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Editorial.

The Agricultural College Assured.

During the fourth session of the tenth Legislature of Manitoba, which closed a few weeks ago, the Agricultural College Commission, appointed early in 1902, presented their report, and acting upon it the Government introduced and had passed a bill authorizing the erection and equipping of an Agricultural College within the Province.

It was significant that when the bill came before the House, and the wisdom of spending seventy or one hundred thousand dollars in the interests of agricultural education was being discussed, the great political parties of the Province were practically a unit. Inasmuch as commendation may be, therefore, deserved by our legislators for their unanimity on this question, it is doubtful if the bill as passed received the consideration which its importance merited. It would appear that very few members on either side of the House had taken the trouble to become thoroughly acquainted with the requirements of the country as regards education along agricultural lines. If they had, however, their ideas were, for the time being, suppressed and the bill as prepared allowed to pass without specific elaboration.

The first and most important clause, given herewith, describes the aims, objects, and to some extent the course of study, of the new institution:

"There shall be established in the Province of Manitoba, at such place as the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council may decide, a school, to be called 'The Agricultural College of Manitoba,' for instruction in the theory and practice of agriculture, horticulture, forestry; the characteristics, care, breeding and management of farm animals; butter and cheese making; domestic science; the principles, construction and use of varieties of buildings, fences, drainage systems, and other permanent improvements; machinery, implements, tools, instruments and appliances necessary or desirable on a farm; the elements of various sciences applicable to the above subjects; such English and mathematical branches as may be requisite for success on a farm; and in such other subjects as will promote a knowledge of the theory and practice of the pursuits and subjects above referred to, or add to the general efficiency and usefulness of the college."

Although the "Farmer's Advocate" does not wish to be understood as offering any serious objection to the character of the college as proposed, because the recommendations of the commission were substantially the same as those first outlined in these columns more than two years ago, yet we believe that a few points in that report are deserving of consideration.

In the duties as outlined for the different Professors, it is noticeable that the Professor of Dairying, according to the finding of the Commission, should have charge of the dairy stock, although there is to be another Professor, whose charge will be the field of animal husbandry. From our knowledge of the duties required to be performed by the men occupying each of these positions, we believe it would be one of the greatest mistakes the management could make to require the Professor of Dairy Husbandry to pay any attention to dairy stock. If such were done, the Professor of Animal Husbandry would really become Professor of Beef Husbandry, rather than chief of the broader field which his title would indicate. Moreover, when the truth is known from within the inner circles of institutions where such an arrangement has existed, it is certain that nothing has been the cause of more

strife among members of the college faculty. It is noticeable, too, that the most illustrious dairy-men to-day upon the continent do not touch live stock. The Chief of the Department at both Iowa and Wisconsin might be mentioned in this connection. Who for a moment believes that Babcock and Farrington would have won the worthy reputation which they enjoy had part of their time been spent in studying and lecturing upon the dairy form and characteristics of cattle.

In regard to the courses to be given by the college, the Commission have reported in favor of a four-year course, leading to the degree of Bachelor of the Science of Agriculture (B.S.A.), in addition to a course of two years, and a shorter one consisting of a few weeks during winter. On this question we have in the past taken the stand that conditions in this country did not justify the arrangement of such an extended course. Our Province is comparatively young, and the money to be spent, we believe, should for a few years at least go in such a way as will give the most practical results and be popular with the farming classes. If, however, those who manipulate the wheels of legislation feel that the necessary expense to provide a four-year course in agriculture may wisely be undertaken at the present time, why, no serious objection should be offered by farmers.

As to who shall manage the college, clause two reads as follows:

"The government of the college shall be under a board of ten directors, of whom the Minister of Agriculture and Immigration shall be one (ex officio), and of whom three shall be appointed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, two by the council or governing body of the University of Manitoba, and four shall be selected by the farmers, residing in as many divisions of the Province, by means of delegates chosen for that purpose, in a manner to be prescribed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council. Any vacancies occurring on the board, by expiration of time, death, or residence out of the Province, of any of the appointed or selected members of the board, shall be filled by the persons or body who appointed or selected the person whose position has thus become vacant."

Without criticising the personnel of this board, and the manner in which the majority of its members are to be elected, both of which have objections, we pass to their duties, and there we find among other things, they are to be empowered with the authority to regulate the course of study in each branch in which instruction is given. That any council of men so elected, holding office for three years, should have such absolute control of the studies is undesirable. Such an arrangement would leave the President of the institution and his staff occupying positions of servility beneath the dignity that should characterize their office. Not that we believe any college staff should be empowered to decide as to what they are to teach, but they should at least have some substantial influence in its direction; and where the right man occupies the presidential chair, there should be no one in as good a position to say what should or should not be given as instruction to the sons and daughters of the farm. Primarily, the success or otherwise of the institution will depend upon the man at the head of it, and his staff and the former should be invested with ample powers.

Space will not at this time permit a fuller discussion of the bill nor the Commissioners' report upon which it was constructed. The whole question is now before the people of Manitoba; the necessary legislation has been enacted, and those interested will anxiously await the announcement as to where the institution will be located, and who is to be its leading light as President.

A Western Publication.

According to enquiries which have been received at this office during the last few months, it is quite evident that a number of farmers and stockmen have been induced to believe that there is only one edition of the "Farmer's Advocate" published in Canada, and that subscribers in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces read the very same articles as those of Manitoba and the West. When our attention was first drawn to the fact that designing persons were making this misrepresentation, we were inclined to look lightly upon the matter, believing that such fairy tales would deceive nobody. Of late, however, several prominent and intelligent readers have assured us that the distinctly Western character of our editorials and letters from contributors have not been sufficient to convince everyone in their district that the "Farmer's Advocate," whose offices are located in Winnipeg, and have been for years, was not an Eastern periodical. For the benefit of any who may not be clear on this question, we wish to state once and for all that there are positively two distinct publications, both owned and controlled by the Wm. Weld Company, Limited. The Eastern edition, with offices in London, Ont., is published on the 1st and 15th of each month, and the Western edition, with offices in the Imperial Bank Block, corner Main Street and Bannantyne Ave., Winnipeg, is published on the 5th and 20th of each month. It should be sufficient for any one to know that no single publication could successfully meet the needs of agriculture in Eastern and Western Canada at the same time. Perhaps in no country in the world are conditions as to soil, cultivation, and the practice of agriculture generally, more different than in the Provinces of Ontario and Manitoba. There may have been a time when the pioneer farmers of Western Canada were satisfied in reading a certain amount of Eastern agricultural topics, but that day has practically gone by. Manitoba and the Northwest Territories during the last few years have shown to the world that their fertile plains, when cultivated according to a system peculiar only to prairie conditions, were capable of being designated the "Granary of the Empire." Such a country is, hence, deserving of the very best agricultural literature to be published. At present wheat is king, and will be for years to come, but stock-raising is a strong and worthy accompaniment; and dairying, poultry-raising and horticulture, including forestry, the public school and the home, must each receive due attention. Realizing the importance, therefore, to a young country already well-grown, but strong in possibilities, of publishing the best possible articles on each of the above subjects, the "Farmer's Advocate," Winnipeg, with its fully equipped editorial and contributing staff, is determined more than ever to place regularly before its readers such information as no intelligent Western farmer can afford to do without. With access to the experience of the oldest and most successful men from the eastern boundary of Manitoba to the foothills of the Rockies; with the researches of our two grand experimental farms at our disposal, and with every facility for getting out an up-to-date paper in the interests of the Western farmer, we can safely rely on the good judgment of our readers. The numerous letters of appreciation constantly being received is ample testimony that thousands enjoy its columns, and it is to be hoped that no sane person will allow himself to be deluded by persons whose reliance in the truth is evidently of a very limited character.