

# LATEST AGRICULTURAL NEWS AND MARKET

## ATTENDANCE AT O. A. COLLEGE IS BEHIND PRE-WAR STANDARD

### Drop of Over Thirty Per Cent. Since 1911-14 Period—President Reynolds Makes Statement—Are Hard Times in Rural Ontario Solely Responsible?

**D**OES the steadily decreasing attendance in the first year of the Ontario Agricultural College, during the past ten years, exclusive of the war periods, indicate that this institution of learning at Guelph is losing its usefulness? The number of men enrolling in the first year this term is less than half the average attendance of the four years immediately preceding the war. There are several fairly obvious reasons for this change in affairs.

#### Many Outside Students.

Even up to 1912 the O. A. College was one of the best known institutions of its kind in the world, and students from practically every continent sought entrance. Out of the two hundred and thirty odd men who commenced their first term in 1913 fully 25 per cent. were from points outside the Province. Russia, Portugal, Britain, South Africa, Australia, United States, Central and South America, as well as every Province in the Dominion, was represented. In 1914 the percentage of outsiders was slightly smaller. Before this time the proportion of men from points outside Ontario had been higher, a larger attendance from United States and South America, particularly, reporting. During the years immediately preceding the great war the outsiders were recruited mostly from Britain, South Africa and Australia.

This year practically all the students in the first year are from this Province. During the past decade institutions similar to the one near Guelph have sprung up in all parts of the world. Many of the lecturers have been Guelph trained. At least, locally, they are considered to be equal to the O. A. College. Every Province, except the Maritimes, have fully-equipped agricultural colleges, practically every State in the Union has one, while similar affairs have been built up in all parts of the British Empire and South America. The outsiders, who used to make up from 25 to 50 per cent. of the attendance at the O. A. C., are now busy training men in their own sections.

That explains one loss. President J. B. Reynolds in the following statement explains several others.

#### Statement From President.

"There has been a decline in registration of new students at the

Ontario Agricultural College since 1919. Two causes combined to make 1919 the record year. Inflated war prices made farmers prosperous, and the close of the war in 1918 left a number of ex-service men free to continue the college course that had been interrupted.

Deflation of the prices of farm produce had set in by the fall of 1920, and has continued until the present time, while there has not been a corresponding deflation in the prices of things the farmer must buy. Farming, therefore, for these three years, has been relatively unprofitable; there has been too little margin of profit in these three years of farming to enable as many farmers as usual to send their sons to college.

#### Two Classes at Guelph.

The college has two classes of resident students—those who enter for four years, most of whom intend to prepare for professional work in agriculture; and those who enter for two years. Some of the latter may qualify under our regulations for the four-year course, but the majority will take only two years, and intend to become farmers.

Those who enter for either course will be influenced both upon entering and upon continuing by the prospects lying before the several occupations. If farming is sufficiently profitable at present, and promising for the future, to justify spending two years of time and a corresponding amount of money in securing a technical training for that occupation, naturally a large number will enter for the two-year course, and will complete it. The converse also is true.

#### Entrance Figures in Detail.

Seventy-one students entered for the two-year course in 1920. Of these 43 returned in 1921, a loss of 40 per cent. Sixty students entered the first year for this course in 1921. Of these 38 returned in 1922,

a loss of 37 per cent. Fifty-two entered the first year for this course in 1922.

Those who enter for the degree course are influenced mainly by the prospects of professional employment in the various positions available in technical agriculture. Any entering for this four-year course with the intention of farming will be influenced by the same consideration as has affected the attendance in the two-year course. And it is apparent that if farming conditions and prospects discourage men from entering, or continuing, the two-year course, the same conditions and prospects will have a greater effect in deterring men from entering the four-year course with a view to actual farming.

#### The Degree-course Men.

Governmental economies since the close of the war have, to some extent, lessened the prospect of employment in technical agriculture. Added to this is the effect of the large number of graduates in agriculture from all the agricultural colleges in 1921 and 1922, by which the supply of technically-trained men has caught up with the demand.

The number of men entering the first year of the degree course in 1920 was 55. Forty-three of these men returned in 1921, a loss of 22

per cent. That class in 1922 numbered 44 in the third-year course. Forty-two men entered the first year in 1921, and 30 returned in 1922, a loss of 33 per cent. Thirty-six men entered the first year in 1922.

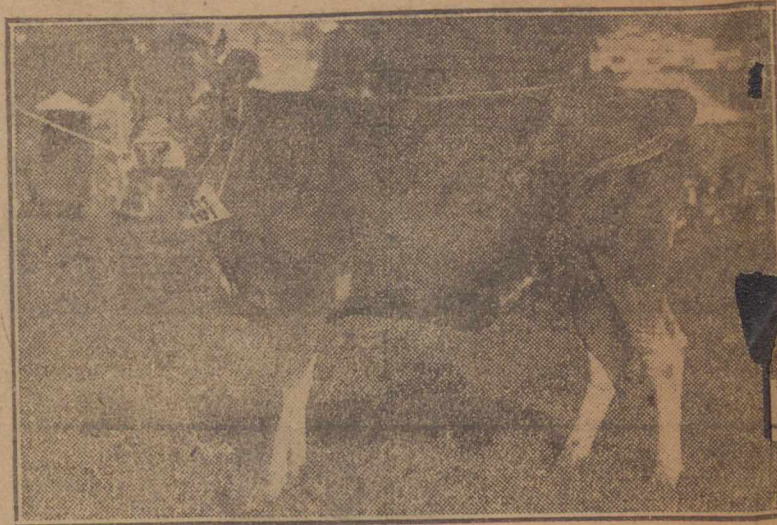
When the time returns for a farmer can buy a plow with the same number of bushels of grain as were required in 1914, then we shall expect the attendance at the Ontario Agricultural College to return to normal. There were fluctuations in attendance in previous periods as the following show:

Class entering	First year.	Return for 2nd year	Return for 3rd year	Return for 4th year
1911	154	66%	44%	22%
1912	150	72%	48%	24%
1913	233	57%	35%	17%
1914	159			

#### Hard Times Responsible.

Briefly, President Reynolds blames lack of prosperity in the country for the small attendance, and notes that he will deny that farmers are passing through more evil days than before the war. In 1912-14 prices for farmers' produce were high enough, but farm machinery, clothing and other things that the farmer bought were correspondingly cheap. The head of the Ontario Agricultural College defends the new entrance regulations, which some

## PRETTY JERSEY HEIFER



Sir Stanley White's heifer which won first prize at the Yeovil Agricultural Show in England.

## Lambton County Wants Next Plowing Match

(Special Despatch to The Globe.)

Sarnia, Oct. 10.—A large deputation from this city left today to attend the Provincial plowing contest at Lindsay, with the intention of urging the authorities to consider Sarnia as the location for 1923 plowing competitions, and if successful, will endeavor to have next year's contest given an international aspect by a proposal to challenge the champion plowmen of the bordering State of Michigan to take part. The whole of Lambton county is behind the movement, and a guarantee of \$2,000 toward the prize money is offered to the Provincial Association.

Mr. Reynolds claims the wastage of students under the new system is far less than before a man had to have matriculation on entering the course leading to a degree. Certainly there was a large percentage of the class left behind at each term examination in the first two years before the new regulations came into effect.

There is one factor entering into the question which the President has touched. Undoubtedly the O. A. C. was better known among the Ontario farmers ten years ago than it is today. True, practically every agriculturist in the Province knows that there is a college at Guelph, but not all of them know just what that college is doing. The latter seems to be out of touch with the farmer.

#### Some Other Factors.

Perhaps it is due to lack of publicity on the part of the college. Perhaps the students keep the lecturers busy during the whole of their time and the former have nothing to tell the farmer. Perhaps the grant from the Ontario Government does not permit any extensive research work being conducted in addition to the present work. Perhaps there are not enough men on the staff to conduct more research work if the money is available. Perhaps the research work is being conducted but there is no person to bring the results to the attention of the practical farmer, who, since the abandonment of the "June" excursions, sees little of the college. Finally, perhaps the Ontario Agricultural College is not as popular among the farmers as it once was. These are points which the Ontario Government might well investigate.

## O. A. C. Attendance Shows Big Decline

**T**HE following table shows a steady decrease in the attendance at the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph during the past decade, exclusive of the war years, or that term immediately following the cessation of hostilities, when many ex-service men went back to continue their studies. Figures for the last two years give the total first year attendance, combining the numbers of students in the degree and associate courses. Comment on the attendance and a statement from President Reynolds appear in the adjoining column.

Year.	No. of students entering.
1911	154
1912	150
1913	233
1914	159
— War period —	
1920	126
1921	102
1922	88