

# The O. A. C. Review

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THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

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## Ontario's Parasites.

Eminently adapted, both in soil and climate, to agriculture in its most important branches, with twenty-five million acres in its farms and with many million acres of unimproved, but most fertile land, in its northern portions, Ontario, during the last twenty years, has steadily lost in its rural population. This is the startling fact brought home to us by the last census. Portentous indeed is this fact to the people of this Province, menacing both their physical and industrial well-being; their physical, because so many are being drawn away from the country, where men thrive, to the city, where they degenerate; their industrial, because this Province is founded upon, and draws most of its

wealth from, agriculture, and while an urban population is very necessary to distribute and manufacture for the rural districts, any increase in this, above the number required to perform these functions, is just so much useless lumber, cumbering the industrial machine of the Province, or, more, a parasite, feeding upon the fruit of our prosperity.

In the natural development of any community, the town should not precede, but follow, the country. This is true, because the country is primarily the producing section of the community, producing, first, the necessary subsistence for the whole community, and secondly, the materials for the manufactures carried on in the