



Dreamer Awakened.

Editor O. A. C. Review.

DEAR SIR,—I should not feel justified in bringing this matter before your readers were it not for the fact that other graduates writing in a representative capacity to the public press have endorsed the suggestions made by "Dreamer" in a recent letter. This attempt of "Dreamer" to remove the bushel that hides the light on this question of extending the utility and increasing the attractiveness of the College is exceedingly unique, pleasingly prophetic, but barren of sound sense. His estimate of the effect of his singular curriculum is as erroneous as his taste was bad in airing in the leading papers matters which depend for their true solution on the students, graduates and faculty.

Every graduate who is truly loyal to the College, as well as all generous minded students, will be ready to subscribe to the statement that for the present it is extremely desirable that the relations now existing between the farmers of this Province and the faculty should be as close as they have been during the past few years. Through their attendance at the winter meetings of the Farmers' Institutes, the professors have been doing effective and valuable work. They make clear to the farmers, with whom they come in contact, the direct practical value of education in farming and at the same time bring the College permanently before the farming communities as an institution that devotes itself enthusiastically to the imparting of such knowledge to farmer's sons. The professors themselves have shared in the benefits that have come from direct contact with the farmers at their meetings, and the lectures to the students as a result have been kept more in touch with practical work.

The most radical change suggested by "Dreamer" is to abolish the month of holidays during January, which the professors have so far utilized to attend the Farmers' Institutes and in that way he would snap this connection between the farmers and faculty which has been so beneficial to all. As the

institutes are conducted at present it would be less effectual for the professors to attend them at any other time and impossible for them to go under other conditions. All the most important meetings are held during the month of January, and to attend these the professors must continue to have that month at their disposal. When the College has so far matured that she may rely on her graduates to do the greater part of the work the professors are now doing, then the faculty might devote their whole time to College work and serve the best interests of the institution.

"Dreamer" surely places too high an estimate upon the effect such changes as he advocates would have in attracting young men to the College. A mere change in the length of the sessions would not be a matter of great consideration to our young men or their parents, as they look principally at the outlay in hard cash and the return in profitable knowledge. The outlay a student must make is now as low as good judgment would sanction, so that it only remains for the authorities of the College, the graduates and those interested in agricultural education to scatter abroad information showing the direct value of intelligence and skill in determining the financial prosperity of the farmer.

The future of the College, the scope and strength of her influence rests mainly on the degree to which the work that is done there moulds and guides the practices of Canadian farming. To be the peoples' College it must be the originator and disseminator of important truths, which if carried into practice cannot fail to bring prosperity unto the humblest rural home in Canada. Failing in that, modified curriculum, or changed sessions would never ward off untimely decay. Through their attendance at the Institutes the farmers of Canada are realizing that education in agriculture gives them increased power to derive profit from the soil and through contact with the professors they are forced to recognize that the best equipment they could possibly give their sons for successful farming would be a course at the O. A. C. The graduates must play well their part in this work if the prestige of the College is to grow with the term of years.

If all the graduates feel their responsibility and rise to their opportunities, and the professors continue their work at the Institutes, I firmly believe that the College will ad-