

PREFACE.

Agriculture is a very broad subject. It embraces so much in itself, and is so closely allied to Geology, Botany, Chemistry, Physiology, and other branches of natural science, that it is very difficult to state even its first principles concisely, and at the same time so clearly and simply that they can be readily understood by children in the third and fourth classes of a public school. Notwithstanding this difficulty, it is hoped that this little work may be found fairly well suited for use in the Public Schools of this Province.

Mr. Mills is responsible for the introductory chapter on "Definitions and Explanations," and for those chapters entitled "The Plant," "The Soil," "Diseases of Crops," "Insects," and "Dairying." Mr. Shaw is responsible for the remaining chapters of the book.

It is proper to remark, that at the request of the Honorable the Minister of Education, advance sheets of the book have been submitted to a number of prominent agriculturists and stock-breeders, with requests for criticisms or suggestions of improvement. It is gratifying to the authors to be able to state that their work has received what is substantially the unanimous approval of those to whom it has been submitted.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE,
Guelph, October, 1890.