

MINISTER PRAISES RESEARCH EFFORTS IN AGRICULTURE

Hon. Adelard Godbout Pays
Official Visit to Mac-
donald College

PARASITOLOGY SECTION

Newly Established Institute
for Experimentation in
Animal Pests Attracts
Attention

Tribute to the part played in agriculture by Macdonald College of McGill University through the practical application of research and the close relationship existing between the college, the provincial Department of Agriculture, and the rural community, was paid yesterday by the Hon. Adelard Godbout, provincial Minister of Agriculture, addressing the teaching staff of the college at luncheon prior to a visit of inspection, the first he has made at Ste. Annes since his acceptance of the portfolio two years ago. Chief point of interest in the tour of the institution was the new Institute of Parasitology, erected by the Quebec Department of Agriculture.

The minister was welcomed by Sir Arthur Currie, principal and vice-chancellor of McGill University, who said that Mr. Godbout had every sympathy for the college's efforts to contribute to the agricultural life of the province and the Dominion, and he for his part was glad of the opportunity to tell him that they stood ready to aid his department in whatever way they could.

"We cannot hope for any revival from what we call depression," Sir Arthur went on, "until the rural population begins to prosper. That is a fundamental economic fact and one to which we are compelled to turn our attention. When farmers cannot pay taxes and interest on loans and mortgages there can be no assurance that the turning point has been reached, or that we are on the road back.

"Mr. Godbout is engaged in a difficult task, a problem which entitles him to all our sympathy and help. We cannot neglect rural life and we must aim to put more humanism into the agriculture industry. We are inclined to lose sight of the human and personal element in industry, but in this, our special endeavor, we must not lose sight of the individual farmer, and we must continue our direct aid to him through the practical application of technical and theoretical knowledge." Sir Arthur concluded by saying that the agriculturist must be the "rural thinking" leader in the community, and by proposing a toast to the Minister of Agriculture.

The Hon. Mr. Godbout declared himself glad to see at the head of such an institution as Macdonald College a man who realized so well the needs of the rural community. On behalf of the Government he extended his thanks for the work the college had done, not only in the province, but throughout the whole Dominion. The problem of agriculture in the province was largely one of education, he said, and as such it rested with the institutions of learning in co-operation with the Government department and the "service des agronomes."

PROBLEMS FOR SOLUTION.

"It is especially important," the Minister went on, "that the present generation receive the benefit of agricultural knowledge, for of their shoulders will fall the burden of the province's future prosperity. Serious problems such as production and marketing have yet to be solved, apart from the more scientific aspects of prevention of disease, and Macdonald's part is to explore each field and every avenue of agricultural knowledge and to hand on the practical results of such experiment. It is a difficult task you are faced with,

but through the development of practical interest and research work you can do much, as indeed you have done, to improve the position of agriculture. But research will not do everything unless predicated upon and related to practical value and results, and in this Macdonald College has taken a leading place."

The minister concluded by assuring the staff of his co-operation and sympathy in furthering the agricultural programme in the province.

Mr. Godbout was specially interested in the Institute of Parasitology which has been established by means of a provincial grant from the department and is to be maintained jointly by the Empire Marketing Board and the National Research Council. Dr. T. W. M. Cameron, director of the institute and formerly of Edinburgh University, conducted the party over the three-storey building in which laboratory equipment is rapidly being installed.

Practically nothing was known about what parasites do inside animals, Dr. Cameron told Mr. Godbout, and the importance of study was being realized more and more each year. He hopes to have the work completely under way by the end of the month, when efforts will be made to find out which parasites are present in Canada and which are the most important ones in agricultural and fur animals; how to prevent and reduce the effects of loss by parasitic infection which amounts to millions of dollars annually; and attempts will be made to grow parasites in a pure culture, which has not yet been entirely successful. The work will have a strictly practical application. Dr. R. L. Conklin, professor of animal pathology, continuing the valuable surveys and field work he has already done, and Dr. Cameron confining himself entirely to the experimental work. The institute at present has accommodation for eight post-graduate students, and is the only place of its kind in the country where such a study can be made. While the building is not yet fully equipped, Dr. Cameron has provided it with his own collection of slides and specimens so that it is already outstanding in parasitological data.

TOUR OF INSTITUTION.

In the basement of the fireproof building is a post-mortem theatre and an aquarium where cultures will be made; a photographic dark room and centrifuging apparatus. On the first floor are the offices and research rooms where the findings will be applied to practical work; upstairs there is a large well lit laboratory to accommodate eight students, with preparation benches and incubators. Living quarters for the assistant are also provided. The party took great interest in specimens of sheep worm and flukes, especially one segregated recently for the first time by Dr. R. L. Conklin. (Dicrocoelium.)

Visits were also made to the poultry department, the department of animal husbandry, where the minister took an especial interest in the Holstein herd, that being his main interest when he was connected with the agricultural college at Ste. Anne de la Pocatiere. He evinced great interest also in soil experimental work explained to him by Prof. P. H. H. Gray, assistant professor of bacteriology, and Dr. Thomson's account of his segregation of the bacillus *Brucella abortus* from the udder of cows which had not previously aborted, and from the milk, cheese, and ice cream produced from the same animals. Prof. J. G. Coulson, assistant professor of plant pathology, also held the minister's attention with a demonstration of a turnip disease which in the past few years has become acutely noticeable in the province and which has been devastating turnip crops to an alarming extent. It was explained that of 49 different fields visited, every one showed the signs of the blight in varying extent.

The party was entertained to tea by Miss B. M. Philp, head of the School of Household Science, and later the teaching staff was presented to the minister. Mr. Godbout was accompanied on his visit by Sir Arthur Currie, J. Antonio Grenier, his chief assistant at Quebec; Dr. C. L. Huskins, associate professor of genetics at McGill; Prof. G. W. Scarth, professor of botany at McGill; Dr. J. F. Snell, acting dean of the faculty of agriculture, and T. Fred Ward, bursar, conducted the party about the plant.

The Hon. Mr. Godbout expressed himself to The Gazette as being extremely impressed with what he had seen at the college. Not only was he convinced that in scientific experimentation the college

had left nothing to be desired, but he was especially pleased to find such research so closely related to practical development, and he was convinced that the institution's possibilities and potentialities were in the right hands.