



THE MAIN BUILDING, MACDONALD COLLEGE

### Macdonald College Course

The new Macdonald College at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Que., will be opened next fall. The curriculum in agriculture and household science adopted is as follows:—The institution is to comprise three departments: the school of education, the school of agriculture, and the school of household science. The principal, James W. Robertson, LL.D., C.M.G., together with the staff of the college and such other persons as the governors of McGill University may see fit to appoint, have been constituted as the Macdonald College Committee for the purpose of directing the educational policy and curriculum, of framing and enforcing the necessary regulations touching the details of the courses of study and teaching, the college examinations, the admission of students, the amount and mode of payment of fees and the discipline and internal government.

The agricultural school, according to the curriculum, is to provide: (a) Short courses from two weeks to three months each on live stock, seeds, crops, weeds, poultry and horticulture. (b) Two-year course leading to a diploma and which embraces a study of field and cereal husbandry, animal husbandry, poultry husbandry, home dairying and horticulture. This course also comprises a study of chemistry, physics, biology, bacteriology, English mathematics and book-keeping. (c) Four-year course leading to a bachelor's degree. This is a continuation of the two-year course for the purpose of affording opportunity for a more advanced knowledge of rural economy and more thorough and exact acquaintance with the natural sciences and their application to the conditions, processes and organizations of rural life.

The courses that will be followed in the Household Science Department are: (a) Short courses of three months, including the study of foods, plain cooking, sewing, laundry, home nursing, sanitation and hygiene, home art and the care of the house. (b) One-year home-makers course, embracing a practical and theoretical work in foods, cookery, household economies, materials for clothing, dress-making and millinery, laundry, fuels, ventilation, house sanitation, home nursing, hygiene, home art, besides studies in physics, bacteriology, chemistry and biology. (c) Two-year course, which is the continuation of the one-year course, and which comprises more advanced work.

The curriculum provides that all candidates for admission to the Macdonald College must be at least 17 years of age; produce satisfactory evidence as to moral character and physical health, and, in the case of candidates for the course of agriculture, evidence of having worked for a season on a farm in Canada. No examination will be required for short courses, but tests in elementary will be required for candidates for the two or one-year courses. Tuition is to be free, all that the students will have to pay being a laboratory fee not exceeding \$5, and board not exceeding \$15.50 a week.

The staff of the college will be the following:—

James W. Robertson, LL.D., C.M.G., late Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying for the Dominion, Principal.

Geo. H. Locke, Ph. D., head of the School of Education.

F. C. Harrison, B.S.A., Professor of bacteriology.

William Lochhead, B.A., M.S., Professor of biology.

Carlton J. Lynde, Ph.D., Professor of Physics.

Leonard S. Klink, B.S.A., W.S., Professor of Cereal Husbandry.

John Brittain, LL.D., Professor of Nature Study.

J. F. Snell, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Chemistry.

W. Saxby Blair, Assistant Professor of Horticulture.

J. M. Swaine, M.A., Lecturer in Biology.

John Fixter, farm superintendent and instructor in farm machinery.

Fred C. Elford, manager and instructor in poultry department.

### Nature Study in Rural Schools

The school children of the present generation in many parts of Canada have a great advantage over their predecessors. From the old grind of books and blackboard and little else, the curriculum of many elementary schools has branched out into manual training and nature study. Teachers in training at many of the Model Schools are afforded opportunity for preparing for this work when they later assume the role of tutor. The pupils of the model school serve to demonstrate the practicability of the theory of nature study, and in this get full benefit of the changed curriculum of the rural school. They are taught something of plant and ani-

mal life, the soil and the physiography of the surrounding country. Some of this work is done in the schoolroom but much more has to be done outside.

As a rule, Friday afternoon is appropriated for excursions into the fields and groves. The pupils of the Ottawa Model School when out on their rounds divide into groups of a dozen or fifteen, each group being in charge of a student teacher who had been taken over the ground the preceding day and given accurate instructions on the work to be done. The work for a recent outing was a careful examination of six species of evergreens and seven species of deciduous trees. The result is that practically every boy in the school knows these thirteen species and can identify them wherever found by bark, leaf, and general habit of growth. They did not learn all this from one lesson but from several.

This work may be extended to any branch of field or woodland life. The wild flowers are always interesting, and so are the grasses and the clovers of a district, and later the plants that may be termed weeds receive their share of attention. A school is fortunate in securing the services of a teacher who has not only received the advantages of a training in nature study, but who by temperament and disposition enjoys the study of plant and animal life. Having this, it becomes the privilege and duty of the pupils and their parents to facilitate the study of nature by laying out flower beds and planting trees in the school grounds and by encouraging visits to interesting portions of the farms of the district. On the part of the teacher it requires careful organization and painstaking effort.

S. B.

### Societies Selected for Crop Competition

There has been a liberal response from agricultural societies to engage in the field crop competition as announced in last issue. It has been a case of first come first served, and as only ten could receive the grant this year, a great many will have to go without, or take up the work on their own account, as the Superintendent of agricultural societies advises them to do. Should this be done the government will supply free of charge an expert judge. The societies will also receive credit for the work when the regular government grant is apportioned. Supt. Wilson urges societies desiring to take up this work and are too late to take advantage of the regular competition, to endeavor to enlist some public-spirited men in the district in this work.

The following are the ten societies fortunate enough to be chosen for the regular competition: York and Markham; Caledonia; Puslinch; Verulam; Orford; Mt. Forest, Peninsular Central; South Dorchester; Strong and Lucknow. These societies have the choice of their crops to offer prizes in, and ten farmers must enter into the competition in each case. Markham has selected: goose or Macaroni wheat; Caledonia, oats and peas; Verulam, white oats; Puslinch, white oats and barley; Orford, fall wheat and beans; Peninsular Central, white oats and barley; South Dorchester, white fall wheat and alsike clover; Mt. Forest, oats and barley; Lucknow, oats and strong oats.

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