

interests of the farmers themselves, but to the furtherance of the well-being of all other classes of our people that enjoy the fruits of old Acadia's mother earth, and are blessed with the happy desire of casting their tents within the boundaries of the little province by the sea. When we reflect for an instant on the wholesale advantages to be derived by those means, I doubt the impropriety and inaccuracy of the statement, that the ultimate results that would be attained by such an institution would not be rivalled by the benefits which are being continually bestowed upon the young men of our province, by the unceasing efforts of those in charge of our various Provincial collegiate institutions. This may be a seemingly extravagant assertion, but in my opinion is in strict accordance with the laws of reason. For when we consider that this link is all that is necessary to make the complete chain of educational institutions in our province, the importance of filling the gap by this veritable "missing link" remains an unalterable fact. And if we should judge by the results that have been gained where progressive views have outwitted selfish motives, and the foundation of agricultural colleges have been made a permanent reality, such an institution would be the most potent factor in aiding the future prosperity of our country, which is one day to be fully realized if our people awake from their lengthy slumber and practically acknowledge the necessity of more active operations in the promotion of our agricultural interests, upon the progress of which depends to a large extent, the future welfare of our people, and the permanent foundation of national greatness. It is a fact only too true that our agriculturists have not, in the past, been as zealous in advocating the interests of this subject—by endeavouring with their united energies, to make an actual realization of those invaluable ideas that have been so eminently and universally successful wherever adopted—as the exigencies of the case demanded. The very fact that the subject has, time and again, been brought before the reading public, and the advantages that would be derived therefrom been so plainly and minutely set before the people, that there is no acceptable reason that our farmers can bring forth, as to why they have not, prior to this late date, agitated and pushed with ever-increasing vigor, the claims to which they are so undeniably entitled as the mainstay and prop of our constitutional government. There has already been too much tardiness displayed, but let our agriculturists lose no more valuable time, but be up and doing all that lies within their strength to make successful preparations for the inauguration on our native soil of a fully equipped and properly organized agricultural college,

that will be a never-failing source of gratification and pride to every individual that participates in the laying of its foundation. The time has arrived, if it is our farmers' ever expect to have a leading agricultural college for the training of their sons, to acquire a complete and finished education in all subjects appertaining to their business, to take a sudden leap in advance and thoroughly advocate the interests of the present subject.

There are hundreds of young men annually going abroad for the express purpose of recruiting their depleted pockets and to swell the population of our neighbouring Republic. These young men have, to a large extent, been brought up on farms and acquired a few of the fundamental principles of farming. But as for having such a practical education as an agricultural college can impart, in the form of those sound principles that underlie the foundation of successful farming, is a question of a somewhat distinct nature, and I think it is safe to assume that not five per cent. of them have such a rating as the above standard implies. It is this want of knowledge of the scientific branches of agriculture that leads so many of our young men to think that they were not made for farmers, but that they were created for a more elevated socialistic position, and that all that is necessary for the fulfilment of their idealisms is to leave the country and enjoy the imaginary bliss that awaits them in a new position that they think is awaiting their individual presence. The falsity of such egregious ideas does not require to be pointed out, suffice it to say that these same young men would, if the opportunity, was afforded them, very largely avail themselves of the privilege of becoming educated farmers. Those erroneous ideas would thus be obviated and a healthful desire created for the following of farming as a life business.

That a stimulus is required in the advancement of our farming interests, appears to be an acknowledged fact by those acquainted with the subject. That some means whereby our agriculturists may become more thoroughly versed in their art, so that they may be enabled to pursue their particular industry with a more perfect and scientific acquaintance of the subject is incontrovertible. Sufficient testimony is at hand to warrant the confession that our agriculturists have not become pre-eminent for assiduity in the adoption of progressive views, or for unhampered eagerness in accepting the latest improvements that have been tested and proved to be powerful acquisitions to the scientific knowledge of the agricultural world. This lack of necessary enterprise and the want of a more advancing spirit is one of the fatal drawbacks to the realization of a thorough agricultural prosperity. Now, I think it will

be found, if closely investigated, that these unpleasant facts are, to a large extent, attributable to the absence of such an institution as I have named. Or at least it is quite a reasonable supposition, and in fact the only satisfactory reason forthcoming. It is, then, only fair to assume that the accuracy of the above is beyond dispute, and that if this great and important want were satisfactorily filled, that the above disparagements would, in the future, be discreditable to the originator. It will thus be seen that it is absolutely necessary that this requirement of the country should take a practical form, and immediate steps taken for the filling of the vacancy.

The agriculturists of our province ought to arise in their might and demand from the Governments—Provincial and Federal—in which they form such a prominent feature in the way of supporting, a first class agricultural college situated within our province, that will be in every respect suitable for the promulgation of all those new ideas and doctrines that have found their origin in the last few years, and which have proved so profitable to the more enterprising and progressive agriculturists in the countries where they have been advocated and applied. The claim is a just and righteous one, and deserves recognition by those who have it in their power, of laying the cornerstone of such a college in our midst. The only perceptible avenue whereby the requisite means can be procured—unless some philanthropic and whole-hearted individuals would take sufficient interest in the scheme to give it a substantial push into active operation—is, to place before our respective governments a petition bristling with the signatures of our most influential agriculturists, petitioning for the granting of a sufficient amount to place the undertaking on a proper footing. The results attending such a measure would, I feel convinced, be instrumental in attaining the desired ends; the proposition at least deserves recognition and a thorough trial by whoever may take the matter in hand. If our farmers imagine that they would not, separately, be sufficiently strong to make the required plunge, then let them enlist in their sympathies and marshal to their aid educationists of whatever denominational complexion they may be, and from all others who could be found willing to grapple with the subject in a manly form, and with an earnest desire to terminate their labors with success. The amount required would by no means be such as to be without the pale of our Dominion treasury, and possibly our Provincial. All the outlays that would be essential to the establishing and the maintenance of an agricultural college would be returned—indirectly—in the shape of greater general prosperity, owing to the