

If we could secure the passing of a law which would compel prospective farmers to pass a literary and professional examination before engaging in general agriculture, stock raising, dairying, horticulture, etc., it would require a dozen colleges to accommodate young men and women who would seek instruction in agriculture and the sciences relating thereto. But under present conditions, persons can engage in any agricultural pursuit without any kind of preparation, and agricultural colleges, not having behind them the potent leverage of legal enactments, have to depend for their attendance solely upon the character of the education they give, and upon the desire of those who wish to obtain knowledge for its own sake, and the possible advantage which it may be to them in their efforts to make a living. Under such conditions it is not surprising that the attendance at purely agricultural colleges is small.

This year the attendance at all agricultural colleges is less than usual. Twenty-nine freshmen entered the degree course at the Ontario Agricultural College. Three agricultural schools were closed in Alberta. 15 students are registered at the Nova Scotia college. The attendance at the Manitoba College is very much smaller. Two factors account for this condition. The low price of farm products and the higher cost of manufactured articles; and the scarcity of farm labour and the use of the boy at home rather than permitting him to finish his schooling.

The former is an economic phase that may change soon, in fact, there are slight indications that there is a slight improvement; the latter, however, denotes a situation that, so far as this province is concerned, will become worse with the passing