

know;" "I cannot tell you because I haven't found that out myself yet." But when the affirmative was used, it was covered with such a fine mantle of velvet there was no dogmatic rasp in the simple announcement; it was as far off as it could be from the pedantic chin music of the paid demonstrator.

Dr. Saunders spoke apparently from very brief notes, but there was not an unnecessary word in his whole address, and the whole subject matter of it was of the utmost value to the entire grain growing fraternity in Western Canada. For that reason we join with one of the executive in expressing the regret that no one had been assigned to the business of taking a careful shorthand reproduction of that man's address and of the discussion which followed.

Some of the addresses given at those meetings are not worth reproducing. They are the merest piffle from men who apparently had not the common decency to prepare themselves. But when it is something which from all past experience it is known will be a service of "real meat," surely it is of the first importance that it might not only be preserved, but have the widest publicity that can be given to it.

The rank and file of the agricultural press does not seem equal to the task of doing justice to these occasions. Under the most favorable circumstances, space is not available for even a small portion of the vast miscellaneous accumulation at the week's end, and then every editor having his own peculiar ideas as to news' value, in the long run, much of what is priceless and should be made permanent in educational value is crowded out by many columns of "news" that is of no value or interest when it is a day old.

No doubt there are some full records of Dr. Saunders' investigations in the Dominion archives and in sundry bulletins. The public service requires, however, that this knowledge should be within easy reach of the whole people instead of the mere handful of delegates who are privileged to hear him when he can leave his work to go afield. But as the Dominion Printing and Publications Department is under a cloud at the moment, it might be well not to pursue the matter further at this writing.

Returning, however, to the man and his work, we wondered as we listened to him whether his countrymen as a whole have measured the full stature of the man and his moral weight in the affairs of the Dominion. As we contemplate the spare figure, the sincerity and thoroughness of the impeccable

student to whom a newly-ascertained fact is of far greater account than all the money value it may subsequently lead to, the feeling grows on one that here is at least one reliable man possessed of the gift of patience and continuity, who does not work for the mere "pay" of the thing.



A unique assembly of well-known Manitoba educationalists.

One can't "pay" a public benefactor like Dr. Saunders, and he seems as indifferent to glory, celebrity, notoriety, or however the personal element may be designated as the inarticulate golden wheat on which he is experimenting. We know nothing of what wages or "salar," he receives, but whatever the fitful moods of changing Ottawa Governments may have decreed it to be, since he succeeded his wonderful father, it may be taken for granted that it remains at so modest a figure in the gross "appropriation" for investigational work, no person who is alive to

investigational work conducted by Dr. Saunders should be looked into, understood and fully appreciated, not only by a select committee of Government pundits, but by every one interested in the progress of this department, and that means every citizen who depends for his living

on the growing and marketing of grain crops.

The experimental farm system in Canada was started about 30 years ago, but only within the last 16 years had anything of consequence been accomplished along the special lines Dr. Saunders is pursuing. At the start, old standard varieties were taken hold of and severely "cross-examined," as it were, as to just where they stood up and where they fell down in all essential points.

But those 16 years contain an amazing story of perseverance and of high achievement. If some one thoroughly capable of setting

in spite of their modest but firm request to use the soft pedal in so far as their personal efforts are concerned. So it is not the men who have done the work who may be expected to write the story.

It was Dr. Saunders who made things possible for energetic followers like Seager Wheeler and Samuel Larcombe to start in on their own account and win world's records repeatedly. Not only so, but it led into the ring, in the case of Wheeler, new developments of his own.

In response to a question from the audience, the speaker, while paying a generous tribute to some of these new types bred from "Marquis," etc., was careful to urge that no new thing of the kind should be recommended as a suitable variety to be used in broadcast fashion the first or even the second year after it had been discovered. Some of the much advertised new varieties, he considered, had not been sufficiently proved to warrant much of the extravagant language of the advertisementers.

Five or six years was the period Dr. Saunders considered a reasonable time to settle the character of a new production beyond all doubt, and then it was not to be recommended for every locality and condition of soil and climate. It was the policy of his department to try out thoroughly and then recommend, but he regretted that it seemed to be the practice in some quarters to succeed at the first flush of success and then try out.

Thus the man who claimed to be no more than "a student," but who is out with the single purpose of discovering all he can of those facts in the great empire of the cereal crops which, so far, have failed to reach the observant eye of the investigator.

#### Samuel Larcombe

Elsewhere will be found a more extended account of this young man's performances in the various functions of Convention week. Here let us, however, pay a tribute to his unflagging zeal and terrible energy. We have watched him when he didn't know we were about and have seen him laboriously and stealthily picking his way through the purlieus of Winnipeg to reach his boarding-house before midnight.

He carried a bulky gunny sack like a burglar's outfit, but we were able to assure the police that he had been "up to" nothing worse than fixing up and dressing the Birtle display at the Soil Products' Convention.

What a splendid demonstration it was, too, of clean farming and keen intelligence in handling seed and soil, but what a rotten place and surroundings in which to exhibit anything of the kind!



Young farmers who will be leaders in Manitoba's future. The Gladstone Boys' and Girls' Club executive totting up the affairs of the club.

the extreme importance of that work will dare to criticise unless to increase it.

This leads us to say that since we are no longer fighting and have but one dominant idea in the national programme — Reconstruction, the time is now ripe when this vital department of in-

it out could be found to collect the facts and publish them, it would be the finest thing in Canadian literature that has ever found its way to the reading public. The men who really have made the story are not much given to talking, and where any "advertising" has been done, it has been done