

PART I.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT.

Our work during the past year has been pleasant, and in every way satisfactory. There has been perfect harmony among the officers of the institution, and every department has earnestly striven to do the best possible, both for the students in attendance and for the country at large. Within the last week or ten days, I have read twelve of the parts into which our report for 1895 is divided, and I have no hesitation in saying that the work done and instruction given, are on practical lines and in keeping with the great agricultural province which we have the honor to represent.

CERTAIN CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE COLLEGE.

Our College is unique among the institutions which provide education for the people of this province. It is the only educational institution in Ontario, excepting commercial schools and ladies' colleges, which has to rely wholly upon its merits. Students are legislated into our high schools, universities, theological halls, law school, medical schools, dental college, College of Pharmacy, and Veterinary College. If men and women were allowed to teach, preach, and practise law, medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, and the veterinary art, without passing a prescribed examination, the attendance of students at high schools, universities, and most of our technical schools and colleges, would be only a small fraction of what it is at the present time. Very few seek knowledge for its own sake.

If we could secure the enactment of a law which would compel people to pass a prescribed literary and professional examination before engaging in general agriculture, stock-raising, dairying, market gardening, or fruit growing, it would require a score of agricultural colleges in this province to accommodate the young men who would seek instruction in agriculture and the sciences related thereto. But, under present conditions, persons can engage in agricultural pursuits without any kind of preparation; and agricultural colleges, not having behind them the potent leverage of legal enactments, have to depend for their attendance solely upon the character of the education which they give, and upon the desire of young men here and there to obtain knowledge for its own sake, and for the possible advantage which it may be to them in their efforts to make a living. Under such circumstances, it is not surprising that the attendance of students at purely agricultural colleges is usually small.

Further, low prices for the products of the farm, and other things which make farming less profitable or less desirable as an occupation, have a two-fold tendency as regards education: First, to reduce the attendance of students at agricultural colleges; secondly, to drive young men from the farm to the high schools, and thence to the university or one of the technical colleges, with a view to gaining admission into some of the learned or other professions, where they each hope to make an easier and more respectable living than is possible on the farm.