

From the Report of the Faculty of Agriculture

It is regrettable that in the schools, particularly throughout Quebec, comparatively few boys obtain the necessary preparation for college work. School consolidation and the present indication of greater interest in education give some hope for improvement, but it is believed that if a number of scholarships could be arranged, not only would they prove a stimulus but also an instrument by means of which some of the brightest boys available would be attracted to Macdonald College. There is good raw material in the country side; it needs developing, and the best of it should be selected for the kind of work Macdonald is in a position to do.

The objective for Macdonald College must be the highest standard attainable. The standard attainable will depend upon the quality of students, their preparation for entrance, the curriculum, the teaching, and the influences of college life. Under the present University system, the standing of the great majority of students is determined very largely, if not entirely, by examinations. That examinations alone do not constitute a true measurement of either student attainment or student worth becomes increasingly clear. A high standard in marking will add to the value of the degree, but it will not necessarily indicate, much less insure, capacity for service in any chosen field. In other words, examinations may reveal a student's knowledge and his ability to express it, but they are not a complete criterion of what may be called his general fitness to enter the profession to which the University Certificate admits him. In many branches of agricultural service, graduation in agriculture is specified as a requirement, the possession of a degree being regarded as some guarantee of the candidate's qualifications for the position. It would seem, therefore, that, since examinations are only a partial measurement of qualifications, serious consideration should be given to ways and means of supplementing them in determining the eligibility of a student for promotion and ultimately for a degree, if the most satisfactory standard is to be maintained.