

tised, but the room is so small that it is very crowded for more than two or three to work at once.

STRANGER - What is that small room for in the corner?

STUDENT - That is the foreman's office and there is just room for him and the cat. In fact we expect that some day the partitions will have to be torn down to extricate him from his small box. He is perfectly safe in there from any attack, as when he gets in there is not room for anyone else. This other house is for the flowering and large plants.

STRANGER - How nicely they look and how tastefully arranged! You seem to have some large plants which have scarcely room in height.

STUDENT - Yes. Unless a change is made before another year the greater part of these large plants will have to be thrown out or given away. There is not room for them to grow more than another year, and after that something must be done. These are mostly rare plants such as the Australian cypress and gum tree; also palm trees and some very large Agaves, all of which have taken a great deal of time and trouble to bring them to their present state.

STRANGER - It is a great pity that such fine plants should be compelled to seek a home elsewhere or be put out to the mercy of the frosts of winter for the want of a suitable place to keep them, and I hope that it may not be so. Does it not require much time, and is not considerable expense to keep these old glass roofs in repair?

STUDENT - Yes, it takes "Laddie" and a couple of lads a great deal of time to keep them in order. In hot weather the sun shines through the glass so strongly that it almost cooks the plants, and the gardener is compelled to construct shades with newspapers or anything that he can find.

STRANGER - It must be considerable trouble to water the plants properly, is it not?

STUDENT - Yes. The gardener sprays them with an old-fashioned sprinkler, and, as you doubtless are aware, plants require a great deal of water, and it makes this portion of the work quite laborious.

STRANGER - I presume that horticulture is on the curriculum at the College, and that considerable stress is put upon the subject as it is a very important branch of agriculture and a profitable one as well?

STUDENT - We have a full course of lectures on horticulture from one of the Professors, and a course of practical lectures from the gardener; besides these we do practical work in the green-houses and on the garden. The appliances, however, for teaching practical horticulture are very limited, and this branch of the course does not receive that full attention, especially in the practical part, which its importance demands. There is probably no branch of farm work which requires more skill, and in which greater improvement is needed than in the management of the horticultural department on the ordinary farm, and I think that we students ought to go from here with a much better knowledge of practical and scientific horticulture than the average farmer possesses, and this knowledge cannot be obtained in that degree which it ought to be, without better means for teaching and practising the science. How nice it is to see farmers' houses tastefully decorated with beautiful flowers; the lawns and walks nicely arranged and kept clean; the orchard and fruit garden the very best that can be kept; and everywhere signs that the owner is a progressive farmer and has an eye for the beautiful. The boys and

girls that grow up in such homes will be a credit to the community and will possess that refinement which a constant association with the objects of nature and the influence of horticultural pursuits has a tendency to produce.

STRANGER - You wax eloquent, my young friend, and I heartily agree with the sentiments expressed by you. But when do you expect that new houses will be built?

STUDENT - That I do not know. They have been promised for about twelve years and had it not been for recent losses by fire we would doubtless have had them before this. I will tell you something that you need not tell to everyone - a little confidence story - you see, there is likely to be a general election before long and the Government wishes to be as economical as possible, especially at such a time.

STRANGER - Well, my young friend, I hope that your wish will be realised and that before I come again you will have new houses which will be a credit to the Institution. I am exceedingly obliged to you for your kindness in showing me around the place and shall be happy to return the favor. Good-day.

STUDENT - Thank you for your kind words. I hope to see you again, and to see before long what you have so kindly wished. Good-bye.



SYNOPSIS OF AN ADDRESS

By Prof. James W. Robertson, Dairy Commissioner, at the Meeting of the Ontario Experimental Union, on "The Need and Uses of Experimental Work in Dairying."

Improved methods of agriculture have grown out of experimental work, pursued with more or less intelligence and care since the times of Adam and his remarkable son, whose jealousy and envy at Abel's success seem to have become the possessions or possessors of some of his craft, by whom every effort to do things in any other way than according to their preconceived notions, is taken as a personal rebuke and cause for dislike to this day. An increased knowledge of the laws that govern the changes in nature, which farming seeks to bring about and control, has come from crude and intermittent experiments as well as from the well-planned, skillfully-conducted and continuously-pursued investigations, which have been made at the Experiment Stations, so literally devised and supported by Governments on this continent during recent years. In time to come, experimental work in dairying should not be confined to the Government Experiment Stations. The Ontario Experimental Union may, with advantage, take up some branches of it, with the certainty of giving valuable service, enlightenment and encouragement to the farmers of the Province. The need of further investigation, through experiment, has increased rather than diminished. The purpose of all intelligent effort in farming, is the creation of wealth and the making of profits for the persons who are engaged in that occupation.