

OPPORTUNITIES.

INSPIRATIONS.

Dr. Falconer, with the strength of earnest conviction, carried his audience from the pettiness of commercialism to the broader, deeper, basic thing which must be sought in all such work as the Institutes are doing. His address was grand in its simple strength, and inspirational beyond telling. He pointed out the necessity of permanence in the development of a sturdy, independent thinking people; our homes should be permanent things; we should take pride in them; the house should be built not to sell, but to remain there as a home; a home of beauty is an asset that cannot be valued in dollars. He expressed it as our duty to put thought in our homes, as a permanent center from which we and

power lies. Crop improvement was treated thoroughly in a paper by Prof. C. A. Zavitz, of the O. A. C. He pointed out that frequent changes of seed was not necessary for crop improvement, but rather that this should be accomplished by selection. This selection should be of the seed, and of seed from the entire plant growing in the field. The quality of the seed is of great importance. Varieties must be studied by the producer, that the best for his conditions may be obtained. Mr. Zavitz showed the advantage of seed selection by quoting the results of experiments carried on at Guelph in comparing plump vs. shrunken seed, well-matured vs. immature, sound vs. unsound—all of which showed the advantage of care in selecting seed. He then discussed hybridizing and breeding operations, and their value in crop improvement, pointing out the many problems that have yet to be solved.

SPLENDID SUGGESTIONS.

There were other good talks made, but space precludes a further reference to them.

A motion, that the organization of Farmers' Institutes urge upon the Government the advisability of making a special branch in the Department of Agriculture to forward the Farmers' Club movement, was unanimously carried.

From all stations in Ontario, Kingston, Sharbot Lake, Renfrew, and west, but not west of Azelda, the railways have granted the low rate of single fare for return tickets to the Ontario Winter Fair, at Guelph. These tickets will be on sale each day from Saturday morning, December 3rd, until Friday night, December 9th. They are good for the return journey any day up to and including December 12th, 1910.

At the fifteenth annual meeting of the International Association of Farmers' Institute workers, held in Washington last week, Canadians figured rather prominently. Geo. A. Putnam, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes in Ontario, in his presidential address, emphasized three desiderata: (a) Increased production; (b) a better home and community life in the rural districts; (c) a lessening of the all-too-wide margin which now exists between the prices received by the producer and the prices paid by the consumer. Local demonstration of improved methods was recommended as an effective means of accomplishing the first of these aims, and co-operation to accomplish the latter, especially along poultry, dairy and fruit-growing lines. Another notable address was that of C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, who endeavored once more to bring home to the resident of the city and town the fact that, whatever helps the farmer to larger production and larger life, necessarily contributes to the prosperity and uplift of the whole community. The possibility of adding two or three hundred million dollars yearly to our rural income surely makes this a big problem. The foundation courses upon which this great wealth is to be built are plain and simple: (1) Drain the soil; (2) sow only the best seed; (3) carefully protect and store the products of your fields or orchards; (4) feed these products only to profitable stock; (5) put the finished product on the market in the best form.

All this line of development looks so simple, and therein is one of the greatest difficulties. It is easier to build a Dreadnought than an agricultural college.

Helping our farmers to larger production and to larger life can be justified only on the ground that thereby we are contributing to the prosperity and uplift of the whole community.

At the Lotus Fields' sale of Ayrshire cattle, at West Berlin Vt., on November 10th, advertised in "The Farmer's Advocate," some handsome prizes were realized, some of the highest being paid by a Canadian, William Hunter, Maxville, Ont. The imported three-year-old bull, Barge-noch Bonnie Scotland, sold at \$1,600 to John Showin, Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Hunter being the runner-up. The ten-weeks-old heifer calf, Jean Armour 2nd, whose picture, with her dam, appeared in the Nov. 3rd issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," was taken by Mr. Hunter at \$1,000, and the two-year-old heifer, Howie's Cream Pot, (imp.), the Scottish champion female of 1910, fell to the same buyer at \$1,000. The next highest price was \$725, for the eight-year-old cow, Dalhiddle Fiebbie 3rd (imp.), purchased by Chase & Beeman, Brandon, Vt. The average for the 37 head sold, including 14 bull calves, was \$236.

Following is a copy of a letter received at Ottawa from Wm. Hutchison, Canadian Commissioner at the Brussels Exhibition. It was addressed to Dairy and Cold-storage Commissioner J. A. Ruddick, and referred to a shipment of 150 boxes, forwarded during the first week of October:

October :
 " We have received the shipment of apples,
 and can assure you they are a fine lot.

"By the numerous complimentary remarks received as to the quality of the apples, I am satisfied Canada has made a big advertisement; besides, it will enable these people to know the difference between the apples received from us and those that are offered for sale by the merchants here as Canadian apples. The fact of the matter is our fruit exhibit has been very popular with the people, which has been taken advantage of by the trade, who, no matter where they buy their stock, advertise it as Canadian, adding, these apples are the same as are on exhibit in the Canadian Pavilion."

F. C. Nunnick, District Representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture at Alexandria, Ont., is to join the Toronto office staff of the Department about December 1st. N. D. McKenzie, B. S. A., Galt, Ont., has gone to take up the district representative's work in Glengarry County. Mr. McKenzie graduated in 1909 from the O. A. C., and, after graduation, took up the management of a 1,500-acre farm in Michigan. Such practical experience should be of splendid value to him in his work with Eastern Ontario farmers.