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THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

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Editorial

N last month's issue we offered a few general criticisms upon the course of study in this college. We tried to point out the need for reform, and at the same time to present the difficulties in the way. We asked graduates to send along their views and suggestions, but as yet no one has responded. Perhaps sufficient time has not elapsed to allow graduates to gather together their views, and we trust that by next month we shall have heard from some of them. We believe the matter is already under consideration, and no doubt suggestions will be gladly received. The same subject presents itself to different men in different aspects, and to the prudent man, the opinions of others are of great value in enabling him to map out a moderate and judicious course of action. We know that those in authority are anxious to make the college as efficient as possible, but to make a radical change in a long established system is a serious undertaking, and is worthy of the most deliberate consideration. We cannot say that we are in favor of any violent change. Educational reforms are, as a rule, accomplished gradually, and we believe this should be no exception, but should proceed step by step towards perfection. Then, graduates, let us hear from you, but let your remarks be to the point, and brief.




WE have received a circular from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, relating to the testing and distribution of seed grain. Farmers sending samples of grain to the Experimental Farm can have the germinating power of the same tested, and a report returned to them in about ten days. Those having doubts regarding the vitality of their seed grain would do well to take advantage of this offer. In addition to the above, the same station is sending out samples of the best varieties of oats, barley, wheat, peas, etc., free of charge to those who may apply. Each sample contains three pounds, and each applicant can obtain two, and only two, samples. The request is made that a sample of not less than one pound of the product be returned to the station at the close of the season. Samples for testing and all correspondence may be sent free of postage to Wm. Saunders, Director Experimental Farms, Ottawa.



An incredulous student from the Maritime Provinces heard the Prof. of Zoology state that in a certain country fossil whalebones were so numerous that the inhabitants used them for making fences. He immediately closed his note-book with the remark: "I'm not going to take any more notes. I can't swallow that."

LEAKS ON THE FARM.

HIS is a subject of vital interest to every tiller of the soil. If we only realized the direct bearing that these leaks have on the profits of the season's labor, many of the worst would not exist at the present time. The present age is characterized by low prices and small profits, and in order to secure even this small margin of gain we must obtain quick returns, as the following incident substantiates. This may not appear at first thought to apply directly to the farm, but it does as certainly as to any other industry: If you put 100 bushels of potatoes in your cellar in the fall worth 50 cents a bushel, that would be \$50 if realized at once; in the spring you find you have only 90 bushels worth 60 cents a bushel, i. e., ten bushels have been lost by decay, frost and shrinkage. Now the advantage of selling those potatoes in the fall is quite evident when we consider that we have had all our extra labor and anxiety for the inadequate remuneration of \$4. Yet this and similar unprofitable practices are very frequently observed on the average farm.

The next leak we notice is the practice of leaving implements exposed to the weather. There is no more certain way of ensuring their rapid destruction than this. It is very evident folly to pay an exorbitant price for some implement manufactured by a combine and leave it out to be warped, rusted, and destroyed by rain and frost. This is one of the ways in which the agriculturist throws away his hard earned savings and enables his much-detested friend, the manufacturer, to carry on his business and grow rich at his expense.

We have the power to help ourselves to a great extent in this respect. Let us avail ourselves of the opportunity and send the money saved in this direction in extending our operations in some other department of the farm.

Another error many of us are guilty of is not doing things at the right time, and its results are often very serious indeed. You ask how it is that Farmer Jones had such a magnificent crop of wheat. My field adjoins his. The soil is very similar, and I thought mine received more attention even than his. But on inquiry we find he sowed his field just one week earlier, and thus obtained the benefit of one week's longer period of growth, and this is the whole secret of his success. The old adage, "That there is a time when everything can be done to best advantage," is here truly verified. Through a little carelessness a crop may be planted just two days later than it might have been, and yet that may mean a difference of millions of dollars to the farmers of this continent at harvest time.

Again many of us are keeping and feeding poor stock and not properly housing or attending to those we already possess. This is a sad mistake. Suppose you are interested in the dairy business, and you are keeping a cow that only gives 2,500 pounds of milk yearly, when you could keep a cow at exactly the same cost that will yield 5,000 pounds of milk, does it not appear foolish to struggle on in the old rut? This statement is not exaggerated, but is being performed by many dairy herds in this province. Their stock in general is not comfortably housed and cared for. There is no more sensitive animal on the farm than the cow, and yet how many are expected to give an abundant flow of milk that are kept in cold, miserable stables at night and fed by the side of the straw stack in the day time.