

living who gives pedigree in his practice a more important place than individuality, excellence will go down to the grave "unwept, unhonored and unsung," viewing his life in the light of achievement. It is true that some well-bred sires of plain shapes have produced excellent offspring, but this was in spite of their plainness rather than because of it. Such sires should be used as the result of accident rather than of deliberate choice, because it has been discovered that they are good producers in an incidental way.

Not Fair Nor Kind.

The editor of the JOURNAL not unfrequently receives a poster on which it is announced that he will speak at an Institute meeting at a certain time and place where he has not so promised. This is neither fair nor kind. It is tampering with reputation in a way that is inexcusable. In all such cases there has been correspondence on the subject, but usually it is too hurried to get a reply before the public notices are given.

When one consents to address a public meeting he is in honor bound to do so or show good reason why, just as much so as to keep any business engagement where great interests are at stake. We would like all concerned to know that we never trifle with an engagement to meet a public audience. On only two or three different occasions during recent years have we found it necessary to cancel an engagement of this nature, and then it was absolutely necessary.

To advertise the name of a speaker without his consent, and then to tell the assembled audience that he "has failed to attend," is simply outrageous, and yet this is the way in which some sleepy secretaries shield themselves from the consequences of neglected duty. Where the correspondence is timely there will be no such misrepresentations.

It is a matter of regret that we are constrained to decline so many of the kind invitations so constantly arriving asking us to attend Institute meetings, but it is absolutely necessary under existing conditions. Where such assistance is desired it should be requested sufficiently early to admit of definite correspondence before any public announcements are made.

The Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm.

This Institution, which was established in 1874, is the only one of the kind in the whole Dominion. We have a well conducted experimental station at Ottawa, and are soon to have one each in Manitoba and Nova Scotia, but none of these are to be in conjunction with an agricultural college. Our neighbors across the line have many such colleges, and Great Britain and most continental countries have also a number of them, which are usually well attended by students, the sons of farmers. We have given on the first page of this number a short historical sketch of the Institution, with a synopsis of the curriculum of the studies. One object in this paper is to show what should need no demonstration:

1. That the Ontario Agricultural College is a necessity.
2. Some advantages that will accrue to the young men of the farm who attend.
3. The duty of loyalty to the Institution on the part of the farmers.

The Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph is a necessity. Some deny this, but it is usually the denial of simple assertion. When evidence is cited in support of this view it more generally comes in something like this form. "The proper place to learn 'farming is on the farm.'" Up to a certain point

this is true. The best place to learn the manual part of the work is on the farm, and if the average farmer is adopting a system that cannot be improved upon, then the best place to get a knowledge of the system is on the farm. But who of them is indulging in this delusion? The foremost of our farmers will be the most free to confess that they are but children at their work. Then on one farm but one system can be learned, while at an agricultural college, properly conducted, the best systems adapted to the various branches of agriculture are all taught. One might as well argue that the lawyer's office was the only proper place to study law, or that the merchant's desk was the only place to get a knowledge of book-keeping. Apprenticeship in both instances is a very proper thing, but the aid of colleges is fully recognized, because it has been found very helpful. Agriculture may fitly be termed the unfathomable science, the problem without a terminated product like the repeating decimal. For nearly sixty centuries fresh truths have been eliminated from the threshold only of its domain. In its propositions it has to deal with the subtleties of variation, arising from difference in temperature, moisture, and season, and to adapt these by scales of graduation to the determined results of solution which apply to average conditions. The domain of the unexplored in the geographical world is only a little spot compared with that of the unknown in agriculture. Sagest minds of strongest men are trying to penetrate this region in many lands, and if Canada does not send on her contingent of explorers, she will lose all share in the laurels entwined around the brows of those successful in agricultural research and agricultural experiment. For these and many other reasons that may be given, we deem the Ontario Agricultural College a necessity.

Advantages will accrue to the young men of the farm who desire to attend. These advantages will more than compensate the diligent student who attends the college for his time so spent, and the attendant outlay. He will be constrained to study. Young men on the farm may be convinced of the value of the study of agriculture, and may purchase the books, and yet make but little progress in studying. The stimulating power of competition and emulation are absent, and the absorbing power of labor and its subjects divert the mind, so that strong will-power is seldom made to give the home student the mastery in the effort.

He will be enabled to study. The hard work of the farm is, more than anything else, disastrous to home study on the farm. Labor is helpful to study up to a certain point, but with most young persons on the farm this point is far over-past. The most admirable resolutions and the finest intellects have been buried in the deep pit of hard labor that is to be found on very many farms. Attending at the agricultural college gives the young man sufficient exemption from this tyrant master to enable him to enter fields of gathered knowledge that he has but to lay hold of and reduce to practice, when he returns to the farm.

He will be stimulated to study. Like the eastern queen whose spirit failed because of the magnificence of the pomp and wealth she beheld in the city of the wise man, students may also lose heart on going down to the agricultural college when they first look into that boundless domain that is spread out before them. Formerly the virtual rim of their agricultural knowledge was the visible horizon, now they look abroad into an illimitable region of land and sea where the fruits of knowledge may be gathered from every shrub and bush of this fair region, and where no ear-

nest fisher ever lets down his net in vain. Who worthy of the name of man can look upon this realm of treasures without resolving that he will try and possess all he can of them?

He will be helped to study. The advantages that flow from the employment of teachers in the day school apply to their employment in a college. The child at the school must do the studying himself. The teacher simply guides him. The professor at the Guelph college simply guides the student in attendance. But see the advantage of a guide. How would the traveller fare in the attempt to scale Alpine heights or to traverse the intricacies of a Theban labyrinth without a guide? About as well as one would fare who purposes to wend his way through the intricacies of agricultural science alone.

He will be put in possession of knowledge already garnered. We once saw a young man wasting his time in the attempt to construct a churn on a principle far inferior to that adopted in scores of other churns already invented, but of whose existence he knew nothing. It was a half pathetic sight, but not more so than the attempt of hundreds of farmers to produce various appliances already existing in a far more effective form. The course of study at the college puts the pupil in possession of what is known up to the present regarding methods. A magnificent heritage it is, infinitely more valuable to him than all the "treasures of the East" that once upon a time "lay beneath the Doric spear." It begets the habit of acquiring knowledge. Good habits are unending blessings, bad habits enduring curses. This is a good habit which will follow the student through life. The earnest student leaves college with a thirst for more knowledge, only intensified rather than satiated, and so he goes on through life, ever adding to his store of this.

It puts him in possession of valuable knowledge not easily acquired elsewhere. This applies notably to what has reference to chemistry, the prime agent in agricultural processes. Not long ago a man in Scotland lost his life in handling a mixture of super-phosphate and nitrate of soda at the improper stage. The sulphuric acid in the super-phosphate liberated the nitrous acid in the nitrate of soda, producing a poisonous gas which produced the fatal result just chronicled. A college-taught man would not have sacrificed his life in this way. The principle to which we refer may be illustrated in a hundred ways.

It will enable him to distance his fellows, other things being equal, when he goes back to the farm. A man in possession of all the light which an agricultural college can give him will outstrip another man of equal ability and will-power, who has not had these advantages. If he does not, the teaching of the college has been defective. The people of Canada have a right to judge of this educational tree by these its fruits, where the young men, if of the right stuff, have first gone from the farm to the college. You might as well expect the book-keeper who had none of the advantages of a collegiate institute to get ahead of the one who had, and who possessed the benefit of experience as well. One out of a large number might do so, but the exceptions will be rare. These are only a few of the advantages that will accrue to earnest young men attending the Ontario Agricultural College, and those who are not earnest had better stay at home. It will be much more to their credit to be muffins at home than muffins at the Guelph College.

Loyalty to the Institution is therefore the duty of the farmers, if its benefits are such to young men sent there to prosecute a course of study. They should make at least an equal effort to educate their boys