

NOTES ON THE RECENT PROGRESS OF AGRICULTURE IN THE DOMINION OF CANADA.



Those who observe and think, nothing can be more manifest than the rapid development and progress of Canadian agriculture in recent years. Looking back over even a comparatively short period, we see that Canadian farmers have made a clear advance in technical skill,—their methods have been improving from year to year; they are more intelligent and refined than they were; and they live better, dress better, and look better—much better—than they did fifteen years ago.

The products of our Canadian farms have increased within the last decade far beyond our most sanguine expectations. The value of the grain, live stock, bacon, poultry, cheese, butter, fruit, etc., of the country has gone up rapidly, while there has been little or no rise in the price of these commodities. The following statement of the sums received for the live stock and farm produce exported in 1903, compared with the receipts from the same sources ten years ago, is sufficient evidence under this head:

	1893	1903
Animals and their products ...	\$31,736,499	\$69,817,542
Other farm products	22,049,490	44,624,321

SOME ITEMS IN THE ABOVE.

Butter	\$ 1,296,814	\$ 6,954,618
Cheese	13,407,470	24,712,943
Eggs	868,007	1,436,130
Grains	13,834,277	29,466,391
Bacon and hams	1,970,518	15,906,334

No less striking has been the increased interest in agriculture all over the Dominion. Our farmers have begun to realize in some measure the importance and dignity of agricultural pursuits; they have more respect for themselves and greater interest in their work than they had ten or fifteen years ago; and people of other classes think better of Canadian farmers and farming than at any time in the past.

(1) *The Ontario Agricultural College*—Which, by its class-room and laboratory training; its experiments; its bulletins and reports; its leadership in outside undertakings for the benefit of farmers; the public lectures and addresses of its professors; and the work of its ex-students—graduates, associates, and others—has stirred every part of the Dominion to increased interest and renewed activity in agricultural pursuits.

(2) *The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union*—Which, in connection with the College at Guelph, did pioneer work on experimental lines and is now doing as much as any other organization at home or abroad in testing varieties of crops, methods of cultivation and planting, kinds of manure, selection of seed, dates of seeding, etc.,—extended and checked by co-operative experiments at something over 3,000 places throughout the Province of Ontario, where the annual reports of these tests are issued from year to year and studied by farmers in all parts of the country.

(3) *The Farmers' Institutes*, a College extension movement—Which originated in the Ontario Agricultural College, extended till it covered the whole Province of Ontario, and then reached out to the other Provinces of the Dominion,—east to the Atlantic and west to the Pacific; a most excellent organization, which has done more than any other to awaken farmers, beget in them a desire for information, improve their methods, and arouse them to a sense of the dignity and importance of their occupation.

(4) *The Travelling Dairies*, another College extension movement—Which was proposed by the Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, and organized and managed by the Ontario Agricultural College, proceeding systematically till every part of Ontario was visited and a very great and easily noticeable improvement in the quality of dairy butter was made, and then being employed by the Province of Nova