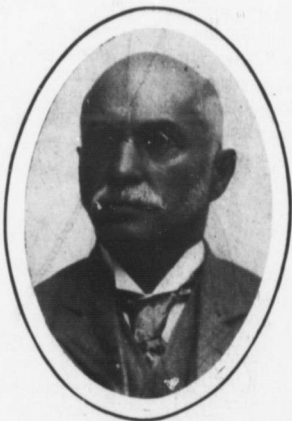


# Agriculture in the Days of Augustus.

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"NO doubt but ye are the people and wisdom shall die with you." Thus long before the age of Augustus a man in the land of Uz pricked the self-complacency of his friends. In every period of the world's history some Job or Cato or Carlyle has had the courage to tell his contemporaries that their views of current life were exaggerated or distorted or fallacious. In the present age with its marvellous progress in every field of human activity we are in need of constant reminders that our fathers had a modicum of wisdom, and that we are not *par excellence* the cleverest people of all time. The records of ancient days in biography and history and even poetry are excellent correctives and

preventives of vanity or even of undue self-satisfaction, if we would stop occasionally in our precipitate modern rush to review the achievements of past ages.

Many of the young readers of the Ontario Agricultural College Review probably do not know that agriculture was a science in Italy in the days of Augustus, two thousand years ago. We have in our libraries works on agriculture, dating back before the birth of Christ. The most famous of these books is written in Latin verse, the *Georgica* of Virgil. The word "*Georgica*" is made up of two Greek words which have precisely the same signification as the two Latin words that make up "*agriculture*." Both words mean "the cultivation of the earth." So it is a mere accident that in these days of Greek scientific nomenclature the Agricultural College does not bear the title "*The Georgical College*."

In the following article I give a rapid sketch of the plan and purpose of the *Georgics*, adding a few interesting details. The author of the remarkable work was reared in the country. After getting his education at Milan, Naples and Rome, he returned to his paternal farm, where he lived for many years, engaged in writing, agriculture, arboriculture, and the management of an extensive apiary. His farm was in the north of Italy near Mantua, a little village close to the forty-fifth parallel