

March 30

DEWAN PLANS MARKETING EXPANSION

Agriculture Minister Tells
House of Plan to Spur
Farm Effort

SEEK BETTER PRODUCTS

Expansion of the Ontario Department of Agriculture's program to assist in the marketing of farm products was announced yesterday as a Government policy by Hon. P. M. Dewan, Minister of Agriculture, in a budget debate speech in the Legislature.

Mr. Dewan revealed that the plan had the backing and co-operation of Premier Hepburn, but explained that anything that was done would be along the line "of helping those who wanted to help themselves."

At no time in the history of the department, stated the Minister, has there been such a period of consultation between department officials and heads of the various live stock, grain, fruit and vegetable growers' associations, with the aim of reaching the core of agricultural problems.

Fighting Live Stock Scourges.

In a speech that was devoid of histrionic flourishes, the Minister enumerated points which were to receive the department's direct attention. Starting with live stock, he said greater efforts were being made to stamp out tuberculosis and Bang's disease in cattle, and that laboratory research is being intensified in an effort to exert greater measures of control on the latter affliction, along with certain parasitic ailments which attacked cattle and swine.

Improvement in swine is being encouraged in order that Ontario bacon may compete in the top world markets. Experiments are being conducted for the first time in the Province on the nutritional values of live stock foods.

New seed-treating plants and soil-testing stations are being established. Farmers, he said, are fully awakened to the importance of soil-testing, and are making increasing demands upon department facilities.

Would Improve Cheese Standard.

Another aim, said Mr. Dewan, was to reduce the quantity of low-quality cheese, and he revealed

that Ontario cheese, last year, had slipped in quality. He attributed this loss to the number of small cheese factories, whose output did not warrant the employment of a top-ranking cheesemaker. Improvement in education and in the quality of milk is being sought through the co-operation of the cheesemakers' organization.

A further effort is being directed toward bringing the quality of Ontario potatoes to a competing level with the best grown, said Mr. Dewan. He suggested that vegetable growers had been neglected somewhat in the past.

Attention is being directed to the tobacco-growing industry, which last year produced a crop valued at \$16,000,000, only slightly in excess of the value of the cheese produce.

Finally, the Minister emphasized, it was folly to spend money on the experimental agricultural farms unless the knowledge was taken back to the land, and he declared the department would give greater backing to extension courses, organized largely through the district agricultural representatives.

At the outset, Mr. Dewan said he welcomed the co-operation of T. L. Kennedy (Cons., Peel), Minister of Agriculture in the Henry Administration.