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For Farmers and Stockmen

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The Useless Dog Nuisance

 THE useless dog question is always with us. Every week or two we hear of some sheep worrying or other depredations by useless dogs and it is surprising that some effective remedy is not forthcoming that will help to lessen the evil. There should be some way of regulating the nuisance so that it will not prove a menace to the development of one of our most important industries, that of sheep raising.

In Germany, in the cities and large towns, dogs are required to be muzzled whenever they are on the street or in public places. In the city of Berlin every dog is subject to a tax of \$4.76 per annum. When this tax is paid, the dog is registered and the owner receives a small brass disk bearing the registered number of the animal, which must be henceforth worn on the collar. A dog not wearing a stamped collar is immediately seized by officers of the law. The effect of this has been to practically exterminate stray and useless dogs and to restrict the dogs actually kept to the very best for hunting or for useful purposes. As a result of this care, hydrophobia is practically unknown in Germany.

There may be a hint in the above for Canadians. However, a tax of nearly \$5.00 each seems more than three-quarters of the dogs kept in this country are worth. It would certainly go a long way towards getting rid of the dog nuisance. But such a measure would hardly be accepted as a remedy in Canada.

A Western College to Teach Agriculture

Two weeks ago our Western correspondent stated that Westley College, Winnipeg, had outlined a special course in Agriculture in this season's curriculum. This is a somewhat new departure in connection with a denominational college. Heretofore, on this continent at least, with a few exceptions, agricultural teaching has been the especial care of governments. Both denominational and private institutions of learning have made it their special care to look after the professional man and the fellow perfecting his knowledge of the so-called higher arts, while the agriculturist was left to plow his furrow unaided and alone in so far as these institutions were concerned. But fortunately for the great agricultural interests of this

continent the governments of the various states and provinces stepped into the breach and made the teaching of agriculture the special object of their care and munificence. To-day there are in every state in the Union, under government control, well-equipped colleges devoted to the education and training of the farmer for his work, and in Ontario we have the best of the lot, an agricultural college that has more than a continental reputation for good and effective training in practical agriculture.

For sometime, agricultural colleges under government control have been talked of for the Maritime Provinces and for Manitoba, but as yet no definite move has been made toward making these institutions a reality. Recognizing the need for better training in agriculture for the farmer of the West, Wesley College has come to the rescue, and the Manitoba farmer now has the opportunity of supplementing his practical training by a wider knowledge of those branches of agriculture that help to make his business more pleasant and profitable. This opportunity should be taken advantage of to a large extent the coming winter. The tuition fee, we understand, is not high and the only large outlay will be for board in the city. The college, in addition to its own staff, has secured the services of several practical farmers, experts in their departments, to give the lectures bearing upon general farming, fruit and live stock.

In establishing this special course Wesley College recognizes the great importance of the agricultural interests of the West and places them on a par with the professional in matters social and educational.

Teach Agriculture in High Schools

Dr. James Mills delivered a most interesting address on Friday of last week to the Canadian Club of this city upon "The Ontario Agricultural College, its aims and equipment." His description of the college and what it is doing to promote better agriculture in Canada was listened to most attentively by the members. If the people in the cities could hear more addresses of a similar nature upon agricultural topics they would have a higher appreciation of our agricultural resources and more faith in the better education of the farmer with a view to increasing still further the profits and products from the farm. Canada is, more than anything else, an agricultural country and all classes of our citi-

zens should be imbued with the importance of providing better methods of production, better methods of transportation and better facilities for conveying the products of the farm to the consumer in the best possible condition. Incidentally Dr. Mills referred to the need of more attention to the teaching of agriculture in the rural high schools. The time has come when the Minister of Education should be asked to set apart at least one high school in each county for the teaching of agriculture and the fitting of boys and girls for life and work on the farm.

We quite concur in this view. While a great deal has been written and said about the introduction of the teaching of agriculture into the rural schools of this province, nothing is seemingly being done to make this teaching effective or to direct attention to its importance. We question if many of the teachers, even in our rural schools, give very much time or attention to the subject. If a high school in each county were set apart especially for the teaching of agriculture and kindred topics it would do much to promote an interest in this work and to stimulate a desire for an education along agricultural lines among the boys and girls of the farm.

Cost of Rural Free Delivery in the United States

A good idea of the growth of the rural free delivery system in the United States may be gathered from the estimates for the next fiscal year recently framed at Washington: They aggregate \$12,655,800, a net increase of \$5,126,400 over the appropriations made for the current year. The estimates include the following items: Pay of letter-carriers, \$12,000,000, an increase of \$5,000,000; 10 division superintendents at \$2,500 each per annum in place of seven special agents in charge of divisions; four special agents at \$1,800 each (a new grade); 30 special agents, \$1,600, an increase of 15 in number; 15 special agents at \$1,400; 15 special agents at \$1,300 each; 56 route inspectors at \$1,200, aggregating \$67,200, a decrease of \$21,600; per diem for 79 special agents and 56 route inspectors, increase of \$1 per diem for route inspectors, \$169,000, increase \$29,500; incidental expenses of division superintendents, special agents, route inspectors, livery hire, etc., \$25,000; incidental expenses including letter boxes, furniture, straps, badges, etc., \$200,000; clerks in divisions headquarters, \$51,400.