

has been divulged. Hon. Frank Latchford, who has given much study to questions affecting social reform, is drafting a bill for the Government, and the measure will probably be in shape in a few days. It is thought that the bureau will be placed under some capable man as chief, and attached to Mr. Latchford's department. The suggestion has been made that the factory inspection work should be transferred to the Labor Bureau, but it is not known whether the Government will act upon it.

A number of farmers residing at Burriss, in the Rainy River district, have petitioned against the location of part of the proposed Rainy River Railway. They say that it is to run so near the boundary line that it will tend to promote settlement in Minnesota rather than in Ontario. They, therefore, asked that the line be located four miles further north.

#### Farmer's Institutes For Women.

The usefulness of the Farmers' Institutes promises to be much increased by the project now proposed by Superintendent Creelman for the formation of women's branches in connection therewith. During the past season, over 700 meetings of the institutes were held, attended by 125,000 persons. Mr. Creelman is now sending out circulars to the Secretaries of the various institutes and asking for the names of six ladies in the neighborhood who will assist in organizing the women's branch. It is proposed to hold a women's meeting in the afternoon and in the evening both sexes will meet together. A corps of lay lecturers will be secured, who will be sent out, and who will give practical instruction in cooking, dairying, raising poultry and other branches of domestic science of a character exactly suited to a progressive farmer's wife. During the past season five ladies were on the institute staff as lecturers. In South Wentworth a Ladies' Institute has been in existence for three years, while one was organized in South Ontario last

year. Under the present law farmers' institutes for women are legal, and the Government is pledged to a grant of \$10 yearly to each, while a like amount may also be given by the men's branch of the institute.

The Department of Fisheries has conceded a boon to the thousands of boys and young men of Ontario. A regulation has been issued authorizing the spear- ing of suckers while on the "run" during the present season. This sport is now about due, and will last for a week or two. As the law stands, this permission may be granted by the department any season, but the sport is unlawful otherwise.

#### Beekeepers' Association.

The annual report of the Ontario Beekeepers' Association for last year as received from the Department of Agriculture comprises a good deal of information relating to agriculture in all its branches. The proceedings of the association's annual meeting last December are given in detail, and while they are mainly of concern to the specialist, some topics touched upon have a wider interest, more especially the

papers and discussions relating to the marketing of honey. Among those who addressed the meeting was Prof. J. W. Robertson of the Ottawa Experimental Farm, who has been actively engaged in promoting the exportation of Canadian farm produce to Britain, who spoke of the demand in the old country for honey, and gave many practical suggestions as to the preparation and packing of honey in accordance with the special requirements of the British consumer. Another matter which received considerable attention was the practice of spraying fruit trees in bloom, which is very destructive to bees. It is contrary to the law to spray at this time, though many fruit-growers appear to ignore this fact, and the need of giving wider publicity to the enactment and, if need be, taking steps for its enforcement, was strongly urged. The report of the Inspector of Apiaries indicated that great progress had been made towards the eradication of foul brood, once extremely prevalent, which had been got rid of in many localities. R. T. Holterman, apiarist at the Ontario Agricultural College, gives details of some experiments in wintering bees which will be appreciated by beekeepers.

#### Factory Inspection.

The Ontario Department of Agriculture has just issued the twelfth annual reports of the Ontario factory inspectors, which present some important conclusions as to industrial conditions. These have greatly changed for the better so far as employment and wages are concerned. Factories are working full time, and in many instances overtime. Some factories are working day and night with double staffs. Wages, in consequence of the general demand for labor, have increased. Another feature of the situation, which is not so pleasing, is the very large increase in the number of accidents. In the western district there were 157 accidents reported, as against 102 for 1898 and 99 for 1897. Of these 84 happened in the woodworking industries. Eleven accidents resulted fatally. In the central district Inspector Brown reports 146 accidents, 11 of them fatal. Nineteen were caused by circular saw, five of them resulting fatally; ten, including four fatalities, by belts; fifteen by power or other presses and seven by gear. In the eastern district fourteen accidents, one attended by loss of life, were reported. The causes assigned for the lamentable increase of casualties are the increase in the number of persons employed and hours worked, but some deduction must be made for the better observance of the law in regard to the reporting of accidents. The inspector for the central district considers that the high speed at which machines are run, and the consequent strain on the operator, is largely responsible. Mr. Rocque of the eastern district has noticed that small mills, which do not come under the jurisdiction of the act owing to the limited number of persons employed, are often more dangerous and accidents more liable to occur therein than is the case with the larger establishments, and recommends an extension of the law so as to include all mills where machinery is worked by power of any kind.