

Agricultural College, was appointed to succeed Mr. McCandless. He came out for observation in the fall of 1874, but could not enter on his duties till April, 1875. In the meantime, Wm. Johnston, B.A., of Toronto, who had been appointed Rector, discharged the duties of Principal. According to agreement, Principal Roberts was on hand in April, 1875; but he was suddenly seized with an illness so



HON. JOHN DRYDEN.

Minister of Agriculture for Ontario from 1890 to the present time.

severe that he decided to resign his position and return at once to his native land. Some have said that the illness was caused by the stories which were told him of the frightful difficulties, trials, and annoyances of the position which he had accepted.

#### THIRD PRINCIPAL.

Wm. Johnston, B. A., was employed in the capacity of Rector from August, 1874, till the end of 1875, and as Principal for nearly four years—from the beginning of 1876 till the 1st of October, 1879.



HON. CHAS. DRURY.

First Ontario Minister of Agriculture; now Sheriff of Simcoe County.

Mr. Johnston, though lacking in practical experience, was a man of real ability—a good organizer, an efficient executive officer, and a vigorous writer. He soon grasped the situation, and to him very largely is due the credit of having placed the institution on a fairly solid foundation. He classified the work in the different departments, handled his

men to advantage, and did much to give character and stability to the School.

#### CHANGE OF NAME, ETC.

At the time of Mr. Johnston's resignation, and at his suggestion, the Ontario School of Agriculture and Experimental Farm became the Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm, and the chief executive officer of the institution was afterwards to be known as President of the College. The writer took charge at that time (1st of October, 1879), and through storm and stress has stood by the ship for over 20 years.

#### FARM SUPERINTENDENTS.

From the outset, the office of Farm Superintendent was one of the most important in the School, and it is no less important in the College. James Laidlaw, afterwards representative of South Wellington in the Legislative Assembly, was Farm Superintendent in 1875; William Brown, from the fall of 1875 till 1st July, 1883, a period of nearly thirteen years; Thomas Shaw, from the 1st October, 1883, till the summer of 1893—nearly five years; and Wm. Rennie, from 1st October, 1893, till the 1st October, 1899—exactly six years. G. E. Day, B.S.A., was appointed Superintendent on the 1st October of the present year.

#### COMMISSIONERS AND MINISTERS OF AGRICULTURE.

The gentlemen who, as Commissioners and Ministers of Agriculture, have had control of the School and College since the Mimico site was purchased by the Hon. John Carling are: the Hon. Archibald McKellar, about four years (1871-1875); Hon. S. C. Wood, nearly eight years (1875-1883); Hon. James Young, a few months in 1883; Hon. A. M. Ross, about four and a half years (1883-1888); Hon. Chas. Drury, first Minister of Agriculture, nearly two and a half years (May 1st, 1888, to September 1st, 1890); and Hon. John Dryden, second Minister of Agriculture, over nine years (September 1st, 1890, to December 1st, 1899).

It would be invidious to enter into a discussion of the work done by the different Commissioners and Ministers; but, without offence, we think it may be said that every one in the list devoted a great deal of time and anxious thought to the affairs of the College at Guelph, and did the work much better than it would have been done by any Board of Trustees or Governors.

#### ADVISORY BOARD.

In the early days, 1874-75, there was an Honorary Council to consult with the President in the management of the school. This Council consisted of the Hon. David Christie, Hon. George Brown, Hon. Archibald McKellar, Professor George Buckland, James Young, Esq., M. P., Delos W. Beadle, Esq., and James Laidlaw, Esq. The Council disappeared when the Hon. S. C. Wood became Commissioner of Agriculture, and the Commissioner alone controlled the institution, till the year 1885, when the Hon. A. M. Ross had an Advisory Board of practical farmers appointed to assist him from time to time, especially in matters pertaining to the management of the farm. This Board is still in existence, and consists of John I. Hobson, Guelph, chairman; C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, secretary; John McMillan, M. P., Constance, Huron Co.; William Donaldson, South Zorra, Oxford Co.; Edwards Jeffs, Bondhead, Simcoe Co.; G. B. Boyce, Norham, Northumberland Co.; and D. A. Dowling, Appleton, Carleton Co.

#### STRONG AND WEAK POINTS.

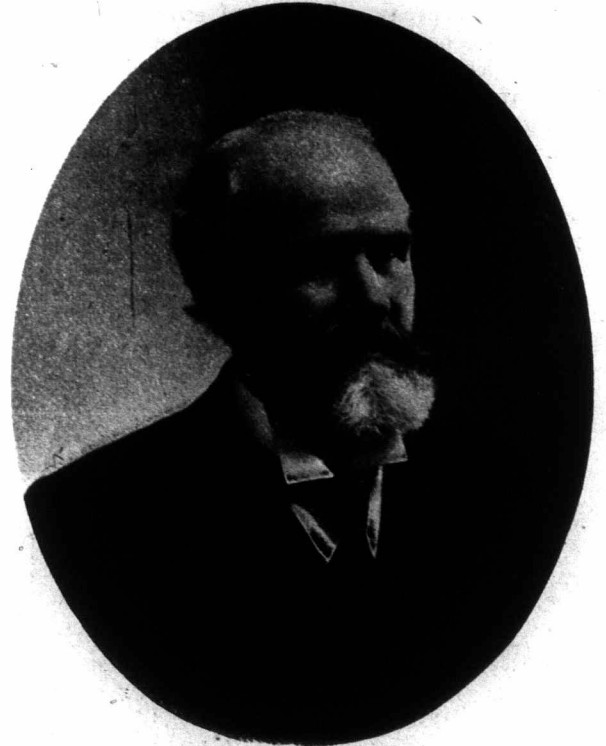
One of the specially strong points of the Institution, from '74 to '99, has been the thoroughly and persistently practical character of its work. Many United States Agricultural Colleges are agricultural only in name. They have placed agriculture in the background, and have broadened their courses so as to compete with arts colleges and universities. The Ontario Agricultural College has not done so, but has always insisted on manual labor, and has given special prominence to agriculture, live stock, dairying, horticulture, veterinary practice, and other branches of study which have a direct bearing on the ordinary work of the Canadian farmer. For a long period the Farm management was severely criticised by the farmers of the Province, and was very often spoken of as the weak point of the Institution; but, in time the tide began to turn, and during later years the Farm has been made an undoubted source of strength to the College. One source of weakness, from the beginning till 1893 (for nineteen years), was divided, and necessarily conflicting, authority. It was a cause of trouble to the first Principal; in the form of a double headship, it led to the resignation of Mr. Johnston, the third Principal, in 1879; in the same form, it caused endless friction from '79 to '88; and in other forms endangered the Institution subsequently. It was not till the summer of 1893 that the Government had the courage to give the President full control and make him responsible for everything, thus eliminating a serious element of weakness.

Though often, from its inception (starting with the change of site), made a sort of political party football, we are glad that that attitude toward the College has grown less marked and bitter than it was, and we now look for reasonable sympathy and fair support from both parties.

#### COURSES OF STUDY, DIPLOMAS, AND DEGREES.

The primary aim of the College always has been to train young men for work and life on the farms of the Province. The course for an Associate diploma, extending over a period of two years, and

including both study and practical work, has been arranged with this object in view; and nothing is allowed to interfere with this aim throughout the first two years of every regular student's course at the College. Those who complete this course and obtain the Associate diploma, signed by the Minister of Agriculture and President of the College, are known as "Associates of the College."



JAMES MILLS, M. A., LL. D.

President of the Ontario Agricultural College from 1879 to the present time.

In 1887, a third year was added to the course, and the College was affiliated with the University of Toronto for advanced examinations and degrees. The addition was made at the request of Associates who wished to pursue their studies in certain departments for a longer time than was embraced in the Associate course, with a view to preparing themselves more fully for the work of the farm or for positions as agricultural writers and teachers of agriculture, horticulture, dairying, animal husbandry, chemistry, biology or entomology. The work for this additional year is heavy, and none but the best Associates are allowed to take it. The examinations on the third-year work are conducted by the University of Toronto, and the B. S. A. degree (Bachelor of the Science of Agriculture) is granted to the successful candidates at the annual commencement exercises of the University.

Ninety-eight degrees have been granted on the three-year course, and it has recently been decided to extend the course to four years—two years for the Associate diploma, and two additional years for the



MR. JOHN I. HOBSON.

Chairman of Advisory Board of Ontario Agricultural College and President of the Provincial Winter Show.

B. S. A. degree. This change is due to the fact that the additional work required for the degree has been found too heavy for one year.

A special course in dairying was announced for the 1st of February, 1893, and the attendance was so satisfactory that a new dairy building was at once erected, and the equipment for a permanent