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THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

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A Work for the Graduates of the O. A. C.

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It is time the farmers of Canada were beginning to seriously consider their standing, as compared with other interests, among the several bodies which control things industrially and politically in this country. Farmers have so often been told they are the bone and sinew of the land, and theirs is the basic industry of the Dominion, that they have been lulled into a sense of comparative indifference based on the belief that they need barely stir themselves in order to ensure the direction of things both politically and commercially to their own liking.

The facts have not shown themselves to be in accord with the pleasing belief so long entertained. Agriculture, even to-day, does not occupy so predominant a position as is generally believed, and each passing year sees some of the other great interests making greater relative progress than is being made by that connected with the soil. It is true

the last Federal census credits an investment to farming about four times that of the investment in manufacturing; but at the same time the value placed on the products of the factories of all Canada in the last census year was nearly double that put upon the value of our field crops, plus a fair addition to the latter to represent the profit realized by turning these crops into beef, bacon, dairy products, etc. It is true the value of the field crops of this, the banner Province of Confederation, has increased by about 34 per cent. in ten years; it is equally true that in the same time metallic mineral production in all Canada has increased by well on to 700 per cent. It is gratifying to learn that in ten years the value of the output of Ontario cheese factories has advanced by about 50 per cent.; it should at least be a stimulus to enquiry when we learn that the earnings of the railways of the Dominion have gone up 100 per cent. in the same period.