

# THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. \*

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## Editorial.

### The Duty of the Veterinary Profession.

It might be assumed by some people that the entire cause for the lower standard of veterinary education in Canada rested with the veterinary college now in existence in the Queen City. Such, however, is not the case, although the bulk of the blame is undoubtedly chargeable to that institution. Whatever may have been true in the past does not exonerate the profession from not taking a more active interest in the advancement of the profession. In other words, now that the University of Toronto and the Veterinary College have decided on a higher training in future, it is up to the veterinarians throughout Canada, and especially those in Ontario, to do something more than has been done.

No profession in Canada has been so lethargic, so utterly indifferent to progress, as has the veterinary profession, too many seemingly being contented with food and clothing, beyond which they did not care. That the profession had no social standing, and that to enter it branded one either as lacking in aims or with a predilection for liquor and fast horses, never seems to have dawned on the comprehension of many; consequently, the need for improvement was not heeded. The duty of the profession is therefore to get together and go to the Legislatures in the various Provinces and have enacted such legislation as will ensure no college being allowed to turn out veterinarians short of three years, and with the educational standing as laid in the University statute; and that no graduate from a veterinary college whose course is below the standing above mentioned be allowed to practice in Canada.

While many Toronto graduates go to Chicago to take up further studies, yet many of the three-year schools on the south side of the boundary are not what they should be by any means. Although nominally three-year schools with a corresponding standard, virtually they are not one whit better than the Toronto school, except in clinical instruction; in fact, the only schools living up to their professions of high standard are the State-supported schools, such as Cornell, Iowa, Pennsylvania and Ohio. If, then, legislation is passed making it illegal to run a veterinary college of a standard inferior to the University statute, no hardship will be inflicted on the Toronto institution, which we understand will rise to the desired standard, but which could not be expected to raise the standard if colleges of the present low standards and type were permitted to exist and grind out graduates. Veterinarians, get together, put your shoulders to the wheel and your ducats into the hands of competent men to secure the necessary legislation at the next session of the Ontario and Territorial Legislatures.

Veterinary associations should not be condemned for contributing moneys for the erection of monuments to dead veterinarians, yet we hold that a monument in the form of legislation advancing the standard of veterinary education in Canada is much to be preferred; the dead past is gone, the living present is here, and the to-be-born future is drawing nearer, therefore concentrate on the desired end and fight (if necessary) until the requisite legislation is placed on the statute books.

### The Advisory Board of the College Select Strong Men.

The opportunity which has been afforded the farmers of Manitoba of being directly represented on the Advisory Board of the Agricultural College should be gratifying to all. On May 10th representatives of the various agricultural societies in the Province will meet to select four of the ten members of that influential body.

Seeing that this Board is to have vested in it the power of appointing the staff, outlining the curriculum, and generally directing the institution, it is imperative on the delegates who will assemble at Brandon, Portage la Prairie, Carman and Winnipeg, that a strong man be selected from each one. Whether the college is to be of practical benefit to agriculture or not will depend on the lines upon which it is established. We have not arrived at that stage in our system of agricultural education when it is advisable to offer a course of study such as will turn out professors in agricultural science. If the college is to be of the greatest good to the greatest number it must be established along such lines as will merit the sympathy and support of the farmers and their sons and daughters, and enable those who attend to fit themselves for more intelligent work, as well as to become a greater force for good in the community in which they live.

The men who are to take seats upon the Advisory Board as representatives elected by the farmers, must do so prepared to give an opinion as to what the country needs in the line of agricultural education, and they must be prepared to insist upon their views being respected. It is to be hoped, therefore, that those who should be most directly interested will consider the appointment of these four representatives as a most important step in the establishment of an institution that, if properly managed, will prove a mighty factor in the development of the agricultural resources of Canada's prairie province.

### The Profession of Agriculture Unrepresented.

We do not believe that it is intentional on the part of the University of Manitoba to slight the profession of agriculture, but the fact remains, that although there are in this Province graduates and undergraduates of the best agricultural colleges in the world, yet not one is to be found on the University Council Board. Law, divinity, medicine (human) and the teaching profession are all represented, yet agriculture is ignored. From the remarks of the Principal of Manitoba College, let fall at a recent conclave of the University Council, a biologist is to be appointed, who will be called upon to lecture to the students in the agricultural college soon to be established. We submit that neither the B.A. nor the M.A. or LL.D. is competent to draw up a curriculum for agricultural students, yet how often such people assume without hesitation such responsibility. The experiment has been tried in many agricultural colleges with dire results, and the only way to avoid such a contingency here is to elect one or two graduates in agriculture to the council of the University. While the B. A. is as plentiful in the country as blackbirds in a harvest field, he is, generally speaking, unequal in breadth of education to the present-day B. S. A., or Bachelor of Agriculture, and is, therefore, not entitled to a hearing any more than is his brother student in agriculture. It savors strongly of presumption, that a man whose qualifications are solely of the

classical order should attempt to indicate the course to be followed in a professional institution such as is the agricultural college. It seems to be the particular mania of the graduate in arts that he, and he alone, possesses all the culture to be had in this world, and that no educational course can be started without he has a finger in the pie. As an illustration of the above, we have only to mention the effrontery displayed by the University of Toronto a short time ago, when the leaders in that institution sought to divert the college of forestry from Guelph, where it rightfully belongs.

### Advice for the Hired Man.

"The laborer is worthy of his hire," if he takes an interest in his work. To labor is honorable, and the one who engages therein, be it in any pursuit, however humble, but calculated to create wealth, has reason to be proud of his calling. Unfortunately, too many who engage as farm laborers do so merely for the money they can earn thereby, and not because of the means that it provides of learning how to do things. Those who do this are only destined to be all their lives "hewers of wood and drawers of water" for those who think. On the other hand, a glimpse across the world shows hundreds of the greatest men in the commercial and political world who began as young men in the humblest walks in life. A search for the records of these men reveals the fact that they worked not for the sake of the small wage which they could receive, but because of the opportunity which their employment afforded them of showing what they could do. There is not a man engaged as a laborer upon any farm in Canada to-day who may not improve his time and ability by learning how to do his work better. And let it be said right here, that no sane person will go away with the idea that there is nothing to be learned about farming. Too often the hired man is the first to think that he knows all about it; but the fellow who intends to get a good farm of his own some day, and have constructed thereon a happy home, will improve himself as the days go by, by acquiring a knowledge of why things are done as well as how. We shortly will have in Manitoba an agricultural college, which if patronized by the hired man will also enable him to rise to higher things.

By taking an interest in his work, and making an endeavor to perform it more intelligently, the farm laborer will prove himself worth more to his employer; hence, when the time for re-engagement comes round, a higher wage may be commanded. How often one hears it said, "Oh, I'm not getting what I am worth, and I'm not going to overdo myself." Let it be placed on record, however, that the type of man who says that never amounted to very much in any country. He is among the class of never-do-wells who are always kicking against the Government and every person else, and they seem to think that someone is always out to do them.

The man who knows that it is no disgrace to engage in any form of legitimate labor, who does his work willingly, with a cheerful face, and is always ready to learn, will get there every time. He is the type that will make Canada a powerful nation.

In undertaking to grow roots or potatoes this year, don't forget that hand labor is mighty costly. Plan to do everything possible by horse power.