

James Mills, M. A., LL. D.,

PRESIDENT OF THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, ONTARIO.

It is with no little pleasure that in this number we present our readers with a portrait of President Mills, of the Agricultural College, Guelph. To the farmers of this province he has been most favorably known for many years, and as the results of work done faithfully, quietly, and thoroughly during the past few years become more and more apparent, President Mills is further increasing in the esteem of the agricultural classes. Even though so well known, it may be interesting to the older farmers and stimulating to the younger, to refer briefly to his career.

James Mills was born of North-of-Ireland parents, in the County of Simcoe, Ontario, in the year 1840. There, until he reached twenty-one years of age, he received a most thorough training in all the practical details of Canadian farm work, as the farm upon which he was brought up, and upon which he worked, was one of the best managed and best cultivated of the province. So far his life had been intensely practical. A serious accident formed the turning point; at twenty-one he lost his right arm in a threshing machine, and, thus handicapped, he stood upon the threshold of his lifework with responsibility and, what some would call, disaster staring him in the face. He then entered the public school and began his education at the time when the majority of young men have already finished. Hitherto his training had been entirely manual or physical; now he began to develop the mental side of his nature. From the public school to Bradford grammar school, and thence to Victoria College, Cobourg, he was led in his studies. From Victoria College he graduated as Bachelor of Arts in 1868, taking the gold medal of the year for the highest rank in general proficiency. Thus closed the second period of his life—the seven years of study and preliminary mental training.

After graduation he taught for awhile in the Cobourg Collegiate Institute, from which position he was promoted to the headmastership of the Brantford High School. This institution was then in rank a third or fourth rate school; under Mr. Mills it soon became a Collegiate Institute and began to attract attention as one of the most successful for training young men and women for general work and for teachers' and university examinations. The growth of this school and its reputation for thoroughness and good discipline suggested a man for the Agricultural College when the presidency became vacant. The offer came to Mr. Mills from the Government entirely unsolicited and was accepted in the summer of 1879, when began the fourth period of his life—the work in which he is still engaged. The Ontario Agricultural College had been established in 1874, and for many years had great difficulties to contend with. We sometimes hear a great deal about the Agricultural Colleges of the United States, but they have been forced, in order

to maintain an existence, to enlarge the scope of their work by including technical, teachers', and even commercial courses. In many of these Colleges the agricultural course has been the least successful. The attempt, therefore, to maintain an Agricultural College on its own merits has presented peculiar difficulties, and the success achieved is much to the credit of the various officials who have from time to time guided its course. When Mr. Mills became president the College was still working up hill, fighting its way with little encouragement, and with much opposition; for the past thirteen years he has devoted his unstinted energies to the work. The College is a large institution, and has presented extraordinary problems to solve. It has had a hard struggle to gain the recognition and approval of the very class for which it was established. It has all the perplexities attendant upon a large boarding school. It has had to overcome the prejudice aroused by having had in its earlier days a number of students who were

factory manner. Travelling Dairies have been instituted by the Minister of Agriculture, and the work performed by the dairy department of the College. In this work President Mills has taken a most active part, and the labors of his office were thereby greatly increased. The Minister of Education requested Mr. Mills to prepare a text book on agriculture for public school work, and, having secured the assistance of Prof. Shaw, *The First Principles of Agriculture* was produced, a book that has already found a large sale, and has been very highly commended by specialists in agriculture, by traders, and by farmers generally. The high esteem in which President Mills is held by the farmers of Ontario, and the very high regard in which he is held by the leading agriculturists of the United States, prove that his work has been most successful.

In conclusion, we may say that personally President Mills has the best wishes of all; he is known as a man of energy and of thoroughness of work; he has shown the greatest courtesy to the many thousand farmers with whom his work brings him in contact at Guelph and elsewhere; he has kept himself free from politics, and is as acceptable to Conservatives as to Reformers; his administration of affairs is clear and above reproach; he has never been known to seek praise or publicity, to sound his own praises or to encourage others to sound them for him, to gain any notoriety by pulling or tickling the ear of the public; he has simply done his duty—and that not always a pleasant or popular one—and has allowed himself to be judged by the public on the merits of work done. His work speaks for him, and the agriculturists and others of this province know that the Ontario Agricultural College embodies the life work of President Mills and the many energetic workers by whom he has surrounded himself during the past thirteen years.

In private life, as well as in public, he is warm-hearted, kindly and generous, a manly, noble man—higher attributes no man possesses. The latest honor conferred upon President Mills was the granting of LL.D. (Doctor of Laws) by his *Alma Mater* in May, 1892. May Dr. Jas. Mills still be spared to do good work for the farmers of Ontario.



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not agricultural in their up-bringing or their inclination. The students now are coming from the best farms of this province, and the institution is becoming more and more every year an Agricultural College for Ontario.

Since President Mills assumed office, there have been great improvements in the buildings and equipment—large farm barns have been twice erected, a fully equipped dairy establishment added, chemical and botanical laboratories and gymnasium constructed, the main buildings of the College completely overhauled and improved, and such change accomplished that it is virtually a new institution.

The work of the College has been greatly enlarged during Prof. Mills' regime, by the addition of a third year's course and affiliation with Toronto University, whereby the degree of Bachelor of Science in Agriculture is conferred upon its students. By him the Farmers' Institutes have been thoroughly organized in Ontario, and work carried on in a most systematic and satis-

World's Fair Exhibits.

The Northwest Territorial Legislature has appropriated \$5,000 towards a World's Fair exhibit, and the Manitoba Legislature at last session set aside some \$20,000 for that purpose. Prof. Saunders, the Canadian World's Fair Commissioner, has interviewed both these governments, and also that of British Columbia, arranging the general plan, and the provincial and territorial authorities are now at work on the details. The question of a live stock exhibit for Manitoba was left open for subsequent decision and action, if deemed desirable.

It is proposed to hold the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition next year from July 17th to 21st, inclusive—one week earlier than this year.