationalism.

Better country roads, following the Good Roads movement,

enable members living at a distance from the church of their denomination to attend more regularly and with greater convenience and comfort.

The church is adopting the "Social centre" idea, or where the "social centre" had already been independently established by school or community, is co-operating in its entension.

The Commission on the Problem of the Rural Church reporting at the toronto Conference Institute, March 1912, declared strongly in favor of institutional work, specifying the need of " An individual church plant to consist of a place of worship, a parish house, a parsonage, and an athletic field which will enable the church to become the centre for recreation, the social and moral and religious life of the community and which will make it in reality a developer and trainer of the strongest leaders and the most efficient workers to meet the demands of the church and the state and the world-wide activities of to-day."

Many rural churches have opened reading rooms in the basements or lecture-rooms of the church building where high class books and periodicals may be freely made use of during week night evenings. Unobjectionable games have been introduced, carpet balls and bowling, gymnasiums have been built and equipped, tennis courts laid out, debating clubs organized, study classes in literary economic, religious, missionary and other lines of thought encouraged, union social evenings between neighboring congregations of different denominations, have been arranged, pastors are exchanged from time to time, Sunday-school and young people's societies meet in debate, church baseball and hockey leagues have been organized among the boys of rural churches, and basketball leagues among the girls, all of which has spelled new life for the rural churches adopting such extensions within the last few

years.

The Young Men's and Young Women's Christian associations have been extended into the country. Bruce, Huron and Lambton counties now have county associations.

The rural survey undertaken by the Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Huron county in 1913, was extremely helpful in bringing to light the social conditions needs and requirement of that county. The survey emphasized three points in its report :

"The supreme importance of the developement, in children and young people, of the highest character through education and training . . . .

"No one institution or movement will solve the country problem, but all forces must unite and co-operate for that end . . . . . .

"The Church is the organization that is best qualified to lead in the rehabilation of the country." [3]

Boards of social service and evangelism departments of temperance and moral reform and similar departments of church work under various names, are earnestly directing their attention to the solution of the rural problem. Much has been accomplished, much is being accomplished and much still remains to be accomplished.

The church organization, that has in the past accomplished as much good in the rural districts of Ontario, that it stands out in marked prominence, is the rural Sunday school.

"There is hardly any other institution in the open country that has greater possibilities of usefulness in the Rural Church movement than the rural sunday school when properly organized and directed." (4).

"The present world-consciousness of brotherhood and the (2). practical co-operation of progressive forces in the world may be

1 "The Rural Church Movement" by Edwin L. Earp p. 108
2 "The Day of the Country Church" by J. O. Ashenhurst p. 88

3. "Preface to Rural Survey, County of Huron, Ontario"

traced to the influence of the Sabbath school movement of the last century as one of the chief factors in their development. Other causes have aided in the development of the spirit of brotherhood, but the Sabbath-school has been a pioneer in Church comity and federation for social progress."

In many rural communities sparsely settled and without church or pastor, the foundations of church life and religious growth were laid by zealous Christians of different denominations who commenced a Sunday school in public school, ledgeroom or private home. The union Sunday-school, in many districts played an important part in helping to break down sectarian differences and denominational prejudices. From the simply organized Sunday-schools of a generation age to the highly organized schools of to-day with their cradle roll beginners', primary, intermediate, Senior and home departments, Bible classes, adult organized classes and other departments is a marked growth. The country school has kept pace with these improvements and innovations fostered perhaps to a considerable extent by publishers of supplies and plans, but nevertheless altogether helpful. The denominational Sunday-school boards have accepted all these innovations and improvements and find them helpful and progressive, although many country schools reluctant to use any but their denominational helps did not accept these advanced methods of Sunday-school organization as early as they might have done.

The Cradle Roll, even in the remotest country districts interests the parents of babes in arms; and as seen as they are old enough to be to Sunday-school, the beginners' department is organized and waiting for them. The primary department takes them in turn, followed by the intermediate and senior departments and when they reach

manhood and womanhood their interest in the Sunday-school is maintained by Organized Bible and other adult classes. The adult Sunday school movement naturally gains easier headway in the country than in the city where Sunday excursions and Sunday lectures and concerts offer other ways of spending Sunday. Little country churches in some localities maintain adult Bible classes in their Sunday-schools that are the envy of city churches ten times their size.

"Reference to the good work of the Sunday-school library has been made under another head in this thesis. It cannot be ever emphasized and the old Sunday-school library which on account of lax methods of recording books loaned, frequently ceased to exist in a year or less, now under better library methods, has impressed upon members the reasonableness of ~~the~~ thgoughtfulness on their part to retun books as promptly as read; a wider range of books offered, and more literary discrimination, without any undue relaxing of moral and spiritual discrimination, is exercised in their selection. Boys and girls Sunday-school clubs, athletic, missionary, social and along other lines, make the Sunday-school a social centre. The Boy Scout and Girl Guide movements, which meet with some objections on the grounds that they may tend toward the encouragement of militarism, have not invaded the rural Sunday-school as they have many city schools. But leagues of Kindness, teaching kindness to animals and otherwise holding up high ideals, Legions of Temperance, and similar organizations of a helpful nature are found in many rural Sunday-schools. The distribution of young people's periodicals through the Sunday-school carries into many homes otherwise devoid of any reading matter, more inspirational than the daily newspapers, literature that is both uplifting and entertaining. The rural Sunday-school has probably, on the whole, made much more remarkable and satisfactory progress than the rural church.

Chapter 9

OTHER AGENCIES OF EDUCATION

Undoubtedly one of the most important factors which from now on is bound to contribute to rural progress in this province is the use of hydro-electric power. In many districts farmers are already lighting their homes and barns, pumping water for their stock, manufacturing cheese and butter, cleaning and grinding their grain by the use of this power. The general use of electricity on the farm will necessarily obviate much of the drudgery of farm work and will contribute a multitude of blessing through the better, cleaner and probably cheaper lighting of the farmer's home, conducive to the farmer spending more of his evenings in reading farm periodicals, good literature and magazines, and to a more or less extent through its superiority over the old kerosene lamp, contributing also to the preservation of the eyesight of the farmer, his wife, and his boys and girls.

Electric heating will doubtless in time bring within reach of the farmer a more sanitary and healthful system of heating his home than coal and wood stoves or furnaces now in vogue.

During the Legislative Sessions of 1911, a bill was introduced to facilitate the distribution of electricity in the townships and small villages. It was enacted as follows :-

Sec 3 (Power Co. Act, 1911/ "That one or more ratepayers in a municipality, the corporation of which has not entered into a contract with the Commission under the Power Commission Act, may apply to the corporation to obtain from the Commission a supply of electrical power or energy for the use of such ratepayer or ratepayers, for lighting, heating and power purposes, or for any other purposes.

Sec. 4. "The application shall be in writing signed by the applicants abd shall state the lots or parts of lots owned or occupied by each of them respectively and the purpose for the electrical power or energy is required.

Sec. 5 "The Council of the Corporation shall thereupon request the Commission to supply the electrical power or energy for the purposes mentioned in the application."

A number of municipal corporations have availed themselves of the provisions of this act. The capital cost of building transmission lines in the rural districts is borne by the Commission and the townships. Each township has to provide about one-third of the capital expenditure, by an issue of debentures, the remaining two-thirds being borne by the Commission. The actual rate to the consumer is necessarily fixed to cover the annual charge on this capital expenditure, but this is often considerably reduced by the farmers themselves helping to build the branch lines from farm to farm.

An educational campaign was instituted in the rural districts by the Commission in 1913 and successful experiments were conducted in threshing and silo-filling by the use of hydro-power. The use of small motors on each farm is tending to and will, eventually revolutionize work connected with rural life in this province.

References have already been made to the educational work of Farmer's Institutes and Women's Institutes, county fairs and various other agricultural societies.

Another institution that has contributed its share, although not an outstanding contribution, is the village or neighborhood library. In recent year with the organization of library associations, the village library has been enthused with a new spirit of life. The two or three shelves of old books, in antiquated and musty binding that were located in the village grocery store or drug store or perhaps hardware store, doctor's office or private home, has developed into the up-to-date village reading room and in the larger villages and towns into the Carnegie library, usually extending its patronage to the

rural community surrounding. The village library largely grew out of the Mechanics' Institute libraries and in the days when books were few, it is creditable and pleasing that very good selections were made. But as soon as the majority of people had read all the books on the shelf or shelves, too seldom were new books procured. Interest gradually waned in the village library. Often when it was located in a private home, it was not patronized as it would have been in a more public place for the very reason that patrons feared they might become intrusive . Especially would newcomers to the vicinity or those not personally acquainted with the librarian be averse to making their first visit to the library. And in many counties in Old Ontario a growing "Reserve" has been evident among farmers in their intermingling and visiting. Logging and quilting bees are no more as they used to be and although a new spirit of community life has been in the last several years replacing this "aloofness", there was a decade or more in many country districts when farmers became characteristically individualistic or "independent" as would be said in Ontario colloqualism. Now however the village librarian visits the county or district association meets the paid librarians from the town or city, learns their methods and becomes imbued with the spirit of the library association. County and township councils are increasing their library grants and more generous support is offered by the province.

In addition a system of travelling libraries, selections of books in boxes or cases are sent out from Toronto and exchanged for new sets when they have been read by one community. The travelling library system so far has chiefly appealed to the New Ontario isolated districts but in a few remote communities in Old Ontario its benefits have been appreciated.

Municipal progress is a division that one might reasonably expect to receive comment in a thesis of this subject, but no out-

standing changes in rural administration have occurred in recent years. Different arrangements for selecting or electing county councils have been tried but it would be safe to say that all systems in vogue at present are meeting with fairly satisfactory results. Farmers elected to township and county municipal office as a rule give honest and careful services, although it must be admitted very often entirely untrained services. Defects in municipal administration that are bound to be but probably none sufficiently outstanding to call for expecial comment or criticism here.

An agency of rural progress that has been especially advanced and enterprising in Ontario is the agricultural periodical press. It is no more than their due to mention the names of several farm papers published within the province that have carried on through their pages educational campaigns far-reaching and great in their results. For year "The Farmers' Advocate", published at London, and "The Weekly Sun", published at Toronto and contributed to for years by the late Goldwin Smith taught the farmers of the province the importance of awakening to their own needs and rights. Without any offence to patriotic and national feeling, favorable comment may be made on the sentiments in favor of peace and against militaristic trends that these two papers have propagated. Without any intended criticism of the economic or tariff policies of any political parties, the farm papers of Ontario have contributed much to educate the farmer to the realization of the necessity when all manufacturing and other trade and commercial interests are banded together that he also should stand united in claiming a fair and square deal.

Literary and home departments maintained by many of these farm papers have inculcated in the minds of the boys and girls of the farm an appreciation for good literature. Essay competitions have served to awaken latent literary talent on lonely homesteads and

quiet farms. No other province or state in North America, it is probable has been better favored with its agricultural press than Ontario. Besides the papers mentioned above, a number of others might be mentioned, "Canadian Farm, " of Toronto; "Farm and Dairy and Rural Home", of Peterboro; and numerous poultry, livestock, horticultural, apiary and other periodicals devoted to various branches of farm work are published in the province. In addition to these, many leading agricultural papers published in other provinces or the United States have wide circulations in Ontario. Numerous bulletins of helpful interest are frequently issued by the Department of Agriculture and the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, and pamphlets and brochures prepared by district representatives of especial value to their respective districts help to educate the farmer towards a more progressive agriculture.

In connection with county departments of agriculture, reading rooms are maintained where bulletins, reports, books and periodicals on agriculture are kept on file. The services of the district representative are freely at the disposal of the farmers of the district to superintend and advise the laying out of drains and watercourses, directing campaigns against army worms and other pests, demonstrating the proper methods of pruning and other wise caring for orchards, advising as to proper treatment for certain soils, giving information as to varieties and kinds of grains, fruits and other crops suitable for certain districts or farms or soils, and in a score or more of other equally helpful ways.

Chapter 10

THE FUTURE OF RURAL PROGRESS

In a cursory and suggestive rather than in a comprehensive and fully demonstrative manner have I tried to indicate that in recent

years a certain amount of progress has been made and is being made in rural life in Old Ontario. Now let us look a short way into the future and picture the progress that I believe we are on the verge of making.

No one will gainsay the contention that cheap hydro-electric power and the rural electric railway will revolutionize farming in this province. And cheap electric power is bound to make the older parts of the province centres of world-noted manufacturing industry. The Great Lakes all around us and on main lines of railway communication, with the deepening of the Welland canal and the eventual completion of the Georgina Bay canal project, and the improvement of the St. Lawrence route, no part of the globe will be more advantageously situated. The disruption of the German manufacturing industries and the more or less interrupting of the manufacturing industries of the other European countries consequent to the Great War, will open new fields to Canadian manufacturers, and in some lines advantage of this has already been taken. Our proximity to a friendly nation of a common race and language is a safeguard of unbroken peace which no European country can offer. Increases in urban population at a rapid rate, may be confidently expected from now on. We need have no fear but that our rural population, now well awake to its opportunities will keep pace with the development of our towns and cities. The present rural population will be entirely inadequate to provide a food supply sufficient to the needs of the urban population that manufacturing industries will support in the near future., For several years to come the drift towards the townships and counties nearest to the line of greatest progress and population that already follows and will continue to follow for some years the main line of the Grand Trunk and the Great Lakes shores. Ontario farmers are finding that intensive farming near to cities and other centres of population is more profitable than mixed farming remote

from such centres. The drift toward the main chain of population is not to be wondered at. It must not be supposed that because the population of the extreme north of the Bruce peninsula may continue to decrease that rural Ontario is going backwards. The Niagara peninsula, the Hamilton district and the Berlin-Waterloo-Galt-Preston-Hespeler district, because of their proximity to the source of hydro-electric power and because they already enjoy it to an extent not enjoyed by remoter districts, will naturally attract a larger share of the increasing population following increasing industrial development. And metropolitan centres like Toronto will continue to grow at a rate out of all proportion to the average rural increase in population and development. We need not be surprised if along the shore of Lake Ontario, around the shores of the Niagara peninsula, and through Brantford, Woodstock, London, and Chatham to Windosr a largely unbroken chains of large town and cities should develop within a comparatively few years. Progress first follows main lines and latterly branches out in all directions embracing in time the remotest district and most inland hamlet. The development of radial railways will make the farmer of southern Ontario largely a surburbanite of great cities in his vicinity. There is no logical reason why Ontario should not ere long be as densely populated as any state in the American union. In a very short number of years, Canada flung out a somewhat scattered civilization across a mighty continent. It was obviously necessary that Ontario should have to make sacrifices in playing her part in the extension of Canadian civilization in the prairie provinces and in British Columbia. Ontario has not suffered to the same extent by emigration that the Maritime provinces have suffered, and moreover Ontario has the satisfaction of knowing that her emigration was largely to sister provinces, while the Maritime provinces lost heavily to the New England states.

Progress has given us only divided attention for a long

time. Now Progress is fairly, squarely facing in our direction. There seems no doubt but that Ontario will for years, perhaps for a century or more, remain the banner province of the great Dominion.

There are problems to be solved, many hard and perplexing problems, but we are at last fully aware of these problems, and with many of them we are well on our way towards their solution. Church and school and scores of farmers' organization are grappling with these problems and are already meeting with success. Large encouragement would be given to the further development of the agricultural resources of Ontario and rural progress would doubtless, be greatly accelerated were some government scheme worked out and put into operation to supply loans and advances to farmers at low rates of interest. It is a question which is being actively and seriously considered in Western Canada and very recently a similar agitation has been undertaken in certain parts of Ontario. Cities with a serious unemployed problem on their hands and knowing not how to solve it have recently considered the matter of petitioning the Legislature to devise some scheme of this nature which would enable the unemployed of the cities to embark in agricultural careers. Just how this would work out may be debatable but undoubtedly such assistance to the already experienced and active farmer, only held back from the fullest development of his farm by lack of sufficient capital would prove a great boon not only to the farmer himself but to the province generally.

H. Mitchell in "The Problem of Agricultural Credit in Canada" a bulletin issued by Queen's University, shows how state loans to farmers have worked out well in Australia. In the state of Victoria, in June 1912, the total amount of mortgages to farmers was $14, 773,000 and the amount repaid at that date was $8, 053, 900. At that date only ten farmers were in arrears for a total sum of only $468. New Zealand has also solved the problem of agricultural credit by state loans.

The province of Saskatchewan in 1913 appointed a Royal Agricultural Credit Commission which recommended the organization under Government supervision of an association to be knownas the "Saskatchewan Co-operative Farm Mortgage Association", subdivided into local associations with an advisory board of 15 members, the members to be appointed "part by the Association acting through its annual general meeting and the remainder by such organizations and institutions in the province as exist to promote agricultural betterment", at the head of the whole association to be placed a central commission of three members appointed by the Government, one to be a managing commissioner on a salary.

The Saskatchewan system is largely modelled on the German Landschaften founded by Frederick the Great as long ago as 1770 to help the Prussian landowners in the financial crises which followed the Seven Years' War.

The system of working according to Mr. Michell is a simple one; "The individual goes to the Landshaft officials, who after his land has been appraised, give a bond in exchange for his mortgage; the borrower then sells the bond in the open market. The Landschaft pays the interest on the bond itself, and looks to the borrower to pay a slightly higher rate of interest and amortization to the Association direct. If the borrower fail to keep up his payments the Landschaft forecloses (having statutory powers to do so without recourse to a lawsuit) has the land sold to the highest bidder and returns to the borrower any balance left over after the debt and costs have been paid." Of course in some respect and details these systems are open to criticism as Mr . Michel points out but there can be no question but that some similar step on the part of the Ontario Legislature would be greatly welcomed by the Ontario farmers as a solution of some of their most pressing problems of the present day,

No province or state in the worl d to-day is more advantageously

situated for the development and progress of to-morrow than southern Ontario. The commerce of some of the world's greatest cities will pass our doors, as it were. We need not be surprised if the Great Lakes shores become the centre of population of the globe. Undoubtedly the Great Lakes are the Mediterranean seas of the future.

We have schools and colleges of agriculture and other arts and sciences that are admittedly in the front rank of the world's institutions. All we need is confidence in ourselves, in the destinies that the Supreme Power intended for us; confidence and tenacious clinging to the ideals that we still possess while states and countries that have temporarily surpassed us in commercial development have unfortunately lost to a great extent; and above all an earnestness of desire and will not merely to profit for ourselves but make a helpful contribution to the progress of the world and of Time, and the betterment of the conditions of all humanity by our example and contact In the fullest consciousness of the dignity of labor; in the inspiration of the spirit of human service and brotherhood, and profiting by the failures and victories of other peoples in the past, let us do out work. But let us not concentrate too closely on the venal and commercial advantage to be gained. A glance at the civilizations of the past convince us that of all that have risen and fallen, none can exceed the lasting glory of Greece. Freedom, democracy, education and art, love of freedom and love of the beautiful, love of the spiritual and the finer things of life, these were the ideals of Greece. These have survived.

Conquest and imperial exploitations of the conquered, the Roman eagles flaunted and vaunted to the skies, this was the march of Rome. Rome fell and somehow we do not pity her fall.

The basic occupation of Grecian civilization was agriculture

Upon agriculture flourised a wealth of art and philosophy and literature that no nation has equalled since. Agriculture and art went hand in hand. Agriculture once a noble occupation of the Romans gave way to war; the sword replaced the plowshare and the field was tended by the captive slave, Rome fell and left her contribution to history, great in itself but entirely lacking in the inspiration and beauty and spiritual significance of the Grecian contribution. And it is probably that Greece would have much longer survived in her glories of peace, had not Macedonian thirst for conquest , led her to the overrunning of Asia. Vice and disease from the Orient, added to her neglect of agriculture for warfare, ~~and~~ hastened her decline.

We must continue to impress upon our people the necessity for ideals, the necessity for being alive to the crying evils of industrial life to-day, and the social injustices that walk unchallenged in our ~~industrial life to-day~~ midst The farmer of Ontario must not only largely solve his own problems. He must be ready, willing and competent to take a large part in solving the problems of the city. For a variety of reasons, he is well qualified to take an unprejudiced view of the social and economic evils that are growing more and more acute in our cities. Employer and worker, both in one, he is able to take a clear, unbiased view of the difficulties of capital and labor that are even now being agitated in our urban centres and which we must naturally expect to become still more acute as our industrial development is accelerated, as it undoubtedly will be.

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