

EDITORIAL.

Ontario Agricultural College Closing.

The closing exercises of the Ontario Agricultural College took place in the Convocation Hall at that institution, on Tuesday, June 30th. President Mills welcomed the large gathering on behalf of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, who was unavoidably prevented from being present. The President, in a concise address, referred to the prosperity of the institution, and the entire harmony which has prevailed at the institution throughout the past year. The conduct and work of the students were referred to as being entirely satisfactory. "The farm," continued the President, "is well tilled, well managed, and producing good crops. The experimental department continues to increase in magnitude, and efficiency to the country. The dairy department has become favorably known, and is growing in popularity. The poultry department is going ahead well, and the bacteriological laboratory is well equipped for work. The rebuilding of the chemical laboratory is in progress, and the outlook for the institution was never brighter than now. The popularity of the institution is shown by the enormous multitudes of farmers and others who visit the Farm from year to year. During the 25 days preceding the closing no less than 11,000 have visited the College and investigated the different departments, more or less thoroughly." Reference was made to the 11 graduates and 22 associates who received their degrees and diplomas this year. Mr. Geo. A. Cox, President of the Bank of Commerce, was referred to as being worthy of the best thanks of the College and students for the ten \$20-scholarships presented and awarded this year.

Hon. James Young, a former Minister of Agriculture, who was present, presented the diplomas to the 22 second-year men. In a few well-chosen remarks, the hon. gentleman referred to the steady and substantial progress of the institution evident upon every visit. "The man must be very dead," remarked Mr. Young, "who is not moved by what one sees at this institution?" Reference was made to the prominent position Ontario holds in agriculture, which is largely due to and could not be sustained but for this College of Agriculture. The farmers are getting into the way of paying this place annual visits, as the Mahomedans did Mecca. These visits are a benefit to the districts from whence the visitors come. He hoped the Government would continue to be liberal with this department, as money could not be more profitably spent for the country. The students educated here are the flower of manhood, and every one of them will be a power for good.

Principal Caven, of Knox College, Toronto, referred to the history of agriculture as almost the history of the race. Agriculture is the basis of the prosperity of our Canadian people. To see agriculture in its perfection, one has to visit such countries as Great Britain. Canada can attain the same high position only by the instrumentality of such institutions as this Agricultural College. Agriculture has seen a steady progress. At first the land was cleared, burned, scratched, and sown with wheat. True, some have not advanced much beyond this state, but such is now generally known to be inadequate. Better ideas are taking possession of farmers. The science of chemistry is having a place, stock is being raised, a rotation is being followed, and this establishment is doing much to promote this important work. A word to the students regarding their great responsibility brought a much appreciated address to a close.

President Loudon, of Toronto University, expressed his pleasure at being able to visit this country cousin—the Agriculture College. The President spoke of the exodus of rural people to the cities, which he regards as a blessing to the latter, because their population would soon become a degenerate lot without these infusions. The rural population fill the best and most honorable positions of the State. It was very gratifying to hear the President state that the great mass of successful university students were from the country. They are noted for their enthusiasm and energy, which places them most in evidence among the honor men.

Prof. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, brought greetings from the Hon. Minister, who regretted that he could not be present. For some ten years Prof. James has been directly or indirectly connected with the Ontario College of Agriculture. On this occasion he was pleased to note that, notwithstanding the severe criticism to which this institution has been subjected, its popularity and usefulness is more in evidence now than at any previous time. The many students that yearly attend the College show that merit is recognized. During the past year many young men, and some women, have received education at the College, and all decide that it costs something. But whether is education or ignorance the more expensive?

Graduation does not finish, but is simply the starting point of one's education. His duty upon leaving his *alma mater* is first to himself; second, to those around him; and third, to the College; the result of which will be that the College will be judged upon its product, which cannot be other than favorable when an ex-student does his best for his own welfare.

The valedictorian for this year is Mr. J. C. MacDonald, Lucknow, Ont., who delivered a most excellent address upon "Practical Economics."

THE GRADUATING CLASS.

The students who were graduated by the University of Toronto to the degree of Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture, at the last convocation, make up the class illustrated on the front page of this issue:—

No. 1.—Mr. J. F. Clark, of Bay View, P. E. I., was gold medalist in 1895, Assistant Managing Editor of the *Review* during the past college year, and is now Resident Master at the College.

No. 2.—Mr. James Atkinson, Seaforth, Ont., won the gold medal in 1893 for having stood highest in the proficiency list of second-year students. He was one of the agricultural editors of the O. A. C. *Review* for the year 1895-6, and is now engaged upon the experimental department of the "Farm."

No. 3.—Mr. J. W. Knight, Elginburg, Ont., was awarded the Cox scholarship in agriculture and dairying in 1895; was Personal Editor of the *Review* during the past year, and is now in Kentucky, managing a large creamery.

No. 4.—Mr. R. B. Maconachie, of Gadsapur, India, farmed in the Canadian Northwest for a number of years; was Athletic Editor of the *Review* during the past year. He is now at the O. A. C., and intends to pursue agriculture in Ontario.

No. 5.—Mr. T. F. Paterson, Lucknow, Ont., was second silver medalist and valedictorian in 1895; was Managing Editor of the *Review* during the year just closed, and is now Acting Librarian at the O. A. C.

No. 6.—Mr. G. A. Smith, Morrisburg, Ont., has been President of the Athletic Association during the year 1895-6. He will remain at the College until autumn, when he intends to enter Cornell University to pursue the study of chemistry.

No. 7.—Mr. P. B. Smith, Hamilton, Bermuda, has been one of the local editors of the *Review* during the past year. He intends to pursue dairy farming in his native island.

No. 8.—Mr. A. C. Wilson, Greenway, Ont., took a special course in dairying along with his other studies during the past year, and is now engaged in cheesemaking with Mr. A. T. Bell, of Tavistock, Ont.

No. 9.—Mr. N. F. Wilson, Rockland, Ont., will remain at the Guelph College during the summer and then enter Cornell University to further pursue the study of scientific agriculture.

No. 10.—Mr. W. J. Thompson, Barrie, Ont., will remain at the College for a few months. He intends to follow practical agriculture upon scientific lines.

No. 11.—Mr. W. R. Bishop, Beachville, Ont., secured his diploma in 1888, and has taught school for a number of years. He was Agricultural Editor of the *Review* during the past year, and is now in charge of a cheese factory in Elgin Co., Ont.

SECOND-YEAR PRIZEMEN.

Gold Medalist—Geo. Owen Higginson, Hawkesbury, Ont.; also winner of Cox scholarship in Agriculture, etc.

First Silver Medalist—Percy Warburton Hodgkiss, St. Catharines, Ont.; also winner of Cox scholarship in Natural Science.

Second Silver Medalist—James Rodger Oastler Featherstone, Parry Sound, Ont.

Mr. I. I. Devitt, Floradale, Ont., won the Cox scholarship in Mathematics.

The Geo. A. Cox Scholarships.—First year: Agriculture, Live Stock, Dairying, Poultry, and Apiculture—T. A. Wiancko, Sparrow Lake, Ont. Natural Science—G. B. McCalla, St. Catharines, Ont. (first in four departments). Veterinary Science—W. B. G. Heartz, Truro, Nova Scotia. English—H. R. Ross, Gilead, Ont. Mathematics—R. D. Craig, O. A. C., Guelph, Ont.

Plant Trees.

Elsewhere in this issue we give space, with pleasure, to a contribution from Mr. Thos. Conant, on the subject of tree planting. An adept with the pen, he also speaks from experience and observation, having travelled extensively throughout the world. It was the *Globe*, we believe, that the other day spoke of him as "perhaps the best authority on forestry to-day in Canada." Be that as it may, he puts the case well in his article, but no more strongly than it deserves. Most men neglect tree planting from a careless procrastination, or because they fail to see an early return, and are, perhaps, too selfish to do anything for the next generation; but in this, as in many other things, he who plans to help others will be found to have in reality done himself at the same time grand service. Read Mr. Conant's suggestive notes on this important subject.

Inspection as Conducted by the U. S. Bureau of Animal Industry.

According to the 1895 Year Book of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, meat inspection during last year was given more attention than previously. The public, especially in the great cities, where the larger abattoirs are located, demanded that more critical and extended inspection be given, while the Department sought to inspect all animals slaughtered for interstate or foreign trade. According to the report of the Secretary for Agriculture, the work of inspection at the abattoirs during the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1895, was augmented by about forty-three per cent. During the same year over five million animals were subjected to ante-mortem inspection in the stock yards.

By order of the U. S. President, inspectors were placed in the classified service on July 1st, 1894. Since that time the number of officers has been largely reinforced. All inspectors thus appointed are graduates of reputable veterinary colleges, and have passed satisfactory examinations in veterinary science before the Civil Service Commission.

The Secretary asks, in his report, whether or not it would be wise to have the whole matter of animal and meat inspection relegated to State and municipal authority? When and where will the duties of the Bureau of Animal Industry otherwise be defined and restricted? And what will be ultimately the annual appropriation of money force to compensate the constantly increasing force of inspectors and other officials? It is suggested that owners of animals and carcasses inspected should pay for the service, which adds selling value to their commodities. During the past year inspection cost 1.1 cent per animal inspected. The aggregate sum paid out for that service was \$263,731.34.

The inspection of live animals for exportation amounted to an examination of 657,756 animals during the fiscal year 1895. Out of the cattle inspected, 1,000 were rejected during the year. The number of sheep inspected for exportation was 704,044, the number really exported being 350,808, being an increase of over 300 per cent. over 1894. Every bovine animal was tagged and numbered. Each number was registered so that the animals could be identified. All the cattle were certified to be free from disease.

Some difficulty has been found to accompany the shipment of sheep in order to prevent diseases breaking out while on or after transit. Large numbers of sheep crowded together in a vitiated atmosphere is conducive to the speedy development of scab. Flocks carefully examined and found entirely free from any symptoms of disease at the time of embarkation are sometimes found badly affected with scab when landed. It is thought probable that cars which have previously carried diseased sheep may have had something to do with the trouble. Others may be affected in stock yards, and other, again, in ships. It is therefore considered necessary to adopt regulations for the disinfection of cars, ships, and stock yards, and that inspection must be vigorous and specific so as to prevent the sale by growers and feeders of diseased sheep to be placed on the market.

During the year all vessels in the export sheep and cattle trade have been thoroughly inspected by officers of the Bureau of Animal Industry. Stock yards, too, have been subjected to vigorous inspection to prevent the spread of contagious diseases through interstate and foreign commerce.

As regards quarantine, it is reported that in all 702 imported animals from Europe were held for the prescribed period and inspected. During the same time 293,594 animals were imported from Canada, but not subjected to quarantine, as follows: 292,613 sheep, 908 swine, 48 cattle, and 5 moose.

According to the above report, the American Department of Agriculture is not lax in the matter of looking carefully after the live stock interests of the nation, which manifest interest is worthy of the highest commendation. Knowing that Canadian live stock is her most important industry, it could not be amiss for the new Government at Ottawa to take a leaf from our cousins' book over the line in the matter of more attention to the right arm of agriculture.

The grain-cutting season is usually a hard one on the horses' shoulders and necks. A good way to prevent chafing is to use close-fitting, smooth-surfaced collars. Collars should be dried every night and brushed and beaten with a smooth, flat stick every morning.

The drought which threatened to be disastrous to British farmers a few weeks ago is being rapidly forgotten, because of recent heavy rainfalls throughout the Islands. The ground is now moist enough, and a heavy aftermath is looked for to follow the very light hay crop which has been taken. The root crops are growing by leaps and bounds, and stock farmers generally have cheered up.

Elsewhere in this issue is published an able article upon Agricultural Science in Rural Schools, by J. Hoyes Pantton, M. A., F. G. S., a man of broad experience and good judgment. We have no hesitation in believing that if the Public Schools of the country were to generally adopt a course similar to that outlined by the writer, the business of the agriculturist would very soon rank among not only the most pleasant, but the most profitable of industries.