

summer, and earned enough, with what they earned during the college session, to pay all charges; and have found, on the completion of their course, that there is a demand for men of energy and determination to fill positions of more or less importance. GEO. A. ROBERTSON.
Lincoln Co., Ont.

AN EXCELLENT COURSE AT TRURO.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Yours of the 10th ult. to hand. You ask my opinion of the course at the Agricultural College. I think that it is an excellent one in every particular, but it is very difficult to give a fair estimate of it, or to sufficiently emphasize the advantages gained, as they are continually appearing. The instruction is practical and thorough, and any young man going there with the honest intention of learning will find himself well repaid for his time and expense. Among the incidental advantages, I would mention the literary society, which is, I think, one of the best parts of the course. HARRY R. BROWN.
Cumberland Co., N. S.

THE VIRTUES OF PAINT.

Certain seasons of the year are peculiarly suited to the performance of certain work. What we have in mind now is painting—not the exercise and development of that delicate talent that so readily discriminates in color, but the rough-and-ready covering of exposed woods with a mixture of oil and solids—the painting which is more essentially utilitarian. Painting commends itself upon two important grounds: First, it is economy to preserve wood by the use of paint; and second, it adds wonderfully to appearances and exercises a wholesome effect upon character to grow up or to come in daily contact with cleanly, well-preserved surroundings. The former of these advantages, strangely enough, is not the one that commends the painting of woodwork about buildings to the average man. He more frequently recognizes the value of painting for the difference it makes in appearance, and the effect of external appearances upon the mind is an extensive inquiry. Although the appearance of fresh paint periodically upon the house, barn or outbuildings is not an absolute indication of neatness or thrift, and of good citizenship—for many people possess these attributes without the means of giving evidence of them in painted buildings—still, it is so often associated with people of this type that it comes to be a badge or signet of their characters. Upon children, too, it has often been noticed, especially where there is a degree of permanency about the home, that where paint prevails, there neatness, thoroughness, courtesy and thrift are prevalent characteristics. There is a deal of virtue in the muddy mixtures we call paints. They fill the cracks and crevices of the inanimate walls, and round out the best bumps of character in animate things.

THE IRISH AGRICULTURAL INQUIRY.

Few people anticipated any sensational findings by the Committee of Inquiry, which recently completed its investigations into the Irish Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction; and, now that the report has actually seen the light of publicity, one looks in vain throughout the bulky document for recommendation of any sweeping changes either in the constitution or policy of the Department. The Committee consisted of five members, whose names I have previously given, including the Hon. John Dryden, of Canada, and they were instructed to inquire whether experience had shown that the Department's methods were suited to the needs of Ireland, and to report on the relations between the Department and local statutory bodies, the funds at its disposal, etc. At seventeen sittings, all over Ireland, voluminous evidence was taken, and it must be conceded as creditable to the Department that its operations have stood so well the test of this scrutiny, and that its work, beset, as it was, by such difficulties during the first seven years of its existence, has been so generally approved of by the Commissioners. An interesting feature, however, is the fact that two reports have been issued—a majority signed by four, and a minority of one, bearing the signature of Mr. W. L. Micks, of the Local Government Board, and formerly a prominent worker in the earlier days of the Congested Districts Board. The majority report, in its general tone, reviews favorably the various operations of the Department, and, among the few recommendations which it contains, perhaps the most interesting is that, in the opinion of those who signed it, the Vice-President should not be a member of Parliament. Again, they are not in favor of substituting for the Department a board, either wholly or partly elective, as they think that continuity of policy and efficiency of administration are best secured by the responsibility being vested solely in the head of the Department. The Vice-President should not be a permanent and pensionable civil servant, but an official in charge of the ad-

ministration in Ireland, of the Act of 1899, establishing the Department. With regard to the suitability of the methods adopted, the Commissioners believe that the Department has been successful in stimulating throughout the country (1) a sense that in various directions improved conditions of agriculture are within reach of the farmer, and (2) a desire to take advantage of the methods by which that improvement may, in some measure, be obtained. The difficulties are admitted, by the report, to have been great; but, it is added, "the Department has had on its side the characteristic intelligence and quickness of the Irish people. The system of training Irish itinerant instructors, and the instruction given by them, have, in the opinion of the Committee, been attended with marked success. Reference is also made to the harmonious co-operation of the various local bodies. Much of the report deals with the relationship between the various councils and boards comprised in the constitution of the Department, and the opinion is expressed that the Council of Agriculture (representing the 32 counties), two-thirds of the members of which are popularly elected, and one-third nominated, should not have its powers extended beyond its present functions, viz., a deliberative and advisory body, with the privilege of nominating two-thirds of the Agricultural Board, which, in turn, controls the finances of the Department. It will not, however, interest Canadians to be brought through all these intricate details of inner constitution, and I refrain from doing so.

If the majority report lacks anything to cause undue excitement, the minority document, which Mr. Micks has courageously published, more than makes up for it. He urges the reformation of the Department, root and branch; but as the carrying out of his scheme would entail a yearly grant of a million pounds sterling for twenty years, this must make those who think his way rather dubious of hearing much of it again in the region of practical politics. Briefly put, Mr. Micks advocates the creation of a Development Department for all Ireland, which, to use his words, "should be altogether detached and free from the control of the Imperial Government and Parliament." This would take over all the development functions of the Department and the Congested Districts Board, and the present Department should have its functions restricted to education pure and simple, including experimental work, of course.

WHAT HON. JOHN DRYDEN THINKS OF IRELAND.

To the majority report is added a number of individual memoranda, one of the most interesting of which is that which comes from the pen of the Hon. John Dryden, who states at the outset that he was agreeably surprised with the general condition of the Irish farming industry. Setting aside the congested districts and bog areas, he regards the balance of the land as favorably comparing with most countries prominent in agricultural production, as to qualities of soils and possibility of improvement in its products. He alludes to the way in which agriculture and the training of those engaged in it were allowed to drift, and refers hopefully to the awakening within the past decade. He is confident that a good beginning has been made by the Department, but urges that people must not be too impatient for results, as, in his opinion, the full benefit will not be realized for some years. In the main, he regards as correct the ideals of those in charge, among which he specially approves the preparation of the young men and women both to teach and practice the principles of higher agriculture, at colleges and by the instrumentality of itinerant instructors. In 1906 there were 21 giving instruction in Agriculture and Horticulture, 28 in Poultry-raising, and 25 in Buttermaking. In many counties Mr. Dryden found the instructors exceedingly popular, and in great demand, with astonishing statements current as to benefits received. He also deals in detail with the various live-stock schemes for the improvement of horses, cattle, pigs, poultry, etc., and, in connection with poultry, states that the system adopted was quite new to him. His statement to this effect leads me to believe that probably the scheme is unknown in Canada; therefore, I may not be far amiss in quoting a paragraph from Mr. Dryden's description. He says: "The Committee of the County Council selects the farmers in the various districts suitable to be their agent and employee in scattering in the surrounding country a better variety of eggs for hatching. He is required to put away all mongrel or cross-bred fowls, and accept and care for the fowls of the particular breed selected, according to instructions supplied by the Instructor of the Department. These fowls are furnished him, and, on the understanding that he supplies, at one shilling per dozen, at least 70 settings of eggs each season, he receives £5 from the Department. In order to interest the people in the scheme, a lady is employed as an itinerant instructress, holding meetings, visiting cottages, and stirring the people to take advantage of the opportunities offered. It has appeared to me that this scheme has very much to commend it, and it

is easily seen that the whole egg and poultry product will soon be revolutionized. The increased output, as well as the improved quality, must add materially to the receipts of the people engaged in it. Besides this, the improved methods of housing and caring for the poultry will guard them from disease, and much loss on that account. These are called 'egg stations.'

In concluding a most interesting memo, Mr. Dryden remarks: "I have no hesitation in expressing the opinion that the agricultural work at present carried on in Ireland is worthy of the nation, having the effect of drawing the different elements more closely together, and in various other ways will bring about the most beneficial results, the full effect of which will only be clearly seen in years to come."

"EMERALD ISLE."

M. H. Mackay, Inverness Co., N. S.—I think any farmer or farmer's son would be greatly benefited by taking a course in the Agricultural College, Truro.

THE DAIRY.

DAIRY COWS, HOGS, AND POULTRY.

In this money-making age we farmers are on the lookout for a way in which we can make the most money in the quickest possible way. Drivers throughout the country will tell you to-day that the bottom has gone out of the beef trade, and, unless you have a considerable amount of capital to invest in pedigreed stock, something else, such as dairying, bacon hogs and poultry, although involving considerably more work and brains, will bring much quicker returns for money expended.

The dairy industry has developed in the last number of years into one of our most profitable industries, and will continue to be so for some time. Farmers throughout the country are beginning to realize that our cheese and butter factories are becoming a means of increasing bank accounts, to a considerable extent, and are just beginning to awaken to the fact that better dairy stock, better care of milk, and better handling of the manufactured article, will be more in evidence during the next ten years than it has been in the last twenty-five. Any cow, to be profitable to the dairy industry, should give at least 7,000 pounds of milk a year, and any which come below this should be cut out as undesirable, and butchered, to be replaced by a better animal. Cheese and butter factories should be run in conjunction with each other, cheese being manufactured during the summer months, and butter during the winter months. In this way, farmers could have their young calves coming in the fall, and utilize their milk to advantage for feed, and thus have fewer stunted calves when cheese factories open.

Along with the dairy industry, and closely connected with it, is the bacon trade, which has developed wonderfully during recent years. Every farmer should keep at least two brood sows, and, during the summer months, the whey which we procure from our own milk at the factory, along with a small amount of grain, makes a very cheap and profitable food for pigs, and is being used more and more every year. Pigs should have a pen by themselves during winter months, with a covered shed as a runway for exercise. As in every other line of stock, it pays to breed only from the best pure-bred sires, as it costs no more to feed such and better results are obtained, for young stock can be raised either for breeding purposes or sold as bacon.

Another thing which has attracted considerable attention during the last number of years, and which has become quite profitable, also, is the raising of pure-bred poultry, for breeding purposes, eggs, and table use. If you have good pure-bred Plymouth Rocks, or any other breed, you can command at least \$2.00 a bird for them. Likewise eggs, during the winter months, have now reached the high standard of 40 cents a dozen; and dressed poultry, at the right season of the year, also brings a high price. Therefore, poultry, if rightly managed, and given at least one-half as much more attention as it is at present, would be a valuable pastime for any farmer, along with the other industries which I have enumerated. With the introduction of incubators and brooders, large flocks can be raised every year with a comparatively small amount of attention, a little experience, and the necessary requirements, such as poultry yards, pens, etc. These three branches work well together on a farm, and it is to be hoped, in the near future, we shall see more of the combination.

Bellevue Co., Ont.

YOUNG FARMER.

Every farmer in Canada needs "The Farmer's Advocate."