

The O. A. C. Review

Published Monthly During the College Year
by the Students of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Canada.

THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

VOL. XIX.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
FEBRUARY, 1907.

No. 5

The Value of Agricultural Training.

By PROFESSOR ANDREW M. SOULE,

Dean and Director, College of Agriculture and Experiment Station, Blacksburg, Va.



THE subject of agricultural education has been neglected more in proportion to its importance and relation to the progress of our country than any other subject. Ample provision has, as a rule, been made in the realm of classical and scientific knowledge, and these departments of our colleges are overrun with students who seem to think that there can be no possible future for a man in the field of agricultural education, and this belief is evidently participated in by those charged with the administration of our Colleges of Agriculture and Experiment Stations, or else they would provide larger and better laboratories, and more elaborate equipment for instruction in this far-reaching and important subject. The difficulties of the present situation are many, but there is a silver lining to every cloud and rays of light are breaking through the rifts here and there, and it is not speaking too strongly to say that greater progress will be made in the sciences pertaining to agriculture and in the making of adequate provision for instruction in this subject in the next twenty years than has been made in the last one hundred.

The difficulties of the present situation and the indifference exhibited toward agricultural education by farmers and educators is due to an utter failure to conceive the true principles on which the business of farming rests, or to understand that the subject may be classified into groups of rules until it becomes practically an exact science. The beneficial results that would follow from a profound knowledge of the soil and the condition most favorable to the growth of plants, cannot be properly understood by the layman, and it will only be after years of careful study and research that those who devote their sole attention to the subject of agriculture will be able to appreciate the scope and influence of rational agricultural training, brought