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Conserving the Surplus

NOT very long ago a language professor in one of our western colleges threw some unkindly hints in the direction of our agricultural schools, and wanted to know why these institutions were not setting the country on fire with a consuming zeal for "greater production."

He assumed, of course, that because he had not seen bill-board announcements or any advertising propaganda to speak of in the newspapers he is accustomed to read, the agricultural colleges and the entire faculty thereof were asleep at a time when they of all men should be awake.

The attack was ill-timed, ill-judged, and perhaps not a little ill-mannered. The Principal of Manitoba Agricultural College took the trouble to answer this young man in the public press, but his answer, complete though it was, did not go far enough in telling all the story of the work being done by the agricultural colleges and particularly by his own institution.

The fact is, these men have neither the time, the money nor the disposition to advertise their performances. Were we writing from the standpoint of the advertising enthusiast, keen for "business," we could advance a whole barrel-full of reasons why the Departments of Agriculture should spend a lot of money on advertising what they have done, what they are doing, and what they intend to do.

But as the very best advertising is always the character of "the goods," we say in all candor that our western agricultural colleges, even in these times of extensive and intensive production and conservation, owe the world practically nothing in pictorial or literary "dope" as to the history and progress of their work.

There was one detail the Principal of Manitoba Agricultural College omitted from his list of things done, or in progress, which of itself, provides a perfect answer to the criticism of the city educationalist; it was the (perhaps to him,) little side-line of the Boys' and Girls' clubs—a department

which the "Canadian Thresherman and Farmer" believes is of greater value than anything else now being pursued in the educational life of Western Canada.

Had our agricultural teachers in Manitoba nothing else to their credit than what they have already done, with and for the boys and girls of the farm homes, they

misgiving as to our attitude, we haven't the shadow of a doubt as to the supreme importance of catching the young mind, and the place which we believe the Boys' and Girls' Clubs should hold in the extension work of any agricultural college.

Every man and woman who has started out to impart know-

ledge have we faced an audience at some wayside station when "the college on wheels" pulled up, and watched the faces of some of the patriarchs as the speaker from the college sought to get home some point in better farming. "Huh! talk to me of better farming!" I could tell that young college chap more about it than was ever printed in his whole library of book farming.

No one was ever so rude in our hearing, as to launch the challenge at the head of the speaker, but the cynical leer on some of the upturned faces spoke the words as plainly as though they had been uttered. It's a hard, hard business this task of breaking down prejudice and preconceived notions on the part of men and women whose whole training has been in the school of "what was good enough for grandfather is all right for me." With the young people it is wholly different. In the one case the job is as hopeless as the other is full of hope.

Therefore, we believe we are not in any way distorting the proportion of things when we say to those who are championing this end of our educational interests—the Boys' and Girls' end of it—Go ahead! Your prospects of success are brighter than anything else in sight in educational effort. If you are true to yourselves and take to the work because you love it, and have unbounded faith in your objective, your reward is assured.

"Reward" in this case is never thought of in dollars. (Who can pay a man in filthy lucre who has wedded his soul to the young folks and gives up his days and nights to the sheer joy of working for, and with them?) This writer knows a man who wouldn't barter the pooled salaries of any educational staff on earth for the satisfaction he enjoys in seeing God's wisdom blessing one young person, whom he helped to stimulate and train when its orphaned steps were just on the border line between success and despair.

The pictures on these pages tell a story that beats anything done



The Coming Women of the Egg Ring

have started a line of production that will far outstrip anything that has ever been done by any effort; to quicken the souls of the older manhood and womanhood of the nation.

We have already referred to this great work, and in returning to the subject, can say that we do so, simply because our own experience and observation of its effects, impels us. We have no

ledge knows the eternity of difference between an audience of young, eager minds, and one composed of matured or "over-ripened" men and women. Since its inception and until about three years ago, the extension department of the colleges had addressed itself almost exclusively to the elders—with what heart-breaking results sometimes!

More than once within the past