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A VISIT TO THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE.

The feelings with which the members of the Canadian Press Association and their wives last Saturday reviewed the work and arrangements of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph were varied, but were not for that reason difficult of analysis. First and foremost perhaps was the feeling of pleasure at the delightfully cordial reception which they met at the hands of all the staff, from President Creelman down. One and all were made to feel thoroughly at home; incidentally perhaps this feature is one of the strong reasons for the surprising success of the college; its students, as is also the case of those of its sister institution, the Macdonald Institute, live in a home atmosphere where they cannot but feel that their comfort and best interests are held firmly at heart by those in authority. Another point which may be mentioned was the efficiency with which the arrangements for showing the sights to such a large crowd were carried out. There was rapidity and there was ease; and the unanimous verdict, which by the way, throws another light on the success of Mr. Creelman's executive, was that seldom had so much been seen, with so little confusion, and with such admirable facilities.

As to the general impression produced upon the visitors, it is not easy to say whether they were struck most by the self-evident efficiency and thoroughness of the Professors who explained the nature and chief points of their various departments so lucidly; or by the fascinating nature of the subjects treated on. Certain it is that few had before realized the tremendous potentialities of the different branches of agriculture in Canada, not merely in material dollars and cents, but in those incentives which spur a man's intellect to higher endeavor. Here could be seen exemplified tasks calling for all an educated man's observation and shrewdness, skill and

judgment; all the knowledge he might hope to acquire in a lifetime; all the fresh bending of old theories and the fashioning of new ones to new conditions necessary to hold his mind constantly on the alert in order to keep pace with Nature's kaleidoscopic changes. In short, the dignity and possibilities of agriculture as a life-work were cast in a lime-light which is not thrown upon them often enough, even in a country like Canada, whose mainstay is the soil.

Should anyone want an unanswerable argument against the criticisms which have been made (though not frequently of late, we are glad to note), of the O.A.C. on the ground that it "did not pay its way," we would advise him to visit the College. The absurdity of such a criticism is shown up on every side. The fact that its professors employ a large part of their time in testing and finding out what the farmers *should not plant*, is sufficient answer in itself to any critic who had believed that their labors should be followed by a direct profit to the College, while as to the profits accruing to the whole community from its work, there is no doubt about those. Take the experiments with Manchurian barley as one example. An increased crop value to the farmers of \$2,500,000 per year as the result of one series of tests and improvements is no small matter, surely.

Domestic Science, as exemplified at Macdonald Institute, was not less keenly appreciated than was its agricultural sister at the neighboring College. The way in which luncheon was dished up and served to the hungry pressmen by the dozens of dainty young ladies, and no less the manner in which that luncheon, made up, by the way, all of delicious products of the O.A.C. Farm, had been cooked, was a revelation. Nor must we forget to mention the gymnasium and other means for keeping up the physical tone; nor the wood and metal carving; nor the manual training which is such an important feature of this modern and thoroughly equipped institution. The fact is that both the Farm and the Institute are so complete in