

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION

A description of our educational institutions would be incomplete without reference to our provincial agricultural college, which is a part of the university. The college possesses an excellent farm and suitable building for carrying on its work, which followed the lines of research, teaching and extension. The extension department is entrusted with the task of carrying to Saskatchewan farmers the results of the investigations which promise to promote better farming. The work of agricultural societies, including exhibitions, stallion shows, plowing matches, seed fairs and standing crops competitions is directed by the extension department, which also organizes short courses in agricultural and domestic science. The better farming trains, operated annually under the joint auspices of the Department of Agriculture, the College of Agriculture and the railways, are important factors in the educational work in behalf of better agriculture. The homemakers' clubs, with 160 branches, organized by the College of Agriculture, contribute largely to the enrichment of rural life. Experimental farms, under the operation of the Dominion Government, have done valuable work in Saskatchewan.

These agencies, which express the refinement and perfection of agricultural knowledge, are at the service of the new comer. But important as they are, they do not grip the imagination in just the same way as the work of the pioneers in solving the problem of soil tillage and moisture conservation, which changed crop uncertainty into a definite expectation. But the vital point to remember is that this information, which is now the common property of new settlers, was found by the pioneer only after years of trial and disappointment; it was found by the men who paid their land in experience, but the new settler who pays cash for his land benefits equally, and this item alone removes the apparent disparity between the pioneer homesteader of yesterday and the cash buyer of to-day.

Time forbids more than the mere mention of a few of the other measures devised by the Saskatchewan Government for the assistance of agriculture and the enrichment of rural life, such as free labor bureaus under government direction, the selection of suitable farm laborers and domestic servants in Great Britain, the securing and distribution of harvest labor, assistance in the organization and construction of rural telephones, and the circulation of travelling libraries. But the new comer may be assured that in Saskatchewan he will find a progressive people, served by a government desirous of giving efficient and progressive administration.