

Macdonald College.

Beautiful for situation is Macdonald College. West from Montreal about twenty miles, it occupies a farm area of nearly a square mile in extent, intersected by the Grand Trunk and Canadian Pacific Railways. The farm slopes with a gentle irregularity to the banks of the Ottawa, where a fringe of trees almost conceals from view the quaint village of Ste. Anne de Bellevue. There are fourteen Ste. Annes in the Province of Quebec, but none probably can match "Ste. Anne of the Beautiful View" for romance and charm of situation.

Let one stand late in the evening at the close of May on the bridge that spans "Utawa's tide," now at the height of the spring flood, and look down on the rush of water sweeping past the village, with Isle Perrot in front, and beyond, the broad bay of St. Louis, which steadies the wild current before it blends with the waters of the majestic St. Lawrence. Behind is the Bay of Two Mountains bathed in the flush of sunset. Above the roar of waters on that balmy May evening is heard the weird strange song of the veery, while from the church below "faintly tolls the evening chime," mingled with the voices of the *habitants* gathered in the streets of the village at the close of day. Such scenes, such voices as these, kept tune on that evening more than a hundred years ago when Thomas Moore wrote his "Canadian Boat Song." The house at which Moore stayed at Ste. Anne, and where he probably wrote the song, is still pointed out. So charmingly does the lilt of the melody and so fittingly do the scenes and voices of the village even now blend with those of the song, that the one recalls the other.

This was the charming site selected for the Macdonald College, "founded, erected, equipped and endowed by Sir William C. Macdonald for the advancement of education; for the carrying on of research work and investigation and the dissemination of knowledge: all with particular regard to the interests and needs of the population in rural districts; (and) to provide suitable and effective training for teachers, and especially for those whose work will directly affect the education in schools in rural districts." Such is the broad plan of its generous founder, aided by the skill and executive ability of the principal, Dr. J. W. Robertson.

The work of Macdonald College is arranged into a School for Teachers, a School of Agriculture and a School of Household Economy. The College is

incorporated with McGill University. Among the faculty of instruction are the following men from the Maritime Provinces: Dr. John Brittain, professor of nature study; J. M. Swaine, lecturer in entomology and zoology; W. Saxby Blair, assistant professor of horticulture.

No fees are charged for instruction. Two large buildings for residence have been put up—one for men, the other for women—with all modern conveniences and comforts. The board has been placed at the low figure of \$3.25 a week. A post office, telegraph station and telephone system place the college in direct communication with the outside world.

During days that the college is in session the students assemble in the large reception hall, and visitors are invited to make addresses. Frequently members of the House of Commons, Ottawa, come down to visit the college, and often there meet on the same platform visitors from all parts of Canada, attracted by a desire to know something more of the possibilities for good in this admirable institution. Very few male students are now in the college, having returned to their homes to practise on the farms what they have learned in the classrooms during the winter. The young women who assembled in the hall a few days ago were said to be "the finest looking, healthiest, happiest lot of girls to be seen in Canada." This statement was made by a member of parliament from the Middle West, and it may be looked upon as accurate. No representative would jeopardize his chances of re-election without a knowledge of the facts.

Granted that there are good looking and healthy young women outside of Macdonald College as well as within its walls, there is every opportunity here to improve health and vigour, intelligence and skill. There are physical exercises, school gardens, dairies, swimming baths, gymnasiums and laundries, buildings and apartments constructed with every regard for sanitation. Thus every opportunity is afforded students to diffuse ideas of greater comfort and enjoyment in the homes throughout Canada and increase the measure of human happiness.

Yes, beautiful for situation is Macdonald College, and the joy of better living in more comfortable homes is what it is seeking to accomplish for the people of Canada; greater development of ability and skill in agriculture throughout the country, with increased productiveness and improvement—and therefore content—in rural life.