

The facts given, with others that might be added, point to the probability that agriculture in this country will soon occupy the same relative position to other interests that agriculture in the United States to-day bears to other interests in that country. Forty-five years ago the value of the products of the farms of the United States was equal to that of American manufacturing establishments. In 1905 the output of American steel mills alone was about equal to that of the farms of the Republic, and the annual value of agricultural products—great as this is—is only one-fourth that of the output of the factories of the country.

It is stating a fact within the knowledge of every one who reads, when it is said that the agricultural interest—despite all the compliments paid it by the politicians at election time—has not exercised that measure of control in the direction of public affairs in Canada which its importance would have warranted it in exercising. Those who control legislation live wholly or largely in cities. They have become more or less impressed by this modern craze for wealth—the wealth that comes from stock manipulation, real estate speculation and Cobalt gambling. They have become affected by that volatile spirit which seems to generate naturally where people assemble together in large numbers and their minds turn from serious and difficult problems to the subject of the moment's excitement as naturally as the needle turns to the pole. Moreover, they are surrounded daily by men representing their other interests—men possessed of social accomplishments and the faculty of making things pleasant for their guests. Is it cause for wonder, even

without any suggestions of improper influences, that there is a growing deafness to the voice coming up from the farm? And if this is the condition of things to-day, what will be the condition twenty years hence, when other interests have outstripped agriculture in development?

There is no reason, however, why agriculture in Canada, even when it becomes less important relatively than now, should not have greater control politically than it has at present. In Ontario nearly 60 per cent of the total municipal assessment is levied on rural municipalities; in New York only about 13 per cent of the total of assessed values is represented by farm property. Still, not a single bill to which farmers objected has, of late years, passed the New York State Legislature. Why? Because there is in York State a farmers' organization with 70,000 members which scrutinizes every bill as it goes through the House. Not a bill goes through the United States Congress, affecting agriculture, without a legislative committee representing a farmers' organization with 500,000 members being consulted.

What is the lesson? That if the Canadian farmer desires to hold his own he must organize too. I can conceive of no greater service the graduates of the O. A. C. can render their Province, than by going back to their old homes and there setting an example in good farming and becoming apostles in the movement for organization. The old men are fixed in their ideas, and they are rapidly passing from the stage. Hope is in the young, and the young should find their natural leaders in the graduates of our Provincial Agricultural University.