

The O. A. C. Review

The Dignity of a Calling is Its Utility

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Editorial.

EXPERIMENTAL UNION.



THE annual Experimental Union of the students and ex-students of the Ontario Agricultural College, was held at the College on the 12th and 13th insts., and it was certainly the most important and most successful meeting ever held by the members of that now large and influential body. Never before in the history of the Union has there been gathered within the halls of their Alma Mater such a large and enthusiastic number of her ex-students. Never before has there been exhibited such a keen interest to further the interests of the Union in every way possible. Ex-students who, from circumstances of different kinds, have been prevented from visiting the College for a number of years, were astounded at the wonderful advance the institution has made in providing better facilities for the imparting of a knowledge of the principles which underlie scientific agriculture. Noted visitors, from the United States and elsewhere, who were present at the Union, expressed themselves as delighted with our equipment and course of instruction. Representatives from sister Agricultural Colleges and Experimental Stations in the United States, heartily approved of our annual re-union of students and ex-students, as a means of keeping ex-students in touch with their Alma Mater; and through the carrying out of experimental work by them in furthering the advancement of science along agricultural lines.

The work of the Union is increasing every year. During the past year, over 2000 experimenters, composed of ex-students and other agriculturists, have experimented along agricultural lines. Reports of the successful ones have been taken note of by the different directors of the Union, and will appear in the Annual Report of the College for '95. The Government grant to the Union was increased \$250.00 last year, and an increased grant means increased experimental work, and thereby the furtherance of agriculture. Every dollar of the grant has been wisely and economically expended, and it is to be hoped that the Ontario Government, which has done so much for the agriculturists in the past, will see their way clear to still largely increase the grant for the year 1896. The grant for '95 was \$950, and with the increased membership, we hope it is not too sanguine on the part of the Union, to look for \$1,200 for the coming year.

Many of the ex-students were unable to attend the Union this year, and some sent letters of regret at not being able to be present. A large number, who carry on experimental work and are members of the Union, live at too great a distance from the College. In fact it may be said they are scattered far and wide. Throughout this country, from the verdant slopes of British Columbia, washed by the "Calm Pacific," to the shores of that fertile island, Prince Edward, lashed by the breakers of the Atlantic, are to be found representatives of this institution. Several of the States of the Union south of us have claimed a large number, and in the words of Dr. Myers, of Indiana, "They want more." Some of them have gone back to practice agriculture in the British Islands, while others uphold the name of the College in Bermuda and other islands of the sea.

In closing, we will say to ex-students who were unable to be in attendance, that they missed a rare treat. The programme of addresses was of a high order. The Annual Supper and addresses afterwards by students representing the years intervening between 1874 and 1895, was a decided success. Along the corridors in the evening were to be seen groups of ex-students of some particular year, rehearsing old College times, and comparing notes as to what they had been doing since they left. Many of the "old boys" renewed acquaintances in the city and elsewhere, some remaining over until the following Monday. All left satisfied with the Union, the College, and themselves, and many of them will no doubt return next year. Let there be a grand rally at the meeting of '96. Every ex-student should make strenuous efforts to be present. Deprive yourselves of some other enjoyments so that you may see your way clear to visit, at least once a year, the Agricultural College. Read the accounts of the meeting and addresses in the agricultural papers of Ontario, study them carefully, come up next year, and the "Union will do thee good."

The Review has been enlarged four pages this month. It was thought at one time that the staff would be enabled to present it with a new dress for Xmas, but want of time and money, prevented them from doing so. The examinations close on the 20th inst. and the staff considered it advisable to have the Review published a week earlier than usual. We call the attention of our readers to the articles from the pens of some of the professors and especially to the one by Dr. Mills which was delivered at the Annual Supper. The staff now lay down their pens for the year '95, and close by wishing our many readers a Merry Christmas, a Happy New Year, and many returns of the season.