

of some supper and here we met Mrs. MacNaughton, a grey haired sweet-faced 'ady, the proud mother of as fine a family of boys as it has been my privilege to meet. The meeting broke up shortly after tea and it was with genuine

regret to leave such an interesting household that I climbed once more into the carriage and was borne away to continue the work of the Government in other distant places.

Are We Working to Good Advantage ?

By J. G. Archibald, B.S.A.

THE above heading and the few ideas set down in the following paragraph have been suggested to the writer's mind by more or less intimate contact with farmers and their problems in various Canadian communities during the past three or four years, and by frequent conversation not only with fellow-labourers in the game of scientific agriculture but also with practical, far-seeing business men, who take an interest in the welfare of the farmers because it pays them to do so.

We hear a great deal in these days about agricultural extension work and how much is being done to further the interests of agriculture all over the Dominion. The Federal and Provincial governments have in the last two or three years voted large sums to be devoted to agricultural instruction and research. We have our Federal Agricultural Instruction Act, passed in 1913, by which some ten millions of dollars were set apart to be doled out year by year to the different provinces, besides annual votes by each of the provincial governments. All very fine, and we must acknowledge the foresight and generosity of the powers that be in so doing, for, as everyone is well aware, the first and foremost essential in any enterprise is a working amount of the almighty needful. Therefore (to paraphrase slightly the time-worn utterance of Dean F—— at the O. A. C.), "for

what we have received may the Lord make us truly thankful." But the voting of public money is one thing and its proper expenditure is another and it is of this latter phase of the question I wish to speak.

It is not my intention to rival the federal member for Richmond, N. S., in the laying of sensational charges or the springing of a wholesale scandal, nor do I wish to bring before the public any more honorary colonels for "Jack Canuck" and other journals to bombard. I only wish to record in black and white a few of the things which have lately suggested themselves to me and to point out how, in various ways, we might use our generous agricultural appropriation to better advantage than some of it is at present being used. I have no doubt the administrators in office conscientiously believe that things are being done in the best possible manner, but nothing was ever done yet that might not have been done better and we can always learn something more.

Let us consider first the present system of District Representatives, now universal in Ontario and more or less in vogue in the other provinces. The writer spent one year in the capacity of Assistant Representative in an Ontario county, consequently his attitude is not that of the "outsider looking in." The system is a good one in many ways