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No. 681

EDITORIAL.

Prospects for N. S. Agricultural College.

On October 17th there opens at Truro, N. S., the first regular two-year course of the first real agricultural college in the Maritime Provinces. For some years there had been a school of agriculture at this point, but for lack of properly qualified faculty and proper equipment it had never accomplished a satisfactory class of work, and it would probably have been better for the cause of agricultural education in the east if it had never existed. The principal of the new institution is Prof. Cumming, B. A., a native of Nova Scotia, but erstwhile of Iowa and of Guelph, Ont. The Professor of Horticulture is F. C. Sears, for some years in charge of the School of Horticulture, at Wolfville, N. S. The Farm Manager and Agriculturist is F. L. Fuller, whose management of the property while run as a Provincial farm has commended him to the people of the Province. The Poultry Manager and Lecturer is J. P. Landry, well and favorably known to the poultrymen of the Maritime Provinces. The Animal Husbandry Lecturer will be Principal Cumming; a Veterinary Science Instructor, W. Jakeman, V. S., is included among the staff, capable assistance in the scientific subjects will be secured from the faculty of the Provincial Normal School at this point, and there is no doubt the course of lectures and practical work will be first-class and up-to-date in every respect.

If ever there was need for an educational institution, there was need of this one in the Atlantic Provinces. Not that it was the result of any popular clamor, rather that the public apathy indicated the need for an influence of this kind to commending it, do not fully estimate the influence create a demand for itself by infusing a spirit the O. A. C. has had upon the agriculture of of appreciation, confidence and enthusiasm into the agriculture of the country. Agriculture down in these Provinces has advanced slowly in the institution. An agricultural college is not merely face of grave disabilities. It has suffered from a training school for a few young men; it bedivision of interest on the part of the husbandman, between farm and forest, between farm and Diversity of industries is an excellent thing for a country when carried on each by its own class, but when farmers are tempted to diversify by engaging in some other occupation besides the cultivation of the soil, it invariably leads to neglect of the farm and its possibilities for the immediate dollar of the lumber woods or the sea harvest. There is no doubt one of the prime factors in Ontario's unexampled agricultural progress has been the singleness of reliance and of purpose with which her farmers have been compelled to prosecute the industry. The spur of progress is always necessity. It is a spur that actuates not only the individual, but the state as a whole. In Nova Scotia and New Brunswick it is only of recent years that the lumber supply in the vicinity of the leading farming districts has seriously diminished. Hence, agriculture is in an early stage of evolution, so far at least as practice is concerned. The Eastern farmer is by no means lacking in knowledge; he is, perhaps, a better reader than his Ontario confrere, but reading alone is not sufficient; progress means practice, experience, and here he is lacking. He will improve with time, but as yet the many problems peculiar to his conditions, as well as others of a more general nature, remain to be worked out and demonstrated convincingly by local examples. Then, too, the soil for the most part is rather light, much of the land is hilly and broken, and the range of crops in most sections is comparatively limited. For instance,

is in the East far from being an unqualified suc- culture in Maritime Canada. Clover, also, has been little grown, not, however, because of unfavorable climate, but because of the lack of a clear understanding of Maritime soil chemistry. So, in many other ways, farming in the Eastern Provinces has suffered many grave disabilities, as compared with other parts of Canada, and it is no wonder it has not appealed to the enthusiasm of the people. Conditions have been aggravated by the proximity of the New England cities with their allurement for the graduates of Maritime public schools and colleges, so that the best young blood has been sapped from the country to a deplorable extent. The movement has been more pronounced because agriculture, being in a crude and slowly progressive period, could not but suffer by contrast with the modern cities and industries of the States to the south.

It was not to be expected that an agricultural college situated amidst such conditions would be able to obtain very many students for the first few years. It must create its own demand. This will take time. Meanwhile, the best friend is not the one who predicts spectacular success, but the one who is content with small beginnings, relying upon its own cumulative force to advance it in the public esteem until it shall attain to the fulness of its purpose. We were by no means disappointed to learn that an attendance of not more than fifteen was expected for the regular two-year course. The Ontario Agricultural College for many years had a small enrollment of indifferent material, and has gradually advanced to its present enviable position of all but universal approbation. But, even yet Ontarions, while their Province. To do so, one must visit some place which has suffered for the lack of such an comes a scene of investigation and a fountain of progressive influence that pervades the whole life of the community it serves. To be effective it must be in close touch with the people. In times past the Maritime people have been pointed to the O. A. C., at Guelph, but it was situated too far away, conditions were different, much of the instruction given was not adapted to their needs, and it was to most of them a remote affair, much as European stations are to Ontario farmers. The new college is right amidst them, under representative conditions, and from it the people may expect a vigorous infusion of wholesome information and influence, instead of the more or less unassimilable doses that have hitherto been filtering in from outside Provinces and States. The college will be doing untold good, even though few students pass through its halls for years to

As a means of accomplishing immediate benefit, and at the same time convincing the young men of the country, as the class who attended last winter were convinced, what the school is prepared to do for them, it is intended for some years to lay much stress on the special short courses of a fortnight or so in the winter, it being thought that two weeks spent on men actual-Iv engaged in the business will do more good than two years spent on some of the students who would in all probability constitute a part of the longer or regular class. Working on this line, depending upon merit to commend it, there is no doubt whatever that the College will succeed in drawing the best young farmers of the

corn, which has been one of the greatest of all country, and become in time a mighty force, factors in the education of the Ontario farmer, tending to the uplifting and advancement of agri-

> The regular two-years course will be as nearly as possible identical with that at Guelph, Ont., with a view to enabling those who wish to graduate with the degree of B. S. A. to spend two years at Truro and then go to Guelph, taking up third and fourth year work there. The arrangement is an admirable one from the standpoint of economy, and will enable the faculty at Truro to concentrate effort upon the two-year and shorter

> There is one thing lacking yet in the equipment. The provision as to lecture rooms, laboratories, stock, farm, etc., though modest in scale, are first-class, but there is need for a student-residence building. Although board may be obtained at fairly reasonable terms in the neighboring town of Truro, it is found that a number of parents who wish to send their boys to the school are afraid to do so lest they might be located in undesirable private boarding houses. The only reason a dormitory was not included in the first place was the need for economy and the uncertainty regarding the number of students, which made the revenue a doubtful sum. It is felt, however, that the dormitory must ultimately be provided, and it is a question whether it would not have been better to have had it from the first. It may increase the expense somewhat and entail difficulties in administration, but it would undoubtedly augment the attendance and contribute to efficiency. Experience in the residences of similar colleges convinces us that life in an agricultural college dormitory is for the most part of a very wholesome nature, while the benefits of living right in the midst of farm operations, in which students should share, is considerable. We have discussed this matter with Principal Cumming, and know he is in favor of the residence system. We believe the Government of Nova Scotia is anxious to do all in its power to add every feature that will improve the College. It remains for the farmers to rally round it and state to their representatives in the House of Assembly that they must have such an addition to the equipment. The N. S. Farmers' and the Fruit-growers' Associations might well take this matter up, and we are confident they would not appeal in vain.

> > The Grange in United States.

Though interest in the Grange in Canada seems to have waned to some extent, yet there are signs of a reviving life just at present, and some information about what this organization on the South side of the line has accomplished will prove timely. There the organization is a national one, is rapidly increasing its membership, and has secured a position of influence unknown to any other body outside of party politics. A report brought in by the legislative committee of the National Grange recently, and approved and adopted by the body, is a model of wise choice as to the importance of the questions discussed to the welfare of the whole nation, and these questions are, many of them, of importance to Canada also. The Grange report places emphasis on the extension of foreign markets, and already much is being done through the help of the Agricultural Department at Washington to make American products, both raw and manufactured, known in the markets of the world. Connected with this question is the one of adulteration of foods, which receives the committee's at tention, and they point out the evils resulting to honest manufacturers and to the great body of

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