

THE MARITIME AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

To the Editor of The Telegraph—

Dear Sir,—Everyone in the maritime provinces must have felt keen gratification at the announcement made a few weeks ago by the minister of agriculture for your province, that the Interprovincial College for Agriculture, etc., is about an assured fact, and the further announcements when the Nova Scotia and New Brunswick legislatures met that they anticipated putting the governments in a position to complete the proposed scheme? I feel like congratulating your province on this first public and official announcement and also on having a premier who is taking so ambitious an interest in such a grand, progressive movement.

The question as to how large an institution will be needed for these three provinces will no doubt be an important consideration. The size of the plant will be gauged, no doubt, by the views of the governments as to the probable attendance to be secured. An institution to accommodate 100 would need a larger equipment than one to accommodate 50, and an attendance of 200 would require a still larger plant, a larger staff of instructors and a more complete course of study than half that number. The question then is as to how many students can be obtained for the institution? This is one of very great moment, for the impetus with which the institution is launched is going to tell tremendously upon its success and usefulness in the future.

Shall the aim be high or low? Shall an effort be made to provide the institution with a number of students that will at once place it on a footing equal to the best in North America or will things take their own course, as they have done in other agricultural colleges, and when the institution is complete and the doors thrown open the number of students to be enrolled is simply that small number that happen to be already sufficiently interested to go up to it?

There have been a number of articles put before the public in these three provinces of late evidencing little faith in the value of this institution. I regret this exceedingly, for nothing could more militate against its success. Mr. W. W. Hubbard, editor of the Maritime Co-operative Farmer, in an address before a teachers' institute meeting in St. John in September of 1898, said: "We are not yet ready for an Agricultural College, we must grow into one slowly." He has expressed the same sentiment many times of late in his papers. He also says much concerning Agricultural High Schools, but as to how many of these High Schools there should be through these provinces, how they are to be conducted, how they are to be supported, how the students living over a mile from these schools can attend at less expense than they can at a college, how the work done at them can be one-tenth as valuable as at a central Agricultural College with model farm and orchard to illustrate every detail of practical work, and with an expert staff of instructors, if supported by the government these schools can be maintained at any less expense than one central institution, is what I can scarcely grasp. Dr. Inch, the superintendent of schools for New Brunswick in his report of 1898, endorses the views expressed by Mr. Hubbard before the Teachers' Institute, and says: "We are not yet ready for an Agricultural College of such reasonable equipment as the maritime provinces united could afford. How many of our farmers' sons would be found willing to avail themselves of its advantages for a four or even a three years' course? At the Agricultural College at Cornell with its 20 professors there are in all its varied courses 12 students. Of 83 farmers' sons who entered the University of California the same year not one took the agricultural course. The six students who entered the agricultural course were all from cities."

Again, I have talked with some who take a little more hopeful view of the future and they figure thus: "After this institution gets well under way a year or two, we might possibly have as many, in proportion to our population, as Ontario sends to Guelph."

Ontario population..... 2,114,221  
Maritime provinces population..... 949,341  
Guelph Agricultural College students..... 173  
Maritime Agricultural College students..... 75

Now, I should like to ask, is there not room for the consideration of this question independently of the record other schools have made and in the light of conditions which we have before us with full appreciation of the mental acumen of our people and the resources of our land? In the first place let us see how many students these three provinces are sending up to arts or professional colleges, the most of them to become doctors, lawyers, ministers or professors. On account of some of the colleges being affiliated with

subordinate schools the number cannot be ascertained exactly, but it is approximately 800. This would average nearly 92 from each county and their expense would be scarcely less than \$200 each. In the census of 1891 there were 2,449 of the first three professions mentioned at work in our provinces and position overcrowded. In the same census there were 76,256 farmers and room for about 10 times as many, yet no college for their sons. After grasping this most inconsistent condition of affairs let us also consider another regrettable fact in this connection. Where do a large number of these young men go when they graduate from the colleges? A president of one of the colleges told me recently that he thought one-third to one-half went out of the country. We have been for years supplying Ontario, Manitoba, the Northwest, British Columbia and the United States with many of our best teachers, professors, college presidents, supervisors, lawyers, doctors and ministers, and thus much of the hard earned cash of our farms spent in education is bettering other countries and our own is being correspondingly retarded.

If the proposed agricultural institution can check this constant loss of force and mental power, can give a greater love for, and dignity to, farm work and a power to render it more profitable, can form a nucleus from which will emanate institutions very similar to the work Guelph is doing in Ontario; if it can supply the need of boys who are bound to have a college training in order that they may be even, from a point of view of culture and general department, with the best of those with whom they mingle, and if it can turn the current from the overcrowded employments to that which stands in dire need of devotees, is it not worthy of the ardent patronage which the best efforts of the government can possibly provide?

These three provinces are providing 800 students for our arts and professional colleges. From the reports of the superintendents of education we can fairly estimate that there are at least 10,000 boys in this same constituency between the ages of 15 and 20 who are just ripe for this Agricultural College. In talking with some principals of our public schools I learn that if the boys throughout Nova Scotia have improved their advantages at the common schools the majority of them have completed at 15, the length of which is the second year work in the high schools or have completed the work for a grade 12 license. Many at this age who have had advantages at the grade schools have obtained a grade 4 license. They should have good command of English grammar, analysis, history of England and Canada, geography, arithmetic, algebra and geometry. Already these boys have had nature lessons in all the different grades. They should have completed Stewart's Primer in physics, in botany, Gray's "How Plants Grow." They are probably familiar with Williams' chemistry and Tanner's agricultural chemistry and should just be a good time to take up the subjects of agriculture, horticulture, dairying, veterinary, book-keeping, entomology, chemistry, zoology, geology, botany, literature and other subjects which the Agricultural College provides as well as to come in contact with the practical work of the farm and orchard. Consider this on the one hand and on the other the ability and industry of the government to provide any sized institution that will be filled with students. How many of 10,000 can be secured? This is the great question. In business if an article of commerce is much needed by the people and a manufacturer has an ample supply of it, the course by which the people are to be put in possession of it is so well established that there is no hesitancy in pursuing it. The manufacturer knows how indispensable is the personal canvass of the "traveler" or the "agent." The purchaser knows, too, how many things they would not possess had they not been personally solicited to buy. To illustrate the power of this element of personal canvass in college work I am fortunate in having a splendid example right in our province and known to all. A few years ago Dr. Trotter was asked to accept the presidency of Acadia College. He consented on condition that he should have one year's freedom from teaching duties to go to \$75,000 to put the college on a better financial footing. Many of the governors believed that it could not possibly be procured. One of them told me that he no more dreamed of it being obtained than that he should fly. The gravest doubts were cast upon the success of the venture, yet Dr. Trotter obtained the pledges for the full amount within the year. How was it done? With some force, backed up by good common sense in a personal canvass. Perhaps hundreds of college sermons had been preached during the previous 20 years as good as Dr. Trotter preached and the finances were not improving. But Dr. Trotter followed his sermons with a personal solicitation of those who should naturally be interested in the college and he was able to render it assistance.

I will submit the statement that if the man who is to be president of this Agricultural College cannot in nine months before this institution is opened obtain from these 10,000 boys the promise of 300 for this institution he is not the right man for the position. Let us see what this number means when averaged over the different counties as the 800 arts students were which gave 24 to each county. Commencing with New Brunswick. There are 15 counties. Will the members in the House of Assembly who know their counties well say that will be impossible or difficult for a president of the right stamp to obtain in a week's personal canvass five boys in each of their counties for this institution. For example, take the county of Kings, probably an average one as far as population and agricultural development goes. There are 137 schools in this county and in 1898 there were 292 pupils attending school between the ages of 15 and 20. Half of this number or 146 would probably be boys and there would certainly be double this or about 303 altogether between 15 and 21 years of age.

Suppose the president of the college should spend a week in visiting a number of the principal school sections out of the 157 in this county and should address the schools for an hour in the afternoon and the parents and boys in some hall in the evening, explaining fully the advantages offered by the institution, and most important of all, should get the names of parents who were able to send their boys to this institution at an expense of from \$100 to \$150 for a year.

Let him call on them at their homes and personally solicit them for their son's attendance with a little of the force to which we have referred. Would the Hon. A. S. White, who, no doubt, knows his county very thoroughly, say that it would be impossible or even difficult for the

president, after a week's canvass, to obtain the promise of five boys for the institution when opened. I think he would be almost willing to guarantee double that number if the right kind of a man were to stir things up there for a few days. Let each county be canvassed in a similar manner and five for the fifteen counties will give 75 for the province. Five from each county in P. E. Island and Nova Scotia outside my own county, for which I think I can speak, would make 175. If the college should be built where all the lines of agriculture had been most highly developed there is no trouble in guaranteeing 25 to make up the 200. I know five boys in one street, Canard, where I spent my school days, who were just waiting for this institution. If the prospect of 200 is well advertised there will be a large number in addition who will be present without solicitation.

As to the department of mechanical industries, it might be well to call attention to the fact that in the statistics of 1891 giving numbers in different occupations, we observe that this class stands second largest in the three provinces, or 32,444. Engaged in agriculture we have 76,256. If we consider the sum of these two, or 108,700, and the need in this age of keen competition, of technical training in these departments we will begin to feel that the sum of the proportion between arts colleges and this college should be exactly reversed. No doubt it should be, but art colleges are centuries old, whereas colleges for agriculture and mechanical industries are scarcely more than a quarter of a century. The industrial bias is just getting started. In this respect we have just begun to "spin along the rind of grooves of change."

I have submitted this question to some of the most broad-minded educationists in the province, who, without much consideration thought that an enrollment of 40 or 50 would be all that could be expected, but after reviewing it in the above light they have fully concurred that the estimate was conservative. Experience in the construction of many large institutions has demonstrated very fully how desirable it is, both as regards economy and architectural design, to make plans at the outset for buildings as complete as will be needed for a reasonable number of years. Would it not be wise then to arrange for an institution that will accommodate 300 students. I am prepared to believe that almost every reader of this letter will be surprised at first thought at the number suggested, but also believe that after reflection they will consider it very reasonable. If there is to be any shock the sooner it is over the better that we may get on to the more worthy and ambitious ideal regarding the coming institution. Many will say at once: "This is more than Guelph, or Cornell, or some other institution." All the more creditable then. Let us look at this particular phase of the question independently of any other institution. They have depended for students upon the college sermons plan, but have not supplemented it with the personal canvass. Besides, the consciousness of the need of more scientific knowledge in this work is much stronger than it was twenty, fifteen or even ten years ago. Let us keep in mind simply that from the same constituency there are 800 students attending the art and professional colleges and the number now

engaged in the over-crowded employments to be filled by these graduates represents about one-third of those engaged in agriculture. Let us try to realize the vast amount of available material and devise the ways and means to bring it in contact with the educational machinery.

One of the first doubts that will come to the reader's mind will be the expense to each of the students. Let it be remembered that a large proportion of the 800 at the arts colleges spending \$200 or upwards per year are farmers' sons and if this institution is conducted like Guelph the pupils will have an opportunity of earning quite an appreciable amount on the college farm. Again the announcement of the minister of agriculture of New Brunswick was to the effect that "the poorest lad in that province should have, at this institution, an equal chance with the richest," which probably indicates some system of scholarships. It would no doubt be most desirable for the government to make the expense as low as possible for the students.

The matter of first outlay for the institution that has been suggested will be quite heavy, but this should be regarded rather as an investment, than as a railway and how many hundreds of thousands of dollars at from \$3,000 to \$4,000 per mile, are now being expended in Nova Scotia which benefit perhaps not more than one or two counties whereas the institution I have anticipated will not tax the province more, probably, than \$50,000 and its agricultural department alone will have an influence sooner or later on the products of almost every acre of ground in the three provinces, to say nothing of its power in developing the brain and character of those who form the main basis of strength and prosperity of the country. As a most practical illustration of its value as an investment, and one which will be appreciated by every farmer, it has been estimated by many of those most largely interested in the handling of fruit and potatoes that, if an agricultural college had been built in this province ten years ago, the general knowledge and practice of spraying might have been so established as to have actually saved in preventing the ravages of insects and fungi to fruit trees, fruit and potatoes, an amount that would have put up the whole plant for the college.

I hope the governments of these three splendid provinces by the sea will so use and control the influences at their command as to make the institution a great boon to the people, and a monument to their own wisdom and patriotism that they themselves and after generations may have reason to regard with satisfaction and pride.

ORCHARDIST.

Will Find Them Willing.

London, March 7.—In the House of Commons to-day, on the passing of the first reading of the loan bill of £3,000,000, Mr. Timothy Healy, Nationalist member for North Louth, gave notice that he would move an amendment at the second reading of the bill extending the measure so that all self-governing colonies "who were so keen in contributing men would also bear the burden of the war loan."

Mayor Sears Asks the Premier to Safeguard St. John.

Wednesday Mayor Sears sent a letter to Premier Emmerson, in which his worship's position with respect to the Dry Dock Company, and the proposal of the Common Council to grant a site for the dock is pretty well defined.

Mayor Sears addresses himself to Premier Emmerson as follows:—"Sir: I have signed the petition to your government in favor of the passing of an act concerning lands, easements, rights, privileges and exemptions on the Imperial Dry Dock Company, but only because it might be an unwise precedent to refuse to forward the unanimous conclusion of the council; nevertheless, while quite agreeable to the carrying out pledges made to the dock company, in the matter of production and securing a bonus as stipulated, I feel it is incumbent upon me, as mayor, elected to safeguard the public interests, to protest against any conveyances to the said company of public property, other than what is most strictly required for the dock, especially so as the land on the southwest of the present Union street, contemplated to be deeded to the dock company, is of material value to the city in any future extension of wharf privileges, and restricts any elongation of our number of streets, for below the length required to accommodate our more modern steamships, such as the dock is proposed to be built to receive, and which it would be almost a crime to surrender."

"Again the question of taxation should be clearly defined and well understood mutually, and not left for courts to determine in years to come. Certainly all land held by the dock company and buildings thereon, outside of the dock proper, and from which a revenue may be derived, should be treated as is the property of other corporations, and its fair proportion of taxation."

"I am also of opinion that as the city is contributing largely to this enterprise it should have reserved to it some control over the rates and tolls of the company. There should also be a provision for future acquisition of the property by the city or as boards of commissioners at a valuation to be fixed now on the basis of which should now be determined."

"In making these suggestions I wish it to be already understood that I have no desire to promote and factious opposition to the building of the dock, but am anxious however that the citizens should not be carried away through temporary excitement into giving to what is a private speculation assets which cannot be replaced without a tremendous expenditure on the part of the city. St. John has so often been generous in matters of similar kind, to her future detriment that I must beg of you to make application of those sound principles of civic government of which the council by the present agreement confesses its ignorance, or else it willfully ignores."

The letter is signed by Edward Sears, mayor of the city of St. John.

The Plague in Australia.

Sydney, N. S. W., March 6.—The fourth death from the bubonic plague occurred here to-day.

WRITE FOR IT.

Our Catalogue for Spring and Summer, 1903, will soon be ready for mailing; it is now in the hands of the printers, and we expect to have them in a day or so.

It is somewhat different this year from those that we have previously gotten up, in that it contains samples of our entire stock of MEN'S and BOYS READY-TO-WEAR CLOTHING.

You will thus be able to make your choice and send Order on receipt of Book, where in the past you had to write for Samples of what you wanted after receiving Catalogue.

GREATER OAK HALL, SCOVIL BROS. & CO., King Street, ST. JOHN, N. B., Corner Germain.

Dutch Fear Annexation.

Cape Town, March 7.—A great movement is in progress among the Cape Dutch to obtain a settlement of the South African question consistent with the maintenance of the independence of the Republics. It is doubtless argued that the Dutch having remained loyal, are entitled to a hearing at the settlement. The argument would have more force if the Dutch had not risen in every district where there was a reasonable chance of success and it is certain that the whole British community and the actively loyal Dutch are opposed to any settlement short of annexation. A proposal has been made by a deputation of the Dutch party to visit England shortly in the interests of peace.

The Honor That Cannot Be Earned.

London, March 6.—The Queen has bestowed the late Duke of Westminster's order of the Garter on the Duke of Portland.

Boat House Burned in Toronto.

Toronto, March 6.—(Special)—The Sunnyside boat house in Humber Bay, occupied by the Toronto Rowing Club and containing a splendid collection of racing boats belonging to this club and all the trophies and prizes won in contests during its history, was burned today. The loss is \$15,000, and insurance about one-third of that amount.

More Canadians Going Forward.

Cape Town, March 7.—The remainder of the Canadian artillery has gone to the front. Squadrons A and B of Kitchener's Horse, that were reported missing, have returned to camp. They were cut off with squadron E on Feb. 13, but they escaped, although they lost their way after ward on theveldt. Squadron E are prisoners at Pretoria.

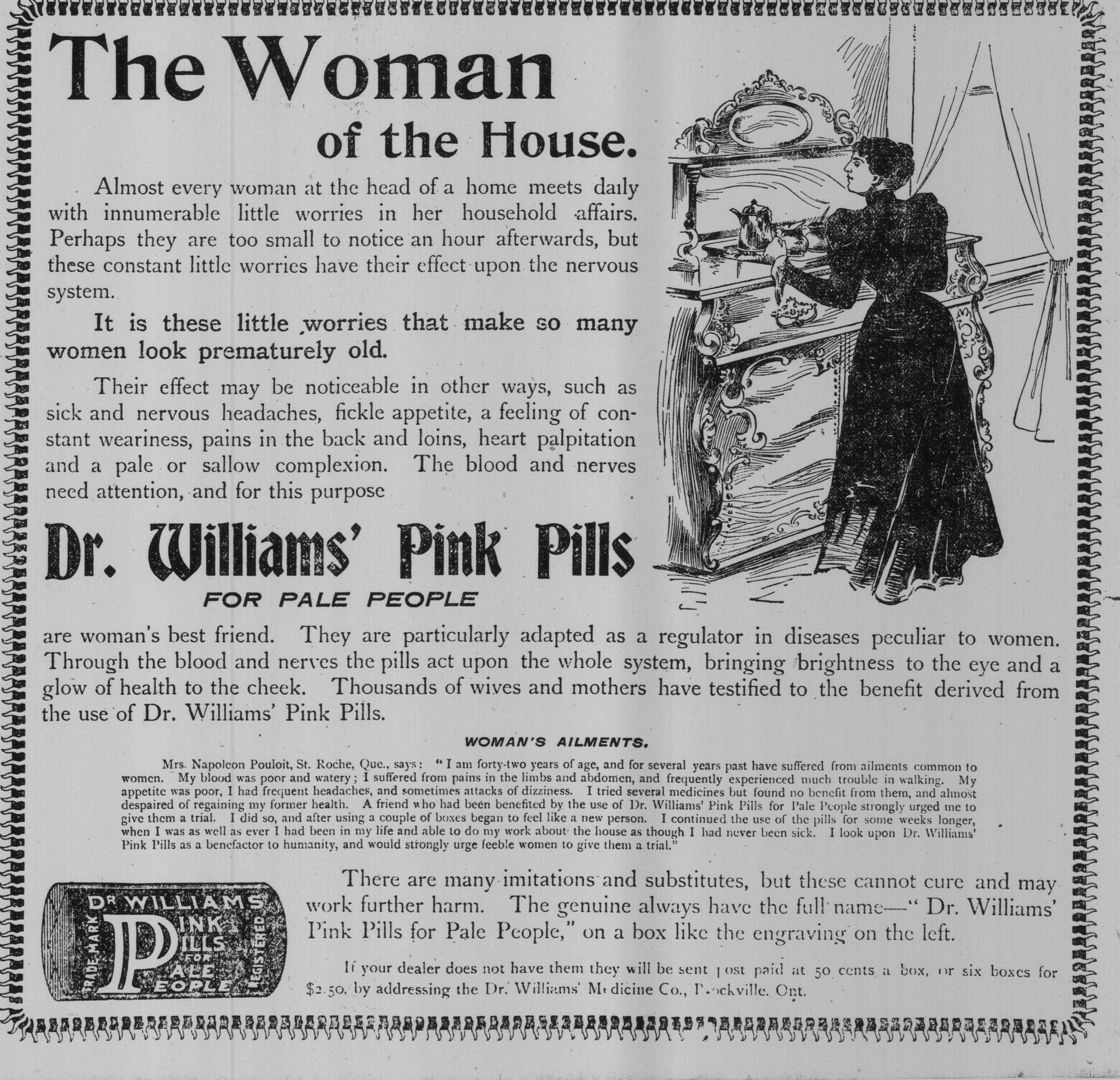
The Woman of the House. Almost every woman at the head of a home meets daily with innumerable little worries in her household affairs. Perhaps they are too small to notice an hour afterwards, but these constant little worries have their effect upon the nervous system. It is these little worries that make so many women look prematurely old. Their effect may be noticeable in other ways, such as sick and nervous headaches, fickle appetite, a feeling of constant weariness, pains in the back and loins, heart palpitation and a pale or sallow complexion. The blood and nerves need attention, and for this purpose Dr. Williams' Pink Pills FOR PALE PEOPLE are woman's best friend. They are particularly adapted as a regulator in diseases peculiar to women. Through the blood and nerves the pills act upon the whole system, bringing brightness to the eye and a glow of health to the cheek. Thousands of wives and mothers have testified to the benefit derived from the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills.

WOMAN'S AILMENTS.

Mrs. Napoleon Poulouit, St. Roche, Que., says: "I am forty-two years of age, and for several years past have suffered from ailments common to women. My blood was poor and watery; I suffered from pains in the limbs and abdomen, and frequently experienced much trouble in walking. My appetite was poor, I had frequent headaches, and sometimes attacks of dizziness. I tried several medicines but found no benefit from them, and almost despaired of regaining my former health. A friend who had been benefited by the use of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People strongly urged me to give them a trial. I did so, and after using a couple of boxes began to feel like a new person. I continued the use of the pills for some weeks longer, when I was as well as ever, had been in my life and able to do my work about the house as though I had never been sick. I look upon Dr. Williams' Pink Pills as a benefactor to humanity, and would strongly urge feeble women to give them a trial."

There are many imitations and substitutes, but these cannot cure and may work further harm. The genuine always have the full name—"Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People," on a box like the engraving on the left.

If your dealer does not have them they will be sent post paid at 50 cents a box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by addressing the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Lowellville, Ont.



CARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS FOR SICK HEADACHE. Effectively cured by these Little Liver Pills. They are a sure relief from Dyspepsia, Indigestion and Too Heavy Eating. A perfect remedy for Irritation, Nausea, Drowsiness, Bad Taste in the Mouth, Coated Tongue, Pain in the Side, TORPID LIVER. They regulate the bowels. Purely Vegetable.

Small Pill. Small Dose. Small Price.

Substitution the fraud of the day. See you get Carter's. Ask for Carter's. Insist and demand. Carter's Little Liver Pills.