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THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

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The Agricultural College and Rural Life.

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SIGNIFICANT of the trend of expert opinion regarding the training of teachers for rural schools is the Report of the Commission on Industrial and Technical Education for Massachusetts recently published. This Report recommends the establishment of a Normal School or Department in the Massachusetts Agricultural College for the training of teachers for the rural schools of that State. The Chairman of the Commission was Dr. Carrol D. Wright, the noted economic thinker and writer, and President of Clark College, Worcester, Mass.

Massachusetts has always given careful consideration to its school system; for more than a century it has taken the lead in educational matters. The Ontario educational system, it will be remembered, was patterned in many respects after the Massachusetts system; but while the former became inelastic, mechanical in its rigidity, and bureaucratic, the latter was more responsive to the changing conditions of both rural and urban life.

The reasons for the recommenda-

tions of the Commission are plain. Probably there is no greater educational agency in the country than the agricultural colleges. By sheer merit they have gradually forged their way to the front. They have shown how crude country boys can be trained into young men of power, capable of most efficient service. They have made the land more productive, because the workers of the land have been educated to make more of themselves and of their farms. More than this, the agricultural colleges have shown how a careful study of Nature and Nature's processes is one of the best foundations for general culture. By such a study, under the skilful guidance of good teachers, the intelligence of the students is developed, their imagination stimulated, and their outlook widened. There is aroused a scientific, practical and sympathetic interest in the world about the students, and there is an elevation of the ideals of living. In fact, the agricultural colleges, directly and indirectly, are bringing the country homes into closer vital relationship