

## The College and the Farmer.

**T**HE Ontario Agricultural College was established for the benefit of the farmers of the Province. For nearly thirty-five years the Legislature has appropriated public funds for its maintenance and extension. Many men have been giving the enthusiastic service of the best years of their lives to carry on the work and to accomplish the purpose for which it was founded. It is the one educational institution that belongs to the farmers of this country, and is conducted for their direct benefit. It may then be in order from time to time to ask whether it is doing the work for which it was intended, and whether the farmers are getting from it all that they have a right to demand. The agricultural interests of this Province are so important, not only in themselves, but also in their relationship to the other industries, and the amount of money expended is so large that every citizen of this country, whether farmer or not, has a right to make close scrutiny of the working of the institution, and to be free to demand a satisfactory answer as to whether the college is working along right and profitable lines. The money expended is public money, and, therefore, all persons have, or should have, the right to make fair enquiry. Those who administer the affairs of the institution have also the right to demand that the enquiry shall be fair, and that criticism shall be based only upon full and accurate information.

The first duty devolving upon the

institution is that it shall provide an education for young men who propose to make agriculture their life work. There has been prevalent an opinion that the College would or should take any young man, whether he comes from Ontario or any other country, whether he has been brought up on a farm or in the city, whether he has any acquaintance with farm work or not, and teach him how to farm and to farm in the best manner. This would be impracticable. The College is not for that purpose. There is a better way and a cheaper way of learning the rudiments of farming, and that way is by direct, practical experience, upon an Ontario farm, under the direction of an Ontario farmer. Having an acquaintance with the general practice of Ontario farming the young man may come to the College and expect to receive an education, a training that will explain to him fully the theories of the practice, sharpen his mind so that he can continue to train himself, improve his methods and put him in touch with all the latest and most promising sources of information, so that he can keep in touch with all the work of those who are foremost in the industry. The aim of the College course of study is to raise the farmer from a mere laborer or drudge and to give a training that will assist him to work in the highest level of modern agricultural progress. The claim is not made that only a College course will enable a farmer so to