

much direct benefit to the farmer who earns his bread first hand at the plow, and that only one per cent. of the farmers' sons took a course in an Agricultural College, while of these few returned to the farm. Wasteful methods of production were very evident in every line of farming ; there was little or no intercourse and interchange of ideas between separate communities ; and our products were only taking third or fourth place in the markets of the world when there was no good reason why they should not stand ahead. Our brightest young men could not find that employment of faculties in disorganized labor for which their highest nature craved, and they could not excuse or endure the strange lack of self respect everywhere evident among members of the farming community. Given these and other considerations too numerous to be mentioned, and a problem was presented of a more difficult character than any invented by Euclid or his followers ; and indeed all the axioms accepted by society were utterly useless when it came to the demonstration of effective and economical schools for training the entire population of a whole country.

It was felt that if some method could be introduced for showing the farmers everywhere the best that could be done and was being done on the best farms, that by an interchange of ideas and critical study of different methods of farming, the whole body of agriculturists might reasonably be raised to the position held and enjoyed by our best and most progressive farmers ; so the Institute System came, and, because it proved its utility by accomplishing what was expected of it, it has a right to remain, and so has come to stay.

Dr. James Mills, the President of the Agricultural College at Guelph, was the man who developed the plan upon which the Farmers' Institute system was organized in Ontario, and he succeeded because he had such a man as F. W. Hodson to perfect the organization in ways which only a decade ago, seemed quite impossible ; while at the helm of the good ship of state the strong arm of John Dryden could ever be relied upon