

# FARMING CONDITIONS DURING PAST YEAR REVIEWED BY MARTIN

**Department to Concentrate  
on Present Acts, With  
Little New Legislation—  
Discusses Corn - Borer  
and Tobacco Industry**

## OUTSIDE MARKETS FOR SURPLUS CROP

The Ontario Department of Agriculture is concentrating on the administration and working out of acts now on the statute books rather than bringing in any extensive legislation this session. Its legislative program now before the House consists chiefly of amendments to the Noxious Weeds Act and the act pertaining to the protection of cattle.

This, Hon. John S. Martin, Minister of the department, told the Legislature last night as an introduction to a review of agricultural affairs in the Province. His address was occasioned when the House, in committee, considered the main estimates for his department.

Mr. Martin first "took a glance" at the Ontario Agricultural College. He noted the staff changes during the past year; new buildings and the work of various classes.

### Dairy Improvement.

The Minister spoke of improvements in the dairy industry.

"Our chief creamery instructor," said the Minister, "now estimates that close to 80 per cent. of the creamery butter in the Province is first grade in quality, and from 80 to 85 per cent. of the butter is made from pasteurized cream. It is necessarily more difficult to bring the last 15 or 20 per cent. up to the highest standard, but that is the problem which is now being tackled, and we hope it will be possible to make some progress in the interests of the dairy business of the Province."

Mr. Martin spoke at length of the campaign against noxious weeds and the department's efforts in this connection to stress the importance of good seed.

Next he described the efforts last year to control the corn-borer in the Province, the compulsory measures in eight counties.

"In Essex and Kent," he continued, "the total number of borers has been reduced by at least 50 per cent., as compared to the previous year, and this in spite of the fact that the acreage has been very materially reduced. Where there is a smaller acreage it might be expected that the corn-borers would segregate more thickly, but this has not been the case. The acreage in Essex County, for instance, has been reduced from 100,000 five years ago to 20,000 last year. In the County of Elgin there was a reduction of 38 per cent. in the number of borers, and in the County of Norfolk a decrease of 33 per cent., and there was also a large decrease in the other counties under the control measures, with the exception of two or three which showed a slight increase.

### Not Under Control Yet.

"This does not mean," he continued, "that the corn-borer has been placed under control or that the menace is not still a very serious one. It is not wise to draw too definite conclusions from the work of one season, but the facts speak for themselves and afford a measure of encouragement."

Mr. Martin referred at length to the tobacco industry in the Province. He noted the rapid increase of local production. During the past twenty-five years the acreage had been most irregular, the variations being due to the violent price fluctuations which had taken place and prevailing unstable market conditions.

### Larger Tobacco Crop.

He pictured the factors affecting the industry during the past few years, the preference granted by the British Government to Empire-grown tobacco, soil surveys carried on in tobacco areas by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. He noted that the crop produced last year was 50 per cent. greater than any previous crop in the Province. There was no doubt, he continued, but that Ontario could grow even larger quantities of tobacco, but "the question of marketing must first be satisfactorily solved."

"The question," said he, "as to whether local or world-wide conditions have brought about the slump in Western Ontario may, perhaps, be most truthfully answered by saying that both have had their influence. As a solution to these problems the growers declare that a tobacco pool is essential and a campaign of organization has been carried on for the past few weeks. There are others who declare that with or without the pool there should be alterations in the tariff, which would give the grower a measure of protection on the home market. There can be little doubt but that a strong organization of growers efficiently managed

would go a long way toward stabilizing the marketing conditions of this important crop.

### "Outside Markets."

"If the tobacco industry is to grow to the extent to which our favorable conditions lend themselves it would appear that it can only be done by developing outside markets for surplus crop," he said. "This means attention to quality and quantity on a quantity basis. To accomplish this, grading is essential, and it is gratifying to know that the Federal Government has agreed to install a system of grading. Most of the matters involved in this problem come under the jurisdiction of the Federal Government rather than under this Government, but we are vitally interested in the matter and most anxious to see the tobacco industry placed on a stabilized basis, which will enable us to render an effective service in bringing about a more uniform quality. I believe the industry will work itself through the difficulties which now present themselves and will become one of the important factors in the diversified agriculture of this Province."

Hon. Mr. Martin's remarks were delivered as a general review in connection with all the agricultural estimates. The House in committee then went on to consider the estimates item by item, and the debate was continued by various members.

### Urges War on Peach Moth.

R. H. Kemp (Progressive, Lincoln), after commending the "spray service" for the elimination of parasitical insects provided by the Department of Agriculture, urged that some method should be devised for destroying the peach moth prevalent in the fruit-growing sections of the Province. He was glad to note a renewed interest in sheep-raising, and declared that to be the best way of controlling weeds. However, he did not feel that the farmer was getting tariff protection on wool equal to that enjoyed by the producers. He felt that if there were to be protection, all products should be equally protected. His references to protection caused Premier Ferguson to remark: "Better come over to this side of the House."

### Larger Dairy Prizes.

William Newman (Liberal, North Victoria) urged that greater interest could be aroused in dairy competitions if larger prizes could be offered, and suggested that the department increase its grants for that purpose.

J. W. Widdifield (Progressive, North Ontario) hoped for a day when there would be an open buying and selling market in the sheep and live stock business. He touched for a moment on Hydro affairs, pleading for a better and more equitable service for farmers.

Hon. H. C. Nixon (Progressive, Brant) commended the department's efforts toward weed control.

Aurelien Belanger (Liberal, Russell) regretted that little attempt appeared to have been made to reach French farming communities with classes of agricultural instruction. Some of the people, he said, were unable to understand English clearly enough to gain benefit from present classes, and he urged that this condition be given some consideration.

He was also in favor of an increase in the remuneration paid to Agricultural Representatives.

### Should Investigate.

When the vote for immigration and colonization was being considered, Mr. Belanger informed the House that he had read in *The Globe* of that morning of the case of an immigrant boy near Hamilton who had laid a charge of assault against his employer alleging ill treatment. The case should be promptly investigated by the department or by the Attorney-General, Mr. Belanger thought, since it was understood that the boy had been brought out by the Ontario Government.

However, he was informed by Hon. John S. Martin that his department had nothing to do with bringing the boy out. Premier Ferguson said that the Attorney-General was investigating. "I'm sorry I didn't see that," he said, "but I don't read *The Globe* every morning. I couldn't stand it more than three times a week."

Passing the agricultural estimates, the House adjourned at 11.30 p.m.

## TIMBER SALES POLICY SEVERELY ARRAIGNED BY LIBERAL LEADER

Many Tenders Not Advertised Long Enough,  
He Asserts

### DENIALS BY FINLAYSON

Minister Declares That Different Action Would  
Ruin Industry

Censure by William E. N. Sinclair, Liberal Leader, of actions of the Department of Lands and Forests with regard to the sale of pulp and timber limits and the handling of contracts, and defense of the policy of Hon. William Finlayson, Minister of the department, engaged the attention of the Legislature for two hours yesterday afternoon.

### Sinclair Motion.

The discussion was occasioned by Mr. Sinclair's motion that "This House disapproves of the policy of the Government in relation to the forest wealth of the Province, particularly its failure either to compel performance of the terms of the existing contracts with the Crown under which large areas have been sold and are being held undeveloped and in reserve, or on the other hand, to cancel such agreements for non-performance of the terms of the same, and also its action in selling additional areas from time to time on short and inadequate notice, notwithstanding the non-development of large areas already sold."

The Liberal Leader, speaking at length, cited deals and works of the department in 1927, and in January of this year to illustrate his contentions. Mr. Finlayson, explaining every case referred to, maintained that Mr. Sinclair had chiefly objected to the time elapsing between the calling for tenders and the closing date, whereas "time is no longer the essence of the contract."