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schools are about equivalent to the two years offered by Guelph and Manitoba agricultural colleges, with particular adaptation to Western conditions. Students who complete the two years' course at one of the provincial schools will be admitted directly into an advanced degree course as offered by the Provincial University.

Extension Work

The staff at each school is composed of thoroughly practical men, and during the seven months of summer when the school is not in session, these men devote their entire time to agricultural extension work. In short, this extension work may be said to cover any practical assistance to the farmers in the district covered by each school. It is needless to say that a good deal of this extension work is carried on through the farmers' sons who attend the school during the winter. The animal husbandry instructor has outlined a series of experiments to be conducted by 20 of the students along the lines of the summer feeding of hogs.

The agronomy instructor has an experiment outlined in connection with alfalfa, and approximately 20 of the students will undertake this experiment.

In addition to this, the students of the school have formed an experimental

rather follow out the experiments of the various stations and test the grains, grasses, etc., in a commercial way. It is an interesting point to note that these demonstration farms are paying their own way, a thing that is perhaps very unusual with demonstration farms in the Dominion of Canada.

The students thus have a demonstration farm at all times run along ordinary farm lines and operated as a paying proposition. The instruction gained by observing the work as it is carried on is thus made all the more valuable. The manager of the demonstration farm gives instruction to the boys under the heading of "Farm Management" and, needless to say, his talks are borne out by the actual work on the farm.

Economy of Equipment

The school of agriculture does not need to carry an expensive equipment in the way of the various classes of stock for educational purposes. The stock that is used for judging purposes is just the ordinary stock that is carried on the demonstration farm. A team of horses may be drawing straw, ice, hay, grain or anything on the farm, and at noon the harness is taken off them and they are sent to the stock judging room for the use of the students. In this way, the operation of the schools of



Girls in Domestic Science Class, Olds Agricultural School, Alta.

union, and under this union a great many varieties of grains and grasses will be tested out. The agronomy instructor of the school is the secretary of the union and will be in a position to give practical advice at all times.

Cow Testing Associations

Cow Testing Associations are being started, and so great is the call for assistance in this line, that it will require the balance of the staff to visit the students and farmers once per month to weigh and test the milk of the cows that are entered into the cow testing association. It is an interesting fact to note that 20 of the boys of the school and 11 of the girls have signified their intention of keeping the records of the herds at home, with a view to securing the advantage of the cow testing association. It will thus be seen that the staff are kept directly in touch with the farming community surrounding each school.

Co-operation With Demonstration Farms

A point that might be brought out in this connection is with reference to the co-operation between the government demonstration farms and the schools of agriculture. The schools of agriculture occupy 20 acres of land on the corner of the demonstration farms. The balance of the land is handled under the direction of the Superintendent of Demonstration farms, who conducts each farm as a more or less commercial proposition. Herds of dairy cows representing the various breeds and including milking Shorthorns are found on each demonstration farm, and milk of superior quality is shipped to large centres like Calgary and Edmonton. The Demonstration Farms are not handled entirely in the way of experiment stations, but

agriculture is very much less than it otherwise would be.

It might be added that of the 20 acres under the supervision of the schools of agriculture, about 15 are set aside for experimental plots, where the various classes of grain, grasses, shade trees, shrubs, fruits and berries, are tested out in the interests of the farming community. All those who visit the demonstration farms and the schools of agriculture are high in their praise of the practical nature of the work that is given to the students and of the useful information and help that is available for the farmers living within the district covered by one of Alberta's schools of agriculture.

There are three ways in which a soil loses its moisture—by percolation, evaporation, transpiration through the leaves of the plant in the form of vapor.

Losses by evaporation may be reduced to a certain extent by mulching the soil. Mulches from a layer which is rather impervious to the movement of water. Generally speaking the average mulch is about three inches deep and is obtained either by using a harrow or some other form of cultivation. It is by the aid of mulch that the dry farmer is able to conserve sufficient amounts of moisture to produce crops.

Losses from transpiration cannot be controlled to any extent as they are governed largely by climatic condition, the principal agents being heat, humidity and air movement. In an arid climate losses of soil moisture become very large because of the dry air and intense sunlight. Consequently larger amounts of moisture are needed for the successful production of crops in an arid than humid climate.