

THE O. A. C. REVIEW

THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY

VOL. XXVII.

OCTOBER, 1914.

NO. 1.

Alberta's Schools of Agriculture

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W. J. Elliott, B.S.A., is an O. A. C. graduate who has won distinction in the West, but who hasn't forgotten his football days at college. He is an enthusiastic champion of the farm boy. Read what he and others are doing for the farm boys of the Sunny Province.

EVERY once in a while the privilege is given to some keen thinker of bringing forth a new idea, and then every one wonders why the idea was not thought out long ago, because it is so logically the common sense thing. Such an idea came to the Hon. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for the Province of Alberta. Those who know Mr. Marshall will realise that he has, perhaps above anything else, a thoroughly practical knowledge of the thousand and one details of his very important agricultural branch. It sud-

denly occurred to him one day that if the lawyer had his own school, the doctor his school, the civil engineer his school, the school teacher his school, then why not a school for the young man who is going to farm. Agriculture is the most important calling of all. It is the only real source of wealth, and if Canada is so utterly dependent upon the man on the land, then why not a school where he may learn a little bit more about the business that is to be his for life.

On first thought it might be claimed that the Agricultural Colleges are doing this thing, but we believe that a careful survey of actual conditions will reveal the fact that a large percentage of the graduates of our Agricultural Colleges prefer to go into professional life rather than return to the farm. We, of course, do not criticise the Colleges for this fact, for there is certainly a demand for professional men along many lines of agricultural endeavour. Nor do we blame the young man who, after graduation, finds some useful line of work that calls him off the farm. The fact remains, however, that many of our college graduates do leave the farm. Now, Alberta's Farm Schools which come directly under the Minister of Agriculture are taking up the problem of helping the farmers' boy to help himself in a new way.