

DR. A. P. REID said that this whole subject is one of practical education. It is going to take time not only for our legislature, but the people as well, to appreciate the matter. You know the old saying "that anything is good enough for a farmer," and unfortunately it is going to take time to rub that out. There is no calling in life that requires a more profound knowledge of his business than an agriculturist. Suppose you take my own profession, that of a doctor; it is supposed to be a learned profession, and it necessarily is. A man has to spend sometimes five or ten years in order to be thoroughly acquainted with the principles, and yet what have you to learn— anatomy of the human body and the diseases to which it is subject, and also the best means for looking after it, and that is all. If we take the legal profession—a lawyer has simply to learn the laws of his own country, and the general principles of laws in other countries. But the farmer has got to understand botany, understand the laws which regulate plant life, as much medicine as a doctor, because he has to do with the construction and treatment of animals that are built on the same lines and subject, to a great extent, to the same diseases as the human family, and require somewhat similar treatment, and he requires to have as much, and certainly as general practical knowledge of the care of the sick as a doctor. He requires to know as much law as a lawyer to keep out of law. As a rule he is tolerably well posted in theology. But what he requires to learn is the laws which govern the tremendous field in which he labours every day of his life. He requires to know the laws of the weather; the laws which regulate the growth and the development of the plants; he wants to understand something of geology in order that he may thoroughly understand the property of the different soils which he has to deal with; then, if he is going to be a practical man, he must understand the principles of practical surveying, drainage, and the means of carrying it out; and he has also got to know the laws of the business world; and a business man means one who is able to make the best use of those things which happens to be at his hand to turn them to the most economical result. All these things the farmer needs to know, and must know if he is going to succeed. Therefore, I say, that a farmer needs a technical education, and we should do all we can to establish schools to give him that education.

The resolution, upon being put, was passed unanimously.