

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published every Thursday (52 issues per year). It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical, reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 when not paid in advance. All other countries, 12s.
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LONDON, CANADA.

on the farm something more than home training or a "short course" were needful, the associate course would certainly commend itself to him.

The Macdonald Institute is a department of the College which, with its magnificent buildings and equipment, attracts the attention of every student of education who visits the institution. That it is becoming known and felt, is seen by the fact that there are now about 140 students in attendance, 100 of them in residence. Up to this time the long courses have been taken chiefly by city or town young women, and the short term courses by those from the country, owing, doubtless, to the perplexing problem of the ever-pressing need of domestic help in the farm home, from which the daughter can ill be spared. A young woman, who had been in attendance, bore this testimony to the domestic science course, that it not only gave her knowledge of great direct helpfulness, but it gave her an insight into why things were done that lifted her work out of drudgery and invested it with an entirely new meaning and interest. Students are there from all parts of Canada, and the number of those coming from the country shows a tendency to increase. The following statement, prepared for us at a recent date, will give the reader an idea of the distribution of students in the institute:

In the Home Economics Department there were

- 17 students taking the Junior Normal work.
- 20 students taking the Senior Normal work.
- 4 students taking the Professional House-keeper course.
- 5 students taking the Two-year Course.
- 16 students taking the One-year Course.
- 15 students taking the Short Course in Domestic Science.
- 23 students taking the Optional Courses.

There were twenty-seven applications for entrance to the Short Course in Domestic Science, which opened January 3rd. In the Manual Training Department there were

- 11 students taking the Normal Class work.
- 11 students taking the Wood-carving work, and in the Nature Study Department, recently closed, a three-months' course was taken by 37 students.

Another institution of special interest, is the Consolidated Public School, quite near the Macdonald Institute. Though not a part of the College, it is calculated to have in time a very marked influence upon the character of the student material for the college coming from rural schools. Through the influence of the courses and system of teaching, scholars will be better prepared for an agricultural college course. In the main, Principal Hotson states that they follow the regular public school curriculum, and are a part of the regular inspectorate. But the school is graded, and there are five assistant teachers. There are departments for manual training, fitted up with tools which the scholars use in woodwork, etc.; for domestic economy, in which cooking, sewing, etc., is taught, and in spring and summer the scholars will have individual and collective garden plots. A curious incident was this, that the senior class boys all voted themselves not long ago to learn sewing, and are sticking to it, so that when the worst comes to the worst, the consolidated school boys will hereafter be able to sew on their own buttons. They bring in plans of barns, with estimates on the cost of material; they have supplementary readings of books like those of John Burroughs; each day a scholar tells or reads to the senior class the gist of the important events recorded in the newspapers of the day before, which come to the school; up in the third story assembly room they have their literary society meetings, etc., and all through the whole day's work runs the idea of "doing things." The testimony of the youngsters is that "it is the only school that ever was!"

Four ordinary school sections united in this school, and there are on the roll 175, compared with 147 on the rolls of the four individual schools. The average attendance has increased from 52 per cent. to 92 per cent. The scholars are brought to school in six vans, holding from 20 to 26 each, at a cost per van varying from \$1.40 to \$2.90 per day, but this will be reduced another season. The school opens at 9.30 a. m., but there are no intermissions for senior pupils, and just one hour at noon, so that as much work is done as when starting at 9 a. m. Another effect of this school is that it is attracting back scholars who had passed the High School entrance, and who ordinarily either cease going to school or drift off to city or town institutions. The heating, ventilation, etc., are admirable, one man looking after the boilers and all general work of that sort about the building. In its location and general conduct, it is designed as an object lesson for the people of the Province, and therefore is costing, no doubt, more than a consolidated school would under usual conditions, but the contention is that the people will get more and far better educational results for their money. It is under control of a board of twelve members, three from each of the four consolidating sections.

From time to time improvements are steadily being made about the college, such as the new greenhouses for the horticultural department; new buildings for the poultry branch; and very fine cement flooring in the dairy barns, where the obsolete mangers have been abolished, and a manure carrier is installed. In the dairy building new apparatus has been introduced, and other desirable changes made. In our judgment, one of the most pressing needs of the college is an up-to-date building for farm mechanics, or the running of machinery, carpenter work, forging, and a long range of operations in which every farmer's son should receive special training. Then we noticed that the experimentalists' department was terribly crowded, and there is also badly needed provision for an insectary and plant-growing under cover in the Dept. of Biology and Physics. There has been a useful consolidation of such work as farm engineering, drainage, etc., in the Physics Dept. The Horticultural Dept. is carrying on work in fruit variety tests and in cover crops that will be productive of very valuable results. In the Livestock Dept. an important and extended series of experiments in cross-breeding Berkshire, Yorkshire and Tamworth swine is being projected, which will be followed out and duplicated to the carcass test. The Chemical Dept. is investigating the question of improving the large area of swamp soils of the Province and making them more profitable.

"We are proud of the O. A. C.," remarked a Wellington County resident to the writer. "It has a reputation, and it deserves it. You never hear the ill reports regarding the College such as mar the status of some other schools where large numbers of students are assembled. It is a grand place for a Canadian youth to get an education."

We are inclined to think that these remarks by an unprejudiced observer, who had ample opportunities to judge of the College and staff fairly, indicated one very strong reason for its prestige, viz., confidence, not only in its personnel, but in its general discipline. This is a priceless heritage, not easily earned by any institution, and, therefore, to be doubly prized. It is fundamental. Educational institutions there may be, dominated

by divergent ideals or types of policy. The product of one is a moneymaking machine; of the other, manhood in the best sense of that term. The almighty dollar is the goal of the one, character of the other. The one circles in the routine of Henry Ward Beecher's Western farmer, who "bought more land to raise more corn to feed more hogs to buy more land to grow more corn to feed more hogs," and thus on. The other takes account of man as an intelligent, moral being who can see beauty and goodness in the world and in life. Pressed to an extreme, the one may make the man a heartless mercenary, the other impractical and inefficient for the work-a-day world. There is a golden mean in which success as a farmer is made to minister to intelligent citizenship. In this, the very heyday of its matured career, the O. A. C. does well to sustain its standards and build for a yet more abiding confidence in the public mind, and in student loyalty to an institution whose teachings they will hold in still greater esteem as years lengthen out into life and they themselves are able to share, not only in the material-creating, but in the moral leadership of this country.

Blossom Like the Rose.

We have a dozen good papers coming to our house, but none are so highly prized by us all as the "Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." Each member of our household finds something in every number to interest them, and to add to their store of useful knowledge. I have been a subscriber to all the leading agricultural journals of America, and I unhesitatingly place the "Farmer's Advocate" as the peer of them all. I cannot help but think of the incalculable benefits that would arise to this country if every rural home were supplied with such a paper. The hard-working, but aimless and thriftless farmer would, in many cases, receive an inspiration that would work a wonderful change. The neglected farms and the half-tilled fields would blossom like the rose, and the ill-bred and ill-fed animals would give place to the slick-coated, well-bred animals that, in profit and pleasure, would gladden the hearts of the owners. Wishing you every continued success, and hoping for the day when every struggling farmer will feel the help and the uplift of just such a paper as the "Farmer's Advocate."

Sincerely yours,
A. D. MCGUGAN.

Rodney, Ont., Jan. 5, 1905.

HORSES.

Meetings of horsemen will be held on dates and at places given below:

At the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, Monday, January 30th, at 8 p. m., annual meeting of the Harness, Hunter and Saddle Horse Society of Canada.

Tuesday, January 31st, at 7.30 p. m., annual meeting Hackney Horse Society.

At the Repository, Toronto, Tuesday, January 31st, at 8.30 p. m., fifth annual meeting Canadian Pony Society.

Wednesday, February 1st, at 11 a. m., annual meeting Shire Horse Breeders' Association.

Wednesday, February 1st, at 8 p. m., annual meeting Canadian Clydesdale Horse Breeders' Association.

Thursday, February 2nd, banquet to be tendered by the Canadian Horse-breeders' Association to the Canadian horsemen who won prizes at the United States shows during the past year.

Friday, February 3rd, annual meeting Canadian Horse-breeders' Association.

February 1st, 2nd and 3rd, third annual Clydesdale and Shire Show.

The best Canadian ice record over a half-mile track is 2.18½, made by Flora Hunter, in a race at Ottawa last winter. The best record over a mile track is 2.15½, made by Cresceus, at Ottawa, two years ago.

A press report says: Alfred Vanderbilt ordered his special car coupled to the Twentieth Century Limited in New York the other day, took breakfast in Chicago the next morning, and between eating the two lamb chops purchased the best four-in-hand team in the world of Mr. Tichenor for \$35,000, and was back in Gotham the next day shaking hands with Tom Lawson. That's the way to do business.

At this time of the year it is necessary that the condition of the in-foal mares should be attended to, as no good can result from their living upon poor food. A certain amount of sound grain should be given them, properly mixed with hay or chaff, and if they are in the straw-yard, the addition of roots will be beneficial as helping to keep their bowels in good order. Nor should there be too long intervals between feeds, as anything that is liable to interfere with the digestion of a brood mare, which requires all the nourishment, in reason, that she can take, is likely to be prejudicial to her health and that of her unborn foal.