

In all the reports in the daily papers of the Farmers' Institute meetings we fail to observe any reference made to the important question of the teaching of agriculture in our rural schools. As the Central Farmers' Institute will be meeting shortly it is to be hoped that they will take some effective steps to bring about this most desirable and necessary innovation. It is true that in Ontario there has been recently introduced into the schools a text-book on agriculture which is good enough in its way, but something more is wanted. We want teachers specially trained in the science of agriculture who could give a short lecture every day upon the soil; the difference between a rich and a poor soil; soils for particular crops; drainage, irrigation, plowing, cultivation of the soil; also upon the structure of the horse, the cow, hog, sheep and other animals; nature and treatment of various diseases etc.; also how to plant a tree, how to set out small plants, how to graft and prune, etc. Our contention has been that the government should grant a sum of money for the purpose of training certain teachers in the science of agriculture, such training to be obtained at the Agricultural College. These special teachers could deliver lectures at certain schools, in different localities as an experiment. If the experiment proved successful, as it certainly would, then it could be made a condition that every teacher in a rural school must undergo a special course of instruction in agriculture. Boys who remain on the farm at present have no training to fit them for their life-work and it is surprising to us that although nearly all the rural schools are in the hands of farmers no provision has been made for any instruction in the elements of agriculture, horticulture or stock-growing. Reading, writing and arithmetic are no doubt essential but not more so for the country boy than a little general instruction in elementary agriculture.

THERE is a school of popular philosophy, the keynote of which is that men are very nearly equal intellectually, and that success is a mere matter of effort, industry and perseverance. They believe that "Genius is simply the faculty of taking infinite pains," and thus youths of less than mediocre mental endowments are made to hope that by hard work and the consumption of much midnight oil they may in time rank with the master minds of the world. While it is right to encourage the individual to put forth his best powers and develop them, the foundation of such philosophy is essentially false. No amount of work will transform the dunce into a genius; and far truer than this philosophy is the saying of Goethe: "The older one grows the more he prizes natural gifts, because by no possibility can they be got and stuck in." The assertion of Rousseau that "all men are born equal" can no longer pass muster. Every one must admit that if all men are born equal then similarity of experience must result in similarity of character; but we know that such is not the case. We know from physiology that the bodies of men and of children differ naturally in many respects, and that the natural differences between human brains in size, number of convolutions and amount of gray matter are an index to moral and intellectual differences. No system of philosophy or of teaching that ignores such fundamental facts can be otherwise than false and delusive. The relative parts played by natural endowment and educational training, taken in their widest sense, must be recognized and adjusted by a true philosophy and a true system of education. It is unwise to rashly seek to circumscribe the sphere of education or to minimize its vast importance; but education cannot be made to work outside the bounds of natural capacity. Within a certain area education can do much; outside that limited area it can do nothing. The nurseryman cannot make peaches grow on peach trees: genius cannot be grafted to the dunce; art cannot be grown in the inert brain; by no possibility can a child with a predominant linguistic faculty be moulded into a mathematician or vice versa. All children are not round pegs to be fitted into round holes; some are square, others three-sided; these will not fit into round holes.

BOTH the Dominion and Ontario Governments are to be asked to further extend and increase their encouragement to the dairying industry. At the annual meetings of the Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association at Brockville, the Western Association at Woodstock, and the Ontario Creameries' Association at Berlin last month, a resolution was passed by each respectfully requesting the Ontario Government to continue its financial assistance to the associations upon an increased scale, so that their work might be prosecuted with enlarged vigor and success, and urging upon the Dominion Government the advantage and need for the extension of the work of the Dairy Commissioners by the establishment of branch dairy experiment stations under the direct supervision of Prof. Robertson, for the purpose of carrying on such investigations into the principles and practices of improved butter making during the winter by fitting up these stations for that purpose, and by the making of trial shipments of fresh-made butter in suitable packages to foreign markets, in order to gain a reputation there, and to create a demand at the highest prices by demonstrating the excellence of its quality. The Ontario Poultry Association also want further assistance from the Government. At their annual business meeting held in Bowmanville last month it was decided, owing to the growth of the association and multiplication of varieties of fowls, to ask the government for a larger grant and a delegation was appointed to wait on the Minister of Agriculture to place the claims of the association before him. As Mr. Dryden was present at a banquet given to the visiting exhibitors and fanciers and heard the statement made that by a careful estimate fully seven and a half million dollar's worth of eggs are annually produced in the Dominion, of which two and a half million dollars' worth are exported, he will no doubt realize the necessity of encouraging the association by acceding to their request for an increased grant.

FROM reports issued by the Ontario Bureau of Industries several interesting particulars are learned which are in themselves instructive. The average devoted to the various kinds of crop in Ontario in the years 1885 and 1890 is as follows:

	ACRES.	
	1885.	1890.
Fall wheat .....	375,000	720,000
Spring wheat .....	799,000	601,000
Barley .....	695,000	701,000
Oats .....	1,543,600	1,882,100
Peas .....	646,000	781,000
Potatoes .....	159,100	158,000
Turnips .....	102,000	111,000
Carrots .....	9,000	12,000
Mangel-Wurzele .....	16,000	26,000
Hay and clover .....	2,268,000	2,462,000

These figures show that over 350,000 acres less were devoted to wheat raising in 1890 than five years previously. But during the same period the average of turnips, carrots and mangel-wurzels increased by 22,000; the average of barley, peas and oats increased by nearly 600,000, and the average of hay and clover by nearly 200,000. This would evidently mean that the farmers are beginning to feel that wheat raising is not so profitable as they imagined, and that they must turn their attention more to stock. This fact is further emphasized by the total values of farm lands, buildings, implements and live stock for the years mentioned which are as follows:

	1885.	1890.
Value of farm lands .....	\$626,422,000	\$622,896,000
" " " buildings .....	182,477,000	198,438,000
" " " implements .....	48,569,000	50,515,000
" " Live stock .....	100,690,000	104,006,000
	\$958,158,000	\$976,855,000

The total increase in values in five years was \$12,777. Of the increased values \$3,396,000 was in live stock and nearly \$11,000 in buildings largely intended to shelter stock. The decrease is entirely in the value of farm lands. The total average under crop of all kinds has increased as follows since 1885: acres under crop—1885, 7,350,000; 1886, 7,403,000; 1887, 7,429,000; 1888, 7,606,000; 1889, 7,758,000; 1890, 7,912,000.



2nd.—Fifth avenue theatre and Hermans theatre, New York, destroyed by fire; loss over \$500,000. Engagement between the hostile Indians and United States Cavalry near Pine Ridge, South Dakota, with loss on both sides.

4th.—Death of Monsignor Labelle, Minister of Agriculture in the Quebec Government.

5th.—Cobourg, Ont., votes a bonus of \$30,000 to the Cobourg, Northumberland and Pacific railway. Mr. E. F. Clarke, elected Mayor of Toronto for the fourth consecutive term.

6th.—Death of Hartley Dunsford, registrar of Victoria county since its formation 30 years ago. Petition and cross-petition in the Muskoka Local election trial dismissed by consent.

7th.—Terrible snowstorm in Italy accompanied by the severest cold weather known to the present generation. Many persons frozen to death throughout Europe.

8th.—Destructive fires in Campbellford, Dutton, Midland and Belleville, Ont. A revolution breaks out in Chili.

9th.—Death of Sheriff Perry, of Oxford County, Ont. Mr. Plimsoll, ex-M.P., the British seamen's friend, banquetted in Toronto.

10th.—Sir John Macdonald attains his 76th birthday.

11th.—Sudden death of Rev. W. H. Laird, pastor of the First Methodist church, Hamilton, Ont.

12th.—Fire in the Russell house, Ottawa; loss to building \$12,000, and commercial travellers' samples \$20,000. The Canadian Government, with the approval of the British Government, brings the Behring Sea dispute into the United States Supreme Court.

13th.—Annual meeting of the Ontario Creameries' Association at Berlin. The Ontario Legislature summoned to meet on February 11th.

14th.—The Duke of Bedford commits suicide. Two destructive fires on Craig street, Montreal; loss over \$100,000.

15th.—The secret of the ingredients entering into the composition of Koch's lymph given to the world. Donald McKinnon, Asherman, Goderich, Ont., shoots his wife and then attempts suicide. The first batch of a large number of Jewish refugees from Russia arrive in Winnipeg.

16th.—Nominations of candidates for East Durham, North and South Norfolk, and North Perth for the Local Legislature.

17th.—Death of George Bancroft, the venerable historian, at Washington. Mr. George, M.P.P. for North Bruce, unseated.

18th.—Heavy snowstorms again occur in many parts of Europe, interrupting traffic and causing great distress.

19th.—Hostile Indians surrendering to the United States troops.

20th.—Death of King Kalakaua, of the Hawaiian Islands, at San Francisco. Destructive fire in James street, Montreal; loss about \$25,000.

21st.—Annual meeting of Dairymen's Association of Western Ontario, at Woodstock. Annual meetings of the Ontario Agricultural Societies.

22nd.—Destructive fire at Glenboro, Man.; loss about \$15,000. Hon. Mr. Chapleau banquetted at Kingston, Ont. The Imperial Parliament re-opened.

23rd.—Mr. Campbell, Equal Righter, elected M.P.P. for East Durham; Mr. Carpenter, Liberal, for North Norfolk; Mr. Charlton, Liberal, for South Norfolk, and Mr. Magwood, Conservative, for North Perth. Sudden death of Prince Bandouin, heir to the Belgian throne.

24th.—Death of Mrs. John Thompson, granddaughter of the poet Robert Burns, at Glasgow, Scotland.

25th.—New York city swept by a blizzard, causing considerable destruction to property.

26th.—Mr. C. A. Dunsereau appointed postmaster of Montreal. Mr. Stinson unseated as M.P.P. for Hamilton. Another dynamite scare in England, extra vigilance being shown at the principal seaports.

27th.—Over 150 lives lost by a terrible mine explosion at Mammoth, Pa. John Heslop, the aged Treasurer of Ancaster, Ont., shot dead by burglars; no clue to the murderers. Fire on Commercial street, Quebec; loss about \$20,000.

28th.—Cattle sheds of D. Macdonald's dairy, near Winnipeg destroyed by fire with 61 head of cattle. Death of E. G. Thomas, the well-known organ manufacturer of Woodstock Ont.

29th.—Death of Judge Lane at Owen Sound, Ont. U. S. Secretary of the Treasury Windom, drops dead at the New York Board of Trade dinner, New York, from heart disease.

30th.—Death of Charles Bradlaugh, M.P., the well-known English Radical. Sir Leonard Tilley elected President of the Imperial Federation League.

31st.—Death of Meissonier, the celebrated French painter. Revolution in Portugal to establish a Republic suppressed; several people killed. Hog cholera reported to be spreading rapidly throughout Kansas.