

couragement. One thing we need very much, that is, better cultivation of the soil, to keep our land thoroughly clean and get the full benefit of frost, manure, and atmospheric action. There must be a more liberal use of the plow, gang-plow, and cultivator, before we can reasonably hope for anything like the full returns which the farms of this Province are capable of producing. The prevalent custom of plowing stubble ground only once after harvest has produced bad results. Those who follow that system do not and cannot keep their land clean. A large portion of the farm should be plowed twice every fall—ganged immediately after the crop is taken off, and plowed again the ordinary depth sometime before the winter sets in. The farmers who follow this method, who seed much to clover, and use the cultivator in the spring, are making money in spite of the low prices. There are, of course, many other points which need attention under the head of tillage; but this is not the place to discuss them. We merely mention the matter, and express the hope that the growing desire for knowledge among farmers everywhere may soon lead to much needed improvements under this head.

### CHANGES AND PROGRESS AT COLLEGE.

In reviewing the events of the year 1886, we find two or three items of information, which may be more interesting to general readers than the ordinary details of College work. The most important of these items are the admission of county students, the appointment of an Advisory College Board, the erection of farm buildings, and the organization of a class for post-graduate work.

At the last session of the Ontario Legislature, two somewhat radical amendments were made in the law which governs the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm. By one, the Commissioner of Agriculture sought to encourage the attendance of farmers' sons at the College; and, by the other, he made provision for the appointment of an Advisory Board of practical farmers, to assist him in the management of the Institution.

### COUNTY STUDENTS.

The first amendment was to the effect that "every County and every Territorial District in the Province shall hereafter have the privilege of having during all College terms, one student in attendance and receiving instruction at the College, without the payment of any entrance or tuition fee. The County Council of each County shall nominate the student entitled to this privilege for the County, and the Advisory Board shall nominate the students for the Territorial Districts. Such student must be the son of a practical farmer resident in the County or District, and have lived on his parent's farm at least two years prior to his admission to the College."

This amendment was received with some disfavor, when it was first proposed in the House; and several supporters of the Government expressed their disapproval in Committee: but it was passed in deference to the opinion of the Commissioner of Agriculture; and I am now in a position to say that it is likely to be a decided benefit to the College. The result is that thirty-two Counties have nominated young men, and twenty-seven of these—all farmers' sons of a good type, are now in attendance. This gives us a larger proportion of farmers' sons and a better class of students than we have had.

The twenty-seven Counties which are now represented by nominated students are as follows:—Brant, Bruce, Carleton, Dufferin, Frontenac, Glengarry, Haldimand, Halliburton, Kent, Leeds, Lennox and Addington, Lincoln, Middlesex, Norfolk, Northumberland and Durham, Ontario, Oxford, Peel, Peterborough, Russell, Stormont, Waterloo, Welland, Wellington, and York.

### ADVISORY BOARD.

By virtue of the second amendment, an Advisory Board of practical farmers was appointed early last spring, from both political parties, to assist the Commissioner of Agriculture in the management of the different departments of the Institution, but especially the farm, regarding which the judgment of successful farmers from different parts of the Province should have considerable weight.