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The present session of the Ontario Legislature has afforded to some of the members an opportunity of indulging in the usual criticism of the expenditure in connection with the Agricultural College. Formerly this annual task was wont to occupy the attention of the House for several days, but like the fitful outbursts of an almost extinct volcano, the enmity has cooled down until now some three or four of the Opposition members have a monopoly of the noisic work.

One outrageous statement has been made, however, to the effect that each student costs the taxpayers \$600 annually, and it has since been widely copied by the newspapers of the Province to the detriment of the College. We have read it in papers which are presumably favorable to the institution without an attempt at contradiction, the only justification given being that the graduates are worth that much more money to the country because of the improved methods which they carry home with them. That, however, is a very lame answer to give the public, for if students cannot be educated for less than \$600 a year there is a mistake somewhere and it is high time the public were inquiring into the matter.

A presentation of the facts of the situation will perhaps be useful to the friends of the College in enabling them to combat the misleading statements so freely circulated. Time and space will not permit a full enumeration of the separate expenditures, but an outline of the work done and the necessary equipments which must be provided will show that value is received for every dollar expended.

Every one acquainted with the place knows what a number of new buildings have been erected within the past seven or eight years, the aggregate cost of which has been considerable, but all of them are indispensable if the college is to continue its work and keep pace with the times. These include the barns and piggeries, the Dairy, Poultry, Experimental, Botanical and Chemical buildings, and a large hall for public meetings, especially for farmers' excursions in June. Not one of these could be dispensed with. Agricultural Colleges in the different States of the Union have similar buildings, costing in many cases twice or three times the amount of those here. In Wisconsin, for instance, the Legislature voted \$40,000 for a Dairy building and \$120,000 for a gymnasium, to be paid for by direct taxation. The New York State Legislature voted the sum of \$50,000 for a Dairy Building and \$100,000 for a Veterinary Building at Cornell. In Iowa also the outlay has been far beyond that of Ontario.

But if this expenditure has been justified by the pressing need which at one time existed for laboratories, the amount required for maintenance can also be shown to be no greater than is absolutely necessary. The instruction given to the students forms only a small part of the labor done in the various departments by the professors and lecturers. Indeed, the greater part of their time is taken up with experimental and other work which is directly beneficial to the Province as a whole. For instance, the Experimental Department, one of the most expensive here, yet the best of its kind on the continent, is devoted entirely to field tests of farm products, these being carried on not only at the College but on over 2,200 farms throughout Ontario. Working along these same lines in live stock, are the Experimental stables lately added to the station work which give promise of valuable results in the near future. But it is useless to go more into detail of the vast system of experimenting found here; in butter and cheese at the Dairy for 9½ months of the year; at the Horticultural Department in variety tests of all the small fruits; at the Chemical Laboratory in extensive analyses of cheese, butter, fat and casein in milk, wood-ashes as a fertilizer, etc.; at the Bacteriological Laboratory, on foul brood of bees, the stable contamination of milk, etc. Then there is the manufacture of tuberculin for the Province; the writing and publication of bulletins; the entertainment of over 14,000 visitors annually, with the expense of looking after a large lawn especially for the pleasure of these farmers. The Travelling Dairy, another part of the work, is wholly for the Province. The Professor of Biology spends probably half of his time in identifying weeds and insects and in replying to inquiries sent to him by farmers and fruit-growers, and also during the summer, in going directly to districts ravaged by insects, to assist the people in their efforts at extermination of the pests. All this is but a part of the good work being done here directly for the farmers of Ontario. Yet a few members of the Legislature who have probably never been within sight of the institution raise a protest against the enormous expense of the students of the O. A. C. to the taxpayers without any recompense whatever to the Province. A first-class agricultural college cannot be maintained in efficiency without a considerable expenditure of money; but in making estimates and drawing conclusions regarding our own College it should be borne in mind that more than half the whole work of the institution is for the Province as a whole.