

# The O. A. C. Review.

The Dignity of a Calling is Its Utility

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## EDITORIAL.

IN this issue we are glad to be able to present our readers with a letter on the Experimental Union by its energetic Secretary. We all know Mr. Holterman to be an untiring worker for the Union and also for other societies organized for the benefit of the farmer. In the letter the condition of affairs is laid before us very plainly, in regard to the increasing lack of interest in the meetings by ex-students. This may be due to "a lack of pride in the work," but we think not. They merely stay at home and take a pride in the work and like other intelligent farmers benefit by it.

In reading over this letter we could not help putting what we consider facts together and from them trying to deduce a reason why this lack of interest. During the past few years the experimental work has made great strides while the interest of ex-students has decreased. There seems to be no connection here, and so on this ground there is no particular reason why one should attend. But as the part taken in our meetings by outsiders has become more and more the part taken by members has become less and less and consequently they take less interest in the meetings. On the question of being more exclusive we see no objection to it. Do not those who are eligible to become members represent all parts of Ontario, and are they not best able to act as representatives in an organization like this? A full report of the work and results is distributed thus giving the people full liberty to criticize them, and the only reason it is so seldom done is because very little fault can be found with the management. Aside from all this could we not safely leave it to the people's representative, the Hon. John Daydon, to see that they are not defrauded? Are the outsiders who come fair representatives of the people as a rule? We think not.

This is a subject of great importance and we feel is worthy of more time than fifteen minutes. To our correspondents we would say take a little more time. As a model we prefer that you take Tennyson. He wrote the first draft of "Lockley Hall" in a few hours, but he spent six weeks of eight hours a day at rewriting and improving it.

The vexed question which agitated the minds of the people of the country and which we hoped had long ago been settled, has been revived by a writer in one of our agricultural journals. In the article referred to the author deals with the subject in the old way, just as lecturers and writers have dealt with it time and time again.

Yet, notwithstanding the array of arguments brought forward, and the expostulations of friends to the contrary, the boy still continues to leave the farm. To be sure, discontent with the quiet and unexciting country life forces many a boy to turn his eye cityward in search of Utopia, but by far the greater number are forced to leave the farm not because they are anxious to fill a larger sphere, not because they expect to grow richer at some other trade or business, but because they must engage in some employment which requires less capital with which to start. Many a one who leaves the farm would gladly remain upon it until he is old enough to take upon himself the responsibilities of a farmer, but he is not slow to see that little progress is being made and that it is idle for him to entertain hopes of ever being settled upon unincumbered property. He sees, too, that it is a thankless task to become the slave of a mortgagee and therefore he wisely decides to spend what ever capital he may possess in getting an education or in fitting himself for some other business.

Until a business man or a mechanic gains a most intimate and modern acquaintance with his business it is needless for him to expect to attain the highest success. Yet, we find the farmer, who, of all men, should have a most intimate acquaintance with the in's and out's of his business, plodding along in the paths of his fathers, content with a mediocrity of success. The fact is, he is only beginning to realize the importance of an education, but as yet he does not make strenuous efforts to obtain one, nor does he endeavor to put his sons in a position to obtain a strictly agricultural training. So long as this state of affairs will continue, farming will remain unprofitable and the boy will have to leave the farm. But as soon as farming is made more business-like so soon will it become profitable and the boy will remain on the farm. Now, there is little use in looking to this institution as the sole source of education; as well might Law depend upon Osgode Hall, or Medicine, on the many Medical Schools of Ontario. The boy must have some ground work in agriculture upon which he is to build if he would make his course here a success. Agriculture must be taught in the Public Schools and the boy's mind early trained to look upon natural phenomena with some degree of familiarity in order that when he goes to college he may be able to grasp the full meaning of the subjects taught. Every boy cannot avail himself of a college training yet every boy likes to have some certificate of educational standing. The standard of matriculation to the O. A. C. should be raised. Let it become the Public School Leaving Examination, with agriculture, elementary Botany and Chemistry, then observe with what pride the father will inform you that John has just matriculated to the Ontario Agricultural College.