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EDITORIAL.

B. S. A.'s for the Farm.

"The agricultural colleges of the country are again turning out a grist of dentists, druggists, civil engineers and editors, with the usual quota of trolley-car conductors. It would be interesting to know how many students graduating from these institutions are headed back to the farm."

The above, from the Live-stock World, is doubtless more applicable to the agricultural colleges south of the boundary than to the institution at Guelph, but it contains a germ of thought which should not be lost sight of. "Back to the Farm," asserts the World, "ought to be the class motto of the agricultural college, but, unfortunately, 'any old job in town' is more popular." The latter observation cannot be properly applied to the Ontario Agricultural College. Careful enquiry discloses that the great bulk of its students return to the farm.

The announcement of the graduation of the 1905 class of twenty-nine Bachelors of Agriculture (including a couple obliged to take supplemental examinations before obtaining their degrees), lends particular interest to this subject at this time. It is gratifying to note that none of them are likely to seek the dignity of conducting street cars, nor the necessary but non-agricultural occupation of pulling teeth. It should be remembered, too, that the graduating list represents that proportion of the students among whom practically all the professionalists are found. It does not take account of the fifty or sixty regular students who had dropped out of the class before or at the end of the second year, practically all of whom identify themselves with practical farming in one line or another. The two-year or "associate" course is the one especially planned and conducted to meet the needs of the practical everyday farmer, and this course the majority of the students take. Of the B. S. A. graduates, a number, of course, will be called to fill professional positions. Five, an unprecedented number, are entering the field of agricultural journalism in Canada, unquestionably one of the best lines of work in which to spread the college thoughts and influence. One remains at the College as assistant on the experimental staff, one goes to the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa, and one fills a position in the agricultural college at Arkansas, one becomes superintendent of the Industrial School Farm at Mimico, another goes to the farm of a leading Canadian breeder, and most of the remaining twenty-two, President Creelman states, have returned to their farms in Ontario and the Maritime Provinces.

To our mind, not a little significance attaches to the last mentioned fact. It may be thought in some quarters that overcrowding, and hence lack of opportunities in the professional field, may account for the circumstance. Assuming, without granting, that this is true, and that a further quota might be prepared to turn from plow to office if a tempting offer presented, the fact remains that, instead of leaving the country in large numbers for American institutions, as some have done in the past, or instead of seeking "any old job in town," an annually increasing proportion of the four-year graduates are disposed to devote their talents to farming. A number of men will always be required to fill professional positions relating to agriculture, and these it is the legitimate province of the agricultural college to supply. A certain number of

students will always have a bent that way, and it would be strange, indeed, if they should choose any other institution in which to qualify; but it should ever be kept clearly in mind that the great function of the O. A. C., the function on which its main hope of extension depends, the function which, chiefly, can justify its maintenance by public funds, is the number and success of its graduates who engage directly in agricultural production. We rejoice, therefore, to observe a growing disposition among the students to look upon farming as a desirable business. It shows that the college is fitting the boys better for it, and that it is drawing annually a larger number of the right class of recruits, sturdy, sensible, enterprising young men of the farm who appreciate a good training in the scientific principles underlying their business and know how to utilize it. It shows, also, that the college is fitting the boys better for farm life, and exalting their estimation of its privileges and opportunities. The surest criterion of the utility of the college training is the number of men who find it profitable in farm practice. We believe the O. A. C., though "not as yet perfect," is making substantial progress upon approved lines, and vindicating its right to public support.

It is insinuated sometimes, though not so insistently as formerly, that the agricultural college tends to fill the young men's minds with extravagant and impracticable theories, which ruin fathers who allow their sons to lead them into practices recommended at the school. The snag met in combating this idea has been the element of truth it contained. It is true that, in times past, some students, more enterprising than level-headed, have allowed their enthusiasm to run away with their judgment, and the results were, of course, disappointing. The institution, however, is yearly getting down to more solid hardpan in the character of its teaching and in the ideas instilled into the pupils, so that the unfortunate results mentioned are becoming more unlikely and more rare, and the explanation of the unfortunate examples of past years, is in the kind of students accepted. For years the institution labored with the problem of trying to take town and city boys, totally unfamiliar with farm life and work, many of them from the Old Country, and make farmers of them. This has been given up, and now students are required to have spent at least one year at actual work on a farm before entering, so that the great majority are practical farmers when they matriculate.

There is this to be said, however, that the college probably gets a few boys each year who have quit farming early, though still hanging round home, selling implements, fire insurance, or working in country stores. Then a parent dies, or for some other reason the farm comes to them, or they get tired of the work they are at and decide to go to an agricultural college for a few months, or a year, and "learn all about farming." These men stay until examinations come round and then leave before taking them, and, of course, are no credit to the college. Some people say this could be avoided by raising the standard of admission. If the college authorities did this they would cut out a lot of worthy, sensible farmers' boys who have not had the benefit of a liberal public school education, but who are willing to work hard after they reach Guelph to improve themselves in those subjects while they master the college curriculum proper relating to agriculture. These young men must return to farm life vastly improved

by the training they have received, though they may be little heard of outside their own community; while the misfit who discredits the college, would likely have been a failure no matter what he undertook, and like the proverbial "lost sheep," becomes a chronic subject for comment.

The Incoming Tide.

The great tide of immigration which has set in Canadawards of late years must be a source of genuine satisfaction to the majority of us. It promises much for the development of our country, and that there is boundless opportunity for development must be conceded even by those who would fain stem the tide. Millions of acres of rich virgin soil, countless areas of forest to be judiciously utilized, vast measures of coal, mines of gold, silver, copper and iron, as yet undreamed of—these are the assets which Canada holds for the coming legions and the coming race. And it is not a vain dream to look forward to the time when a vast people shall swarm from Labrador to the Pacific, and again north to the extremity of the great wheat belt and the remotest bounds of the timber line. To the romancer, the poet, the lover of stream, and wood and wild flower, the picture, in some aspects, is not a pleasant one. For these Canada must lose immeasurably. But to those who would see her develop into a great nation, the prospect is as satisfactory as it is certain of fulfilment. This is a commercial age, and in Canada, as in other progressive lands, chimneys must rear, whistles must blow, and the broad swards of crocus and flame-flower must give way to the upheaval of brown earth and the yellow glare of the wheat field. After all, to no small extent, commerce rules the world.

In connection with this influx there is an observation that may not be amiss. To a people in bulk it may not mean much; to the individual, immeasurably, and, when all is said, is not this a matter that counts? Is not the beat of a human heart worth more in the light of eternity than the boundless acres of an inanimate world? It concerns the reception which these incoming strangers meet at the hands of the Canadian people. Here they come—Scotch, Irish, English, German, Russian, French, Assyrian, and so on through the whole list—peoples as varied in character as in name, and occasionally as different, from the matter-of-fact, "to the manner born" Canadian, as may well be imagined. We look upon them curiously, and not seldom their little peculiarities strike us. They do not think as we do about a variety of matters; they have their own way of doing things, a way to us often clumsy and roundabout. Perhaps, too often we are inclined to be supercritical. We forget that in a foreign land we, too, should have our "peculiarities," and so we wrap ourselves up in a Pharisaic mantle as unlovable as all Pharisaism cannot but be. We do not give these people the warm heart grasp that our humanity should impel us to give. We are cold and standoffish; we know it and they know it. When they work for us we often get out of patience immediately, and instead of instructing gently and waiting a little, we are too much inclined to send the unintentional offender off about his business. His business? Alas, rather our business, for can we rid ourselves of the responsibility of being, each one of us, "his brother's keeper"?

Would it not be much more neighborly to consider these strangers who have come within our gates? Far from home they have come, and