

### A Letter from Istah.

COMMENTS in the May number of the O. A. C. Review, on a School for farmers' daughters in connection with the Agricultural College, were the immediate cause for the following notes. I had laid it aside, but an article in a recent number of *Farming*, and also the initial number of another volume of the Review, induced me to look it over, and dress it up for your editorial inspection. Though I am situated some distance off, yet I follow with much interest the work of the Ontario Agricultural College, the change made, and the work done for the future agriculturalists of the province.

The advisability of a course for young women has been agitated for some time, and the following is the result of a few of my thoughts upon the proposition. In looking at this subject it has always appeared to me that there were two questions involved: First, shall the Government support a college for the girls and provide for them such a practical training in home work as is provided for the boys in Agriculture? And in the second place, shall this college be connected with the Ontario Agricultural College?

Then in the first place, should a college of Domestic Science be established for the benefit of the young ladies of the farm? To me the answer is self-evident, they have as much right to receive opportunity for special training in their special calling as have the boys, and from what I have seen of the result of such courses, I am fully persuaded that the girls will reap as large an advantage therefrom, as will the boys from the study of their special lines of work. Granting the soundness of the basis upon which provision for all popular education is based, the logic of the above statement is unassailable and therefore needs no further comment.

The next point to consider is, shall the work of the Agricultural College be enlarged so as to include a course in Domestic Arts? From the historic standpoint we find that Domestic Arts as a college course is of quite recent origin.

The association of this course with other lines of technical education, as far as I have an opportunity to observe, has been an outgrowth of

Western enterprise. I believe the Agricultural College of Kansas was the first of the Agricultural Colleges of this country to offer such a course, or at least the first to place it upon the same basis as other college work. Iowa Agricultural College was not far behind. The idea has spread rapidly westward, and is slowly making its way toward the east. These colleges believe in co-education for the boys and girls of the farm and home, and I believe it is a fact that in every place where it has been tried the course for the young ladies has rapidly increased in popular favor, and in support from those whom it was destined to benefit.

From a study offered in these various colleges, I do not know of any place where the work in Domestic Science could be provided with so little expense, as in connection with the Agricultural College of Ontario. To handle the technical work called for by the new course, but two extra teachers would be required: a Prof. of Domestic Economy as head of the course, and an instructor in sewing. The cost in salary need not exceed \$1600.00 to \$1800.00 per year. It is very important however, that a thoroughly competent person should be placed in charge of this course; one who is a graduate of such a course and who is thoroughly familiar with similar courses as offered by the best colleges in the land.

As the course grew in popular estimation and support it would of course be necessary to provide some assistance in the various departments, particularly in the preparatory work in language, mathematics and science.

An examination of the requirements of the Domestic Arts course will show that the foundation work in natural science is exactly the same as for the agricultural course, viz, physiology, physics, chemistry, geology, botany, zoology, entomology, bacteriology, etc., etc. The work in English and mathematics is the same, and I believe it will be found that the young ladies will be just as well prepared to take up these branches, as are the young men who come to the College.

Further, the application of this foundation is the same in several branches, viz, dairying, hor-