

aversion to the "book farmer," and will not believe that it is possible to know anything more of the rules of successful agriculture than can be recalled from their own narrow experience of scratching the fields. We met them at odd corners on this trip but not at Oakner, although the worthy who sacrificed his fowl on the altar of experience probably did imagine up till that point that his own method of immolation was the last word in killing chickens.

We mention this one incident (although it was by no means a solitary example of "producing the goods") to accentuate the point that this college itinerary was not composed of mere classroom educationalists—sent out to recite certain academic injunctions, but men and women who were perfectly familiar with their special department. They had

It was a real study in human nature to watch the faces and to draw within the atmosphere of these ever-changing audiences as one drove from place to place. In most cases the event had been well advertised, and the moment the automobile stuck its nose inside the town limits, it could be seen from the interest manifested by the groups at the livery stable and the implement dealer's, that the people were aware of the identity of the strangers, and had been expecting them.

Then when the audience had been collected, the "study" became still more fascinating. Earlier in the day we had passed three or four of them lounging at a drug-store corner or by the post office door. They were the collected wisdom of the municipality, and we overheard something like this delivered in a slightly



"A tell ye that man doens ken the difference between a stook o' wheat and a bull cawlf!"

sects that were doing the damage.

In years gone by, and quite recently, attempts have been made to discredit the agricultural colleges and affiliated institutions, because of the tendency of the faculty to fly over the heads of the people. Some justification for this feeling has no doubt existed, and probably will continue to exist. The teaching profession is no more likely than any other calling on earth, to enjoy a perfect immunity from the "square man in the round hole," from the "scholar" as distinct from the "teacher." A teacher who cannot approach his class of pupils (whether they are children or men and women) in terms of their daily life, is bound to "come a cropper."

But whatever criticism may be legitimately launched against this particular effort on the part of the Manitoba Agricultural College, it cannot be alleged that its representatives failed on any occasion to "get home" to the intelligence and to the hearts of the people. At the start, of course, of every meeting, there was a faint air of embarrassment and doubt on the part of the people. A face here and another there said plainly: "I wonder what these fellows can tell us that we don't know ourselves?" The ice, once fairly broken, however, it was found there was a nice warm pool below in which every one could swim or flounder in a common, kindly bond of interest and affection.

Continued on page 14 B



"We counted them by the score in every Municipality."

the projecting end of the harrow at an easy height for operating.

Taking the head easily in his left hand, the operating knife was thrust in laterally at the beak to cut the jugular artery, next a quick movement with a half-turn of the right hand pierced the brain, rendering the bird unconscious and relaxing the entire muscular system so that the feathers could be well-nigh blown off, so easily were they removed and without the slightest disfigurement to the skin.

In two minutes from the moment the knife was withdrawn from the brain, that bird was plucked cleaner than the writer ever saw any fowl denuded of its feathers. It was shaped and arranged for packing or exhibiting to the buyer in a way that struck the crowd dumb with amazement and gave infinite satisfaction of the ancient one who had challenged what he most likely had imagined to be only one more of the regular line of theoretical experts who talk through their hat and write bulletins to order.

It was a triumph for the teacher, and one of those incidents in a man's mission that puts the lid on all protest, incredulity and criticism. The teacher was on his trial. He rose to the occasion and the institution he represented was vindicated in two minutes of practical work in a way that could never have been effected by ten years of academic persiflage.

There are still to be met with the cynics who have a special



"The crowds increased and the interest grew intense."

not only imbibed all that "the books" taught, but through the eternal course of experience in alternating success and failure in their experimental work, they were in a position to help those who, in the midst of a busy life in many employments, had not found the leisure to acquire the same special knowledge and experience.

In short, the purpose and plans of the itinerary was the mode of one of offering assistance. It did not approach its audience at any time as an oracle of wisdom and exclusive information. No one could have laid upon it the charge of pedantry and for this reason, it was eminently successful.

guttural but by no means Teutonic accent: "A tell ye, wi' a' his beuk-learnin', he disna ken the difference between a stook o' wheat an' a bull cawlf."

We could not affirm who was the "he" in this unqualified criticism. It might have been some one of our own party, but whether or not, the critic did not seem so sure of his ground as the meeting proceeded, and, indeed, was among the very first to respond when questions were invited. He rose to his feet with the most deferential air and meekly inquired of the horticultural expert what it was that was killing all the Maples this season, and what could be done to combat the in-



One of the scores of well-bred herds, enjoying and fattening on the best that nature could give them.