

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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very materially increased the prestige of the latter, and teachers trained in the Normal School are becoming increasingly alive to the influence which can be exerted in the schoolroom on the ideals of the young with respect to the high cultural value of an education which fits people to govern the forces of nature and to transform their surroundings into happy homes, where industry, intellect, good morals and patriotism unite with higher influences to develop strong bodies, healthy minds and useful purposes. Principal M. Cumming reports the total attendance at the Agricultural College in 1907 as 132, and the indications are that when the records of 1908 are complete, the number will be increased to almost the 200 mark. Prof. Cumming, judging from the varying attainments of the students coming in from rural sections, suggests that a more comprehensive knowledge on the part of teachers of the various sciences relating to agriculture and allied industries would be desirable.

Special attention is being paid to rural-school improvement, and a few consolidations of small sections are reported. The Macdonald Consolidated School at Middleton was efficiently conducted during the year, but on a smaller scale than during the three preceding years. Four of the sections which formed part of the original consolidation, and which were situated farthest away from the central schoolhouse, retired at the close of the previous year, and maintained schools within their own borders. The consolidation now existing consists of Middleton and three contiguous schools. In a reference to school-garden work, especially in connection with urban schools, Dr. Bagley is quoted as saying that it marks one of the most promising advances made in present-day education.

We find, also, very encouraging references to manual-training and mechanic-science departments. In fact, technical education is now made a sub-department in Nova Scotia, with Prof. F. H.

Sexton at the head of the College in Halifax, local schools in industrial centers, and coal-mining and engineering schools, all of which are to be established, as the subject has awakened a deep and widespread interest.

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A special and most instructive feature of the report is the chapter on "The Trend of Education in Europe," by Mr. MacKay, who visited Great Britain and several European countries to investigate the subject for the benefit of Nova Scotia. As showing the practical results in putting a small country upon a sound economic basis, by means of a statesmanship policy of education and forest preservation, the case of the Kingdom of Wuerttemberg is cited, which, although only about one-third the size of Nova Scotia, and without many of its natural advantages, supports a happy and prosperous population fifteen times as dense through its industries. The Government forest in 1904 covered an area of 483,421 acres—only one-tenth the woodland of Nova Scotia—and when all the expenses of maintenance were paid, there was a net revenue of \$2,701,587, and that without impairing their value in any way. The industrial and commercial schools of Wuerttemberg give a broad vocational training to boys and girls of fourteen to eighteen years who have left the common schools at the end of the compulsory period (6 to 14 years) as nearly all do, and have gone to work. A new law, to take effect next year, will make compulsory the maintenance of vocational schools in all localities, where, for a period of three successive years, at least forty youths are employed in industrial or commercial pursuits, and compulsory attendance of young workmen is also stipulated. This little kingdom has the oldest agricultural college in Germany, and in a table given there is recorded an attendance of 946 students in the agricultural schools. Here, surely, are some object lessons for progressive Canada! An impartial inquiry discloses the fact that where the "cultural theory" of education has not been allowed to defeat the purpose of vocational training, a profound and universal conviction has gained sway, not only that it pays, but that it is necessary in order to give the people that supremacy in skilled labor which will enable the country to support its population, and prevent excessive emigration to other countries.

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Taken all together, the Nova Scotia public schools report is one of the most suggestive we have had the pleasure of reviewing for a long time, and we trust that its distribution will be effective in promoting an improved system of education for the masses of the people.

JURISDICTION OF AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC.

An Ontario correspondent raises the question as to where we should look for regulation of the automobile traffic on our country roads. The answer is that the jurisdiction lies in the hands of the Provincial Legislature, on which we must depend for laws regulating the traffic. This is apparent from the following quotation from the Ontario Statutes, 1906, Chapter 46, Section 6, which reads:

"No motor vehicle shall be run upon any public highway within any city, town or incorporated village at a greater speed than ten miles an hour, or upon any public highway outside of any city, town or incorporated village at a greater speed than fifteen miles an hour. Provided that the council of any city, town, township or village may by by-law set apart any public street or highway, or any part thereof, on which motor vehicles may be driven at any higher rate of speed than herein limited, for the purpose of testing the same, and may pass by-laws for regulating and governing the use of any such street or highway, or part thereof, for the purposes aforesaid."

That is to say, the law of 1906, which is yet in force, prescribed certain general rules applicable all over the Province, fixing rates of speed, and generally regulating the use of motor vehicles on the highways, except that power was given local municipalities to set aside certain roads as speedways, the councils being empowered to pass by-laws regulating the use of these.

The principle herein adhered to, of general Provincial regulations, with prescribed municipal

latitude for by-laws, is unquestionably the proper one. To place the control of the traffic in the hands of various municipalities, allowing one to prevent entirely and another to pass any kind of a by-law it chose, would entail all kinds of embarrassments and inconvenience to motorists, and lead to great confusion. "The Farmer's Advocate" believes in strict regulations, but they must be of Provincial application, so that chauffeurs may readily inform themselves concerning the law in the Province; anything else would be un-British.

As to just what form the law should take, we are still open to suggestions. As already stated, we believe in a heavy license fee or road tax, strict regulations, and severe penalties for infraction. In addition, we believe that automobile traffic might advantageously be limited to certain highways and to certain hours of the day thereon. This may seem hard on the motorists, but existing conditions are unjust to the users of horses, and as the latter outnumber the former by perhaps a hundred to one, some adequate consideration for their rights and interests is surely no more than fair.

THE SUMMER-FALLOW QUESTION.

The success of any prescribed system of farming depends largely upon how it is carried out. This reflection occurs after perusal of an article on the summer-fallow question, by a Simcoe Co., Ont., subscriber, who expresses alarm at the increasing prevalence of weeds, quite properly deploring the practice pursued by some of seeding down dirty land to smother them out, urges the need of thorough cultivation to combat them, questions the practicability of a straight three-year or four-year rotation on the average farm, and discusses the advisability of resorting to the old practice of summer-fallowing as a means of cleaning the land and preparing it to be seeded down. He considers that the average farmer is not so situated that he can advantageously have one-quarter of his farm in hoe crop every year, and recommends summer-fallowing half the area on which a four-course rotation would call for hoed crop.

Of course, circumstances vary widely, and no one rotation can be laid down for everybody. In general, however, a rotation is practicable or impracticable, according as one thinks it is. On well-managed, up-to-date Ontario farms, a three-course or four-course rotation is entirely practicable, as we know by our own experience, and it is easy to point to a good many farms, in widely-separated localities, where it is proving eminently satisfactory in cleaning the land, increasing fertility, and producing profits. As a man thinketh, so is his practice. In the last analysis, it is not so much a question of help, or soil, or situation, as of enterprise, gumption and perseverance.

We freely admit that a farm tilled by a feckless tenant is liable to become foul unless summer-fallowing is occasionally practiced. Certainly, seeding down to grass is a poor way to grapple with the situation, except in the case of a few particular species of weeds. Even when temporarily choked out, the seeds often remain to assert supremacy when next the land is broken. One season of thorough cultivation in three or four is probably necessary if the land is to be kept reasonably clean, profitably productive, and in a good state of tilth, but, by the use of the two-horse corn cultivator, the weeder and the scuffer, this cultivation may be given almost as well to a field under corn, roots or potatoes as to a bare fallow. In a properly-cultivated cornfield, what few weeds remain by the last of July may be easily despatched with the hoe.

The main objection raised by our correspondent is that the majority of farmers cannot plant one-third or one-quarter of their land to hoe crop every year. Let us see. Assume that the average hundred-acre farm has twenty acres that should be in woodland, permanent pasture or alfalfa. That leaves eighty for rotation. A four-course rotation would call for twenty acres each year in corn, roots and potatoes, supplemented, if necessary, with a piece of soiling crop or, perhaps, a field of peas. Allowing five acres for roots, potatoes and soiling crop, we have fifteen