

EVIDENCE OF JAMES W. ROBERTSON, Principal, Macdonald College, before the  
SELECT STANDING COMMITTEE  
on Agriculture and Colonization - 1906-7.

EXTRACT:- (Page 200)

Macdonald College

Macdonald College has grown out of these attempts and accomplishments, these trials and experiments and evidences of progress, as well as out of Sir William Macdonald's keen desire to help the rural population to build up the country and to make the most of it and themselves. In some measure it grew out of the school garden movement and the consolidated schools, to serve as a headquarters for the training of leaders. In some measure it grew out of the manual training movement, which is a first necessity in the general education of pupils if they are to profit by technical and industrial education afterwards. In some measure it grew out of the oft expressed desire on the part of the educational leaders over the whole Dominion for such advancement and improvement of education for rural communities as would not only prepare the children for life at its best in rural occupations, but would also satisfy the people as being the right training for their children. In consequence it was founded, erected and equipped for the following among other purposes:

1. 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 interest and needs of the population in rural districts.
2. To provide suitable and effective training for teachers and especially for those whose work will directly affect the education in schools in rural districts.

The College occupies a beautiful site, overlooking the Ottawa River at Ste. Anne de Bellevue, twenty miles west of Montreal. The main lines of the Grand Trunk and the Canadian Pacific Railways pass through the property and the stations of both railways are within its boundaries.

The college property comprises 561 acres and has been arranged into three main areas, viz: First, the campus with plots for illustration and research in grains, grasses and flowers, containing 74 acres; second, the small cultures farm of 100 acres for horticulture and poultry keeping; and third, the live stock and grain farm extending to 387 acres.