

ever, to give elasticity to our Course of Study, provisions were made in the Regulations of 1891 that Agriculture should be taught in any Rural School when so directed by the trustees, and although five years have elapsed since that Regulation was approved, so far as I know, not a single Rural School has availed itself of the privilege thus afforded. For over ten years High School trustees had the privilege of ordering that Agricultural Chemistry should be taught in the High Schools, and so far as I know, not a single Board of High School Trustees has directed instruction to be given on that subject. If these two circumstances are indications of public opinion with regard to the study of Agriculture, then there is but little demand for its introduction either into Public or High Schools.

It may be said again, that the High Schools create a distaste for an agricultural life. Is this the fault of the Course of Study? The same thing happens, as I have already shown, in the United States, where the student is specially engaged in the study of farming in the Agricultural Colleges. That our High Schools have not altogether failed in this respect is evident from the fact previously stated that in 1895, 1,112 pupils left the High Schools to renew the pursuit of Agriculture. Since 1872, 15,598 High School pupils, in all, returned to the farm after having completed their High School Course of Study.

#### WHY DO BOYS LEAVE THE FARM ?

If we do not appear to find in our School System sufficient reason for the large transfer of population from the farms to the cities and towns, which we know to have taken place, may we not enquire what other influences could have produced the change. Let me enumerate a few :—

(1) There has been a great reduction in the profits of farming, and as labor and capital always seek the best market, the effect upon the rural population must necessarily be injurious.

(2) Improved machinery has rendered human labor less necessary than before, no doubt displacing several thousands who would be employed under former conditions.

(3) The opening up of the country by means of railways has increased the attractiveness of urban life to farmers' sons and daughters, and, on that account, farm life has become somewhat more irksome.

(4) The social habits of the people and the glamour thrown around the enjoyments of urban life have had an effect on the rural population.

(5) The abnormal growth of many of our manufacturing industries attracted many young men and women from the farm. In 1878 did we not invite the people of Canada to rush to our cities and towns and to