

of its need on the part of responsible men. But the rural schools have not differed in their courses of study from the schools of the towns and cities, and they have been much less effective. The time has arrived for a sound policy of agricultural education in the rural schools. It is needed in the interest of Canadian agriculture; in the interest of the farm labour problem (*); in the interest of our industrial development, and in the interest of our country as a whole.

Such a forward step, undertaken with vigour and thoroughness, would be one of the greatest, if not the greatest, in the history of the intellectual development of Canada. From our farms have come many of the men who have held, and who hold now, leading positions in the political, the professional, and the business life of the country. The movement to the populous centres will continue more or less, no matter what kind of education is furnished in the rural schools, but the argument that better rural schools would merely help to educate the young men off the farms is not valid. Ambition everywhere and always "breaks the bars of circumstance." The youth whose temperament leads him in the direction of a profession will, if he has the needful staying powers, make his way in spite of the most meagre of early opportunities. Such instances of persistence and endeavour are world-wide, and they have been numerous in our own country. But an education that will emphasize the intellectual interest of

*There is an admirable article on "The Farm Labour Problem" by Walter James Brown in the University Magazine, April, 1913.