

Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

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AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, &c.

We are determined not to lose sight of this great desideratum—a suitable Institution for the Education of Farmer's Sons in their PROFESSION. There is nothing like doing things in the "nick of time." Our legislature is now assembled. One great Public Institution, the UNIVERSITY, is expected to be finally settled, and while the subject is under consideration, we shall not omit to put in our claim, nor, as the farmer's organ, fail to remind our Representatives, that as a class, the agriculturists of Canada demand some adequate provision for the establishment and support of an Educational Institution for their advancement. We think they have every right to claim a direct interest as a class, in the University revenue. The agriculturists of Canada, and agriculturists every where, are the "first class," in the noblest and best sense. The Merchants, Mechanics, Priests, Lawyers, Artists, Literati, &c., &c., are all non-producers—mere hangers-on, dependants of the husbandman. He can do without them, they cannot live without him. If you wish to see genuine virtue, true patriotism, unostentatious benevolence, sterling honesty and practical piety, go among the cultivators of the soil. Look not for these rarities in the crowded city; they will not vegetate in the tainted atmosphere that surrounds the haunts of busy, plotting rivalry, priestly intrigue, scheming political selfishness, legal trickery, and reckless commercial gambling. Even in a country so young as Canada, with a changing, heterogeneous population, the truth of this contrast becomes every day plainer to the view. The sturdy yeomen are the true conservatives of society. They are the substratum—the foundation of the social fabric—and if that be defective, the whole building will tumble in ruins. It has been so in all past time, in all other countries: it is so in ours. Why then should it be thought unnecessary to afford every facility for the acquisition of knowledge by farmers? Is the common school good enough for them? Is it because they are as a class, compared with others, virtuous, patriotic, benevolent, honest, &c., that they need not also be intelligent? Must we give 8 or 10,000 pounds a-year for the support of Professors, with their philosophic apparatus and appliances, and scholarships, and prizes, and low charges for tuition, in order that a few citizens may educate their sons for the learned professions, while not £1000 is given to support an Institution for teaching sound principles to those who are intended for a profession, not "learned," it may be, but vitally necessary; a profession, in the pursuit of which, the lights of modern science, the discoveries and improvements of modern times, are absolutely essential to complete and certain success? Must the "arts" be encouraged, while the "nursing mother of all the arts" is left to shift for herself?

But we leave this broad, general view for the present, and come to the *£. s. d.* aspect of the question. We said the farmers of Canada have a right to claim a direct interest in the University revenue. It may be answered, so they have, and will have the privilege of sending their sons to be educated within its walls, on the same terms as others. But they don't want the kind of learning to be obtained there. It is not suited to them, unless they wish to become Lawyers or Doctors—either of which will probably be the very worst use that farmers can put their sons to. No, the farmers of this country, as such, will be practically excluded from the benefits of the University, unless a portion of its funds be appropriated for the support of an Agricultural School. So far as we can learn,

the estate, *i. e.* the *lots of land*, and their proceeds, which the hard work of farmers, in clearing away the bush, and in making roads around these "reserves," has rendered valuable, and to the benefits of which they are therefore pre-eminently entitled, is quite sufficient to sustain a University properly conducted, suitable to the present wants of the country, and a School of Agriculture, on a respectable scale, besides. We admit, that in one view, it will be quite indifferent, as to the public source from which the appropriation come, provided it do come, and be sufficient in amount. But we know that the public funds are already mortgaged almost beyond redemption, and we are not going to expose ourselves to the objection that we show what is wanted, without showing that it can be granted. We won't take the answer—"we have no funds." We point to the available means, and we assert our right to participate. If other provision be made, we shall not complain, though as economists, and using our right as constituents to judge of the proper course to be pursued by our representatives in dealing with public property, we are of opinion, that the University funds are the legitimate means for such a purpose.

In our next number we shall develop a scheme, by which we think the process of establishing such an Institution may be begun at once.

RULES FOR FARMERS' CLUBS.

We promised in our last that we would give in this number a set of Rules for the guidance of these Associations, which we hope to see springing up in all parts of the country. The farmers must begin to study their own interests, not merely in the "Home" department, but without and beyond their "line fences." They must speak with a voice that will be heard in the halls of legislation. Merchants have their "Boards of Trade" to watch over their interests, ready to take the alarm at the first note of danger. If a Bill is brought in which contains even an obnoxious clause, they scan its provisions and weigh well the probable and possible contingencies that may arise in its application to their business, and if disadvantage is apprehended, the remonstrance is framed and despatched to head-quarters before the bill can become law. They even condescend to take the interest of the farmers under their powerful protection, and in their reports and proceedings evince the most ardent desire for the prosperity of agriculture! Well they may; for if the farmer is discouraged or unjustly taxed or impeded in his honest operations, they must suffer first. Insolvency, bankruptcy, composition with creditors, and "running away to the States," then become familiar occurrences in the cities and places where merchants and speculators "do congregate." Mechanics, even, have their Institutes, lectures and trade combinations, but the farmer, as he follows his plough, may sing the old song—

"I care for nobody, no, not I,
For nobody cares for me."

And the whole class may add this corollary—

"Nobody cares for us, no, not they,
For—we don't care for ourselves."

Let them awake to the necessities of their position, and be indifferent no longer. We take the following Rules from an American publication—they may be modified to suit the circumstances:—

RULES.

1. That the officers of this Club shall consist of a Chairman, Secretary (who shall also act as Treasurer), and a Committee of five members, all of whom shall be elected annually. Five of the Committee, including the Secretary, to form a quorum.
2. That at each meeting the authority of the Chairman upon disputed matters shall be final.
3. That it shall be the duty of the Secretary to receive the