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# The COUNTRY GENTLEMAN

The OLDEST AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL in the WORLD  
A Consolidation of *The Genesee Farmer*, 1831-1839, and *The Cultivator*, 1834-1865

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No. 14

## What's the Matter With Farm Colleges?

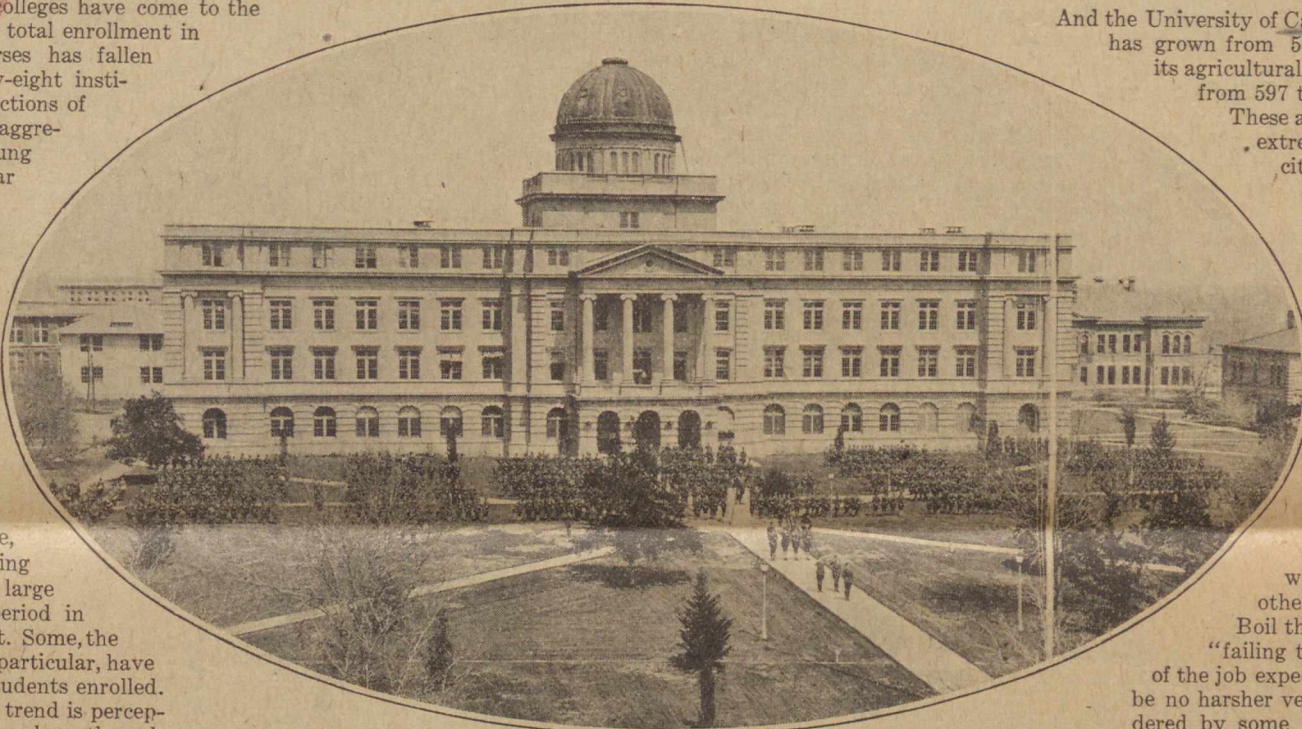
AGRICULTURAL colleges have come to the crossroads. The total enrollment in their farm courses has fallen off decidedly. Twenty-eight institutions, taking in all sections of the country, show in the aggregate 22 per cent fewer young men receiving the regular college training in agriculture than in 1914-15.

Less than a dozen colleges report an increase in their agricultural departments. With only two or three exceptions these are small. It isn't that fewer young people are going to college. Many more are doing so than ever before. The colleges of commerce, law, liberal arts, teaching and engineering all show large gains over the same period in which agriculture has lost. Some, the colleges of commerce in particular, have gained enormously in students enrolled.

The full scope of this trend is perceptible in those institutions where the college of agriculture is a part of the state university.

At Ohio, for instance, although the attendance at the university as a whole has moved up from 5332 in 1914-15 to 10,473 for the last full year, the regular enrollment in agriculture has gone down from 795 to 530.

At Illinois the total student body in the same period has grown from 6604 to 11,083, whereas agriculture has dropped from 1046 to 637.



CADET CORPS OF TEXAS AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

### Enrollment Has Slumped Because They Aren't Doing Their Job as They Should

By E. H. TAYLOR

And the University of California during this time has grown from 5614 to 15,580, whereas its agricultural department has dropped from 597 to 515.

These are by no means the most extreme cases that could be cited.

Put in the simplest terms, the situation amounts to this:

The agricultural colleges, which were established to serve our farming population so that it might advance and hold its own with other groups, are not attracting students in numbers anywhere nearly proportionate with those institutions which primarily serve these other groups.

Boil that still further down to "failing to do an important part of the job expected of them" and it will be no harsher verdict than is being rendered by some of the agricultural college men themselves.

For the agricultural colleges have entered a new period, with changed conditions and changed problems to meet.

They have passed through two other distinctly different stages already.

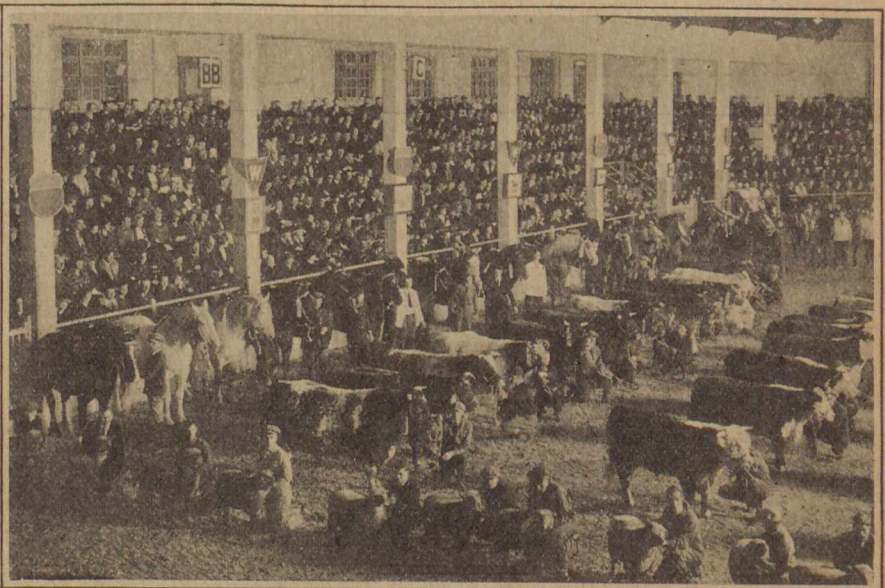
The first dated from the Morrill Act creating them and lasted into the nineties. With the agricultural colleges this period was largely a matter of finding themselves.

Agricultural literature was scarce and competent teachers scarcer. It was not

What's the matter with farm colleges and programs



SOIL-SURVEY WORK, PURDUE SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE



STUDENTS STAGE WISCONSIN'S LITTLE INTERNATIONAL