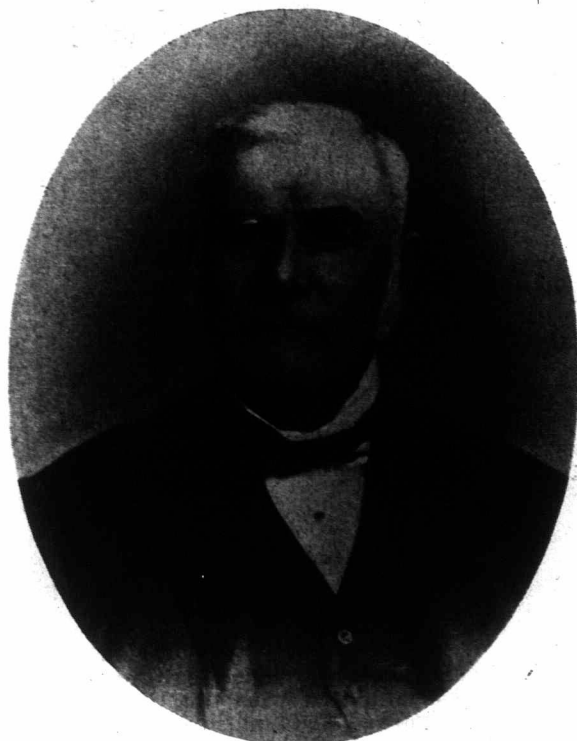


showing. There is good reason to believe that the animals which have been winning at the leading shows in Canada in the last ten years or more have made a very favorable record as regular breeders, and have produced a fair proportion of offspring good enough to make show animals, if need be. The complaint has been made by a contemporary that the classes for breeding animals of the beef breeds at the great agricultural exhibitions are nothing more nor less than fat-stock shows. We are glad to know that in this enlightened age this indictment does not apply to Canadian shows, and we will go further and say that many of the cattle shown, and winning in those classes at American



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shows, would not be tolerated in a fat-stock show in Canada. They would at least have no chance of winning prizes at the hands of our judges. We do not have that sort of stock entered for competition, and if they were presented they would be passed over without any mark of preferment. It is flesh, not fat, that wins, and a good judge, with a trained touch, can readily distinguish between the two qualities. We want, and will have, neither the soft, quivering, jelly-like covering of the carcass properly called blubber, nor the hard, dry, harsh-feeling rolls of fat on the ribs and rump, both of which are the results of the work of men who are ignorant of the first principles of scientific feeding or criminally careless in their methods. Let it be known and understood that adipose tissue is doubly discounted in Canadian showings either for breeding stock or for butchers' beasts, since its inevitable destiny is the rendering tank, and tallow is a low-priced product, the market for which our people are not ambitious to cultivate. Quality against the world should be the motto of Canadian breeders and feeders, and we are making progress along that line. Let the breeders proceed in the course that has proved a success, and to that end let there be no decadence of the cultivation of roots and other succulent food for winter feeding, and let a wise system of feeding mixed rations of nitrogenous foods more generally prevail, in which such muscle-producing foods as bran and oats form a liberal proportion, and with this precaution, coupled with a fair amount of exercise at all seasons, there will be little room for complaint that we are disregarding the law of self-preservation in our herds, or wasting good food in producing cheap meat, if fat, indeed, can properly be called meat—it is grease. Let our judges also—whether in breeding or fat-stock classes—make a memorandum in their memory that a good quality of firm flesh, thickly and smoothly laid over the carcass, and especially where the highest-priced cuts come from, is the mark of merit which must win, keeping always in view in the breeding classes character and breed type, which are qualities not easily described, but nevertheless readily recognized by the experienced and observant breeder. The judges assume a heavy responsibility, as they by their decisions set the standard of merit, and are leaders in the education of young breeders and feeders.

The Ontario Agricultural College and Experimental Farm—Then and Now.

BY PRESIDENT MILLS.

To the Hon. Sir John Carling, of London, belongs the honor of having taken the first steps towards founding a School of Agriculture in the Province of Ontario; to him also is due the credit of having established the Dominion Experimental Farms at a later date.

In his report for the year 1869, addressed to Governor Howland, Mr. Carling, then Commissioner of Agriculture and Arts for Ontario, spoke in complimentary terms of the system of general education in this Province, and then said: "I have a growing conviction that something more is required to give our education a more practical character, especially in reference to the agricultural and mechanical classes of the community, which comprise the great bulk of the population and constitute the principal means of our wealth and prosperity. What now appears to be especially needed, in addition to the ordinary instruction in common schools, is the introduction of elementary instruction in what may be termed the foundation principles of agricultural and mechanical science, and I hope to be able, in the next report I may have the honor of presenting to Your Excellency, to record the fact of a commencement being made with a prospect of success."

REV. W. F. CLARK, COMMISSIONER.

On the 12th August, 1869, Mr. Carling appointed the Rev. W. F. Clark, of Guelph, a Commissioner to visit the principal agricultural colleges of the United States, gain what information he could and report with the view of establishing in this Province a school to give instruction in agriculture and kindred subjects, and to conduct experiments



HON. S. C. WOOD.

Second Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario.

for the purpose of solving some of the problems which confronted those who were engaged in agricultural and horticultural pursuits. Mr. Clark's report, which appeared on the 8th June, 1870, was concise, comprehensive and scholarly, and withal practical and sensible in its suggestions and recommendations. It furnished the Minister with the desired information and indicated in outline the scope and character of a school of agriculture such as it was thought should be established in the Province of Ontario.

SCHOOLS OF AGRICULTURE AND PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

So, in pursuance of his previous intimation, Mr. Carling, in his report for 1870, definitely proposed the establishment of two schools, one for agriculture and the other for mechanic arts, and the outcome of his recommendation and subsequent action were the founding of the School of Practical Science in Toronto, and the purchase of 600 acres of land for a School of Agriculture at Mimico, seven miles west of Toronto.

The land was purchased in 1871, and a contract for the erection of school buildings for the accommodation of 100 resident pupils, at a cost of \$47,900, was entered into in November of that year; but, a change of Government having taken place that fall, the work was delayed for a time, and objections urged against the Mimico site by prominent farmers and stockmen caused some hesitation as to what should be done.

HON. ARCHIBALD MCKELLAR.

At length the Hon. Archibald McKellar, the new Commissioner of Agriculture, requested the Provincial Board of Agriculture and Arts, and afterwards Professor Miles and Dr. Kedzie, of the Michigan Agricultural College, to examine the site and

report as to its suitability for an experimental farm.

Both reports were unfavorable to the site, chiefly on account of the character of the soil and the lack of church and other privileges such as are enjoyed in the immediate neighborhood of a town or city; and the result was that a committee, consisting of John Dunlop, John Miller, John Dryden, the Hon. David Christie, and Robert N. Ball, was appointed to examine farms in the neighborhood of Whitby, Guelph, and Woodstock, with the view of getting a suitable site for the proposed school. This Committee reported the facts, without a definite recommendation, on the 13th December, 1872, and left it for the Government to decide, which it did by purchasing the Guelph farm of 550 acres from F. W. Stone, a political opponent, in the early part of 1873.

Some additions were made as soon as possible to the farmhouse, which still constitutes the first two stories of the main building, in order to get ready for 30 pupils at as early a date as practicable.

NAME AND MOTTO.

The name decided upon was the Ontario School of Agriculture and Experimental Farm, and the motto suggested by Geo. Buckland, the genial and scholarly Professor of Agriculture in the University of Toronto, was *Practice with Science*.

LIBERAL TERMS.

In accordance with the recommendation of a Commission appointed to prepare by-laws and regulations for the school, the first years were to be regarded as a Preparatory Term, in which student help was to be largely employed to put the farm and horticultural department into shape for practical instruction at a later date. During this period students were to work seven hours a day in the outside departments, and for his labor in these departments each was to receive instruction, lodging, board and washing, with a bonus of \$50 in cash at the end of the year, in case he completed it satisfactorily and passed the prescribed examinations on the course of instruction.

OPENING OF THE SCHOOL IN 1874.

On the 29th July, 1873, Henry McCandless, from Cornell University, was appointed the first Principal; and on the 26th March, 1874, there appeared over the signature of Mr. McCandless a long advertisement announcing the opening of the school on the 1st May, 1874.

LIST OF OFFICERS AT OPENING.

H. McCandless, from Cornell University... Principal.
Rev. W. F. Clark, from Guelph... Rector.
Jas. McNair, from Richmond Hill... Farm Foreman.
James Stirton, from Guelph... Stockman.
Thomas Farnham, from Toronto... Gardener.
Jas. McIntosh, from Guelph... Foreman Carpenter.
Mrs. Petrie, from Guelph... Housekeeper.
T. Walton, from Toronto... Engineer.



HON. A. M. ROSS.

Third Commissioner of Agriculture for Ontario.

Twenty-eight students entered the first term, and the outlook seemed encouraging, but the officers soon began to quarrel among themselves. In a short time the dispute between Principal McCandless and three or four members of his staff became so violent that Mr. Clark resigned on the 9th of June; and on the 13th of July, twenty-six of the students in attendance sent a petition to the Hon. Oliver Mowat, asking for the removal of the Principal. Mr. McCandless resigned on the 18th of July, and the Government began to realize that its troubles had only begun.

THE SECOND PRINCIPAL.

Charles Roberts, Esq., of Haslemere, Surrey, England, a prominent graduate of Cirencester