

The Agricultural School Question.

A PRACTICAL PAPER READ BY MR. W. C. ARCHIBALD AT THE RECENT AGRICULTURAL MEETING HELD IN THIS TOWN.

Nova Scotia, with a population of half a million people, and three maritime provinces at the end of this century with about 1,000,000 (of which a strong preponderance are agriculturists) are seeking better educational advantages. Among our native industries, agriculture occupies the lowest place from the standpoint of technical instruction. The prejudice existing against investigation and theoretical instruction among the farming class has seriously hindered agricultural advancement.

The late colleges have readily advanced in the accomplishment of their purpose; but they have not undertaken to teach agriculture and least of all to return the students to the farm. From the nature of their studies and separation from farm life, the student soon forgets his inheritance and before his college course is through is quite unfitted for a successful farmer. This is the beginning and root of one prejudice. The farming class at the present time is lacking in the facilities necessary to give our young men a thorough agricultural education. The difficulties in the way of establishing a maritime agricultural college are such that it would not be wise to waste time over it. The proper course would be to establish such a college on broad lines in Nova Scotia as it is certain the young men of the province will be sure to take advantage of the facilities we will provide for them rather than go to Guelph, 1,200 miles away.

NO FINANCIAL OBSTACLES.

With the grants now made to the agricultural and horticultural schools and model farm supplemented by a reasonable amount which guarantees its success, whether it be at once constructed on a scale fully commensurate with present needs or on a smaller scale. The interest from the whole investment can be returned from the proceeds of the orchard and nursery. The new institution will combine all now taught in both schools and vastly more. The new college will place agriculturists of the province in a position to compete with the rest of America. It will in the course of a few years return four fold for every dollar expended on it. The government will be asked to give their support to a proposition which amounts to a large source of great wealth to the country at large. By so doing it will give our people an opportunity to add new laurels to those already won. The advent of better means of transportation with the aid of which will greatly stimulate production and trade throughout.

START IT NOW.

A well equipped agricultural college started now, will enable our farmers to take advantage of the occasion. A few days ago the town of Truro was engaged in the business of farming. This broader movement for educational opportunities, equal with the more highly favored classes, has its heart's pulsations in the quietude of the farmer engaged in the business of farming. This broader movement originates in the open country, where hopes and encouragement abound in soil and sky and air. We appreciate the words of encouragement from the world of sciences useful in agriculture by Dr. McKay, superintendent of education.

FARMERS' INDIFFERENCE.

But, gentlemen, I must frank with you in saying the indifference among us in establishing an improved farming, is the serious obstacle in the way of our progress. But the proof of your awakened interest in your presence in this large audience this afternoon, to take a hand in building up a college worthy of your aspirations. The farmer should have comparatively a free hand in shaping the educational future affecting his business. The normal school is valued in the west on counties as in the east, and there is no sensible man of thought to impair its usefulness. N. Y. rather would see increased efficiency begun, and the subject of agriculture given a larger place with the students, and add, at once, sound and heretofore-neglected contributions to that school. The attention made by Speaker Lawrence, of the Truro convention, in his address, to be a "delegation," "I advocate the work in every line," is a timely one.

In this case not practical as the past 10 years has shown. The laws of nature are masterful, and it is man's mission to know them, and adapt himself to them. It cannot be shown a government commercial orchard can be made a parallel success at Truro, as with us. It requires that rate class of higher cultivation will suit climate and position where a full fledged agricultural college will permanently command the admiration of the farmers of the whole province and be a credit to the government—who has the courage to establish it.

two other conditions.

1-The farmer's unequal condition in the social scale.

2-The low returns for his time and labor.

How is this problem to be solved? Establish an agricultural college on sufficiently broad lines. Binary and other related subjects will be studied as "a means to an end," and the knowledge put to a practical and profitable use and where a good business training will also be given. When our boys graduate with their B. S. or B. A. they should not stand on an elevated level with those holding a B. A. degree, with the accomplished of the social inequality that appears. A thorough training in agriculture and its business will settle the second point, by enabling the student to be careful of investments and begin the practice of a kind of little economy the ordinary farmer is slowly finding out by accident; and to learn with enterprise as in the conduct of a mercantile or manufacturing business. The business which is an education has been stated as follows:

Ordinary laborer earns \$1.00 or less per day.

Common school workman earns \$2.00 per day.

High school graduate earns \$3.00 per day.

College graduate earns \$4.00 per day.

Entrepreneurial farmer.

The best and most enterprising farmers are those most intelligent in their own calling. The work of orcharding is most complex. The many orchards of this country have already run double the money necessary to build them. The planter should be in the field and have a full knowledge of all the points relating to the work.

The other day Supervisor McKay stated the province of Saxony has 111 technical institutes among 180,000 people. What is the meaning of all this? It can only be the government of these advanced countries in the application of the science to agriculture, have arranged their educational system to aid the masses of the people; each in his own particular calling. The success of all the classes in society are most intimately dependent upon the farmer's general prosperity. Where will the agricultural college be built? It is important that the government make a good selection in the purchase of its farm and secure one having already a good bearing orchard. An orchard of typical fruits is a necessary adjunct to the provincial farm. It provides facilities for a study of fruit growing in all its phases while at the same time it will contribute handsomely to the revenue from the beginning. A leading feature of this model farm will be the starting of a large nursery in which every variety of fruit suitable to the various conditions of the maritime provinces will be grown. The culture of the nursery with the care of the orchard will give a complete and practical education on fruit growing. At the same time the pecuniary advantage of this arrangement must not be lost sight of. Such a nursery will provide thousands of dollars worth of stock, true to name to the people of the province. The variety in every case will be guaranteed. The supply of high grade stock, acclimated by birth and properly pruned in itself will annually save the province at large more money than the whole cost of running the college. Non-out fruit growers know the tremendous loss the people are sustaining in this matter. The supply of nursery stock at present is far below the demand. The orchard and nursery will ensure the financial success of the undertaking. The financial aspect of the enterprise presents no difficulties.

THE WHITE RIBBON.

"For God and Home and Native Land."

Conducted by the Ladies of the W. G. T. U.

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Next meeting in Temperance Hall, Thursday, Jan. 9th, at 3.30 p. m. The meetings are always open to any who wish to become members. Visiting members of other W. G. T. Unions are cordially welcomed.

Time was—past; thou canst not recall.

Time is—now; employ the portion small.

Time future—is not, and may never be.

Time present—is the only time for thee.

Something Each Day.

Something each day—a smile.

It is not too much to give.

And a little gift of life.

Make every day live.

The world has weary hearts.

That we can bless and cheer.

And a smile for every day.

Makes sunshine all the year.

Something each day—a word.

We cannot knit power.

It grows in fruitfulness.

As grows the gentle flower.

What comfort it may bring.

Where all is dark and drear!

For a kind word every day.

Makes pleasant all the year.

Something each day—a thought.

Unselfish, good and true.

That aids another's needs.

While we our way pursue.

That seeks to lighten hearts.

That leads to paths ever clear.

By a helpful thought each day.

Makes happy all the year.

Something each day—a deed.

Of kindness and of good.

To link in closer bonds.

All human brotherhood.

Oh, that the heavenly will.

We all may do while here!

For a good deed every day.

Makes blessed all the year.

The Need of Total Abstinence.

There is, we say, a fearful amount of drinking, and consequences that might move a heart of stone. The misery and degradation which attend it are largely due to intoxicating drinks. Vast numbers of our fellow men and women for exceed anything which might be euphemistically called moderation, and the brutality, crime and vice which it leads to is appalling. We find the Grand Jury at the close of their labors at the Old Bailey, making the following pronouncement: "The Grand Jury deem it their duty to express their opinion that more strenuous efforts should be made to regulate the trade in drink, a large number of the cases which have come before us—some of which are of the gravest character—being directly due to its fatal influence." "We are also quite certain that their unanimous opinion. One might as well try to regulate a tiger and let it loose on Fleet street. It is even worse than that, for if such an insane act were perpetrated, it would be a relief to the public. The tiger would not touch or attack a single individual; that would be prohibited. But the drink-tiger is supposed to be allowed to satisfy his instincts in moderation," and we profess to be shocked to find that he goes too far and goes it often! Leaving this simile we have had moderation prescribed ad nauseam, and it is perfectly clear that it has failed to cure the world's evils. It is also quite certain that if men were as anxious to prevent these evils as they profess to be, and as they certainly ought to be, they would see increased efficiency begun, and the subject of agriculture given a larger place with the students, and add, at once, sound and heretofore-neglected contributions to that school. The attention made by Speaker Lawrence, of the Truro convention, in his address, to be a "delegation," "I advocate the work in every line," is a timely one.

DR. E. N. PAYZANT

Will continue the practice of Dentistry as formerly, at his residence near the station, Wolfville. Appointments can be made by letter on, at residence. Special fees on lower sets of teeth. March 20th, 1895.

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