

Experimenting is the most practical side of our work, and to give some idea of what is being done, I may state that last year enough grain and fertilizers were sent out for over 300 plots. Six experiments of this nature were going on, and some sixty-eight experimenters engaged in it. Our experiments have not always been what some would call successful; nor could we expect them to be. They are none the less useful, however, as they may prevent errors of a like nature on a more extended scale. We are thankful for the hearty support given by those who have helped us conduct experiments in the past, and we still count their favor in the future.

We are grateful to the O. A. C. REVIEW, which should receive our liberal and hearty support for devoting so much space to our Union work. I agree with our last worthy President that the REVIEW could be made to serve a two-fold purpose, viz: its present object, that of bringing the present and past students into a closer relationship, and secondly, of becoming the organ of our Experimental Union.

While our motto is "ever onward," yet I do not think we should move too rapidly in our work, nor undertake much new work; but rather, we should by repeated experiment prove the tests already made and bring our work to greater perfection.

It is a matter for regret that more of the ex-students are unable to attend our Unions. There are many reasons doubtless, yet we think if more were earnestly solicited by our district secretaries that a larger attendance would be the result. The district secretaries are not altogether to blame, as they have no list of the ex-students belonging to their districts and have no means of getting one except by examining a number of college reports. Could not something be done to provide lists?

Now, gentlemen, I have to thank you for the honor conferred upon me in electing me as your president last year, and that in my absence, also for your kind indulgence in listening to these remarks. I trust this year may be marked by still greater progress than ever before in agricultural pursuits, and that each of us may be spared to contribute our mite, all of which I respectfully submit.

How to Make Farming Pay.

Simpson Rennie.

To make farming pay, three things above all others must be considered, and these are:

1st. The removal of surplus water. 2nd. Keeping up the fertility of the soil. 3rd. The destroying of all foul weeds. In the first place, if any of you have a farm that is too wet for the full development of the various crops usually sown, I would say by all means have the water removed, and I know of no cheaper or better way to do that than by underdraining, and there is no better material for that purpose than drain tile. Some of you may be ready to say, I can't afford to drain. Now, if any of you have wet fields on your farm, I would say, you can't afford to farm and not drain. In these times of close competition we cannot afford to pay, it may be, both rent and taxes on land that will yield little or nothing. While seeding on my own farm some 35 or 40 years ago before any draining was done on it, it was no uncommon thing to see the horses splattered to the very backs with mud and water, and to have the mud removed from the horses' bodies and legs, they were forced to wade through ponds filled with water before going to the stable, both noon and night, but underdraining has changed muddy fields and frog ponds to a thing of the past. I can safely say, in the Province of Ontario there are hundreds of acres of land left unplowed this fall on account of being too wet, or rather for the want of being underdrained. Now, suppose next spring is a wet and backward one, and these wet, unplowed fields that I have just mentioned have to lay in that state until the end of next May before they can be sown, the result will then be partial failure. Then we farmers are apt to say, the times are hard, markets are low and the grain is not turning out well; but we seldom blame ourselves. The lumbermen put sound logs into the millpond, and why so? that they may remain sound. They know that by placing them in the water the air is excluded and no change will take place, but how different where we want to grow grain, the air and light are required to act on these particles of earth before they become food for plant growth. Why then allow your broad fields to lie for weeks in the spring filled with water and destroy all plant life when it is so easily removed by underdraining? By so doing success is sure to follow, or, as the American Agriculturist has it, draining and good tillage lie at the base of profitable farming. Now, how can we till properly unless the land is drained? I know