

Sir Arthur Currie.

and earn larger incomes. I think all practical farmers will agree with me, that, in the main, any so-called aid is of little value, unless it actually results in putting more dollars into the pockets of the farmers, for that is the kind of help they need and need badly.

This may seem to be a very commercial and mercenary view, but personally I am convinced that the principal reason for the decline in the number of students in American Agricultural Colleges is the fact that in too many cases the curriculums have not been such as to convince farmers that the practical results would justify the expense and time required by a course of several years at an Agricultural College. I think I am right in saying that the ordinary farmer has an idea that though some of the classes at such a College would be helpful, too many of them would be so technical and so scientific as to be required chiefly by persons who wish to become professors or teachers, while on the other hand the general effect of the college course would be to promote a distaste for manual work, and consequently for farm life, with a preference for brain or clerical work and city life.

There cannot of course be the slightest objection to your attempting to build up at Macdonald an Agricultural department of a very high technical character, which can compete with such places as Cornell, Ames and Guelph, if you can secure sufficient students to make it worth while, and if your funds permit the expenditures. I think, however, that your real service to the farming community must be measured