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EDITORIAL.

A Worthy Institution.

It affords the FARMER'S ADVOCATE genuine satisfaction to give in this issue a résumé of the past and present of the Ontario Agricultural College at the Royal City of Guelph; satisfaction, because it is an institution upon which the farmers not only of this Province, but of all Canada, can look as a credit to the great industry which it exists to serve. Its progress through the quarter-century past, and its condition to-day, must be a source of gratification to all who have had to do with its inception and its development. Education, investigation, and demonstration are its three-fold purpose. In common with many other like enterprises, it has had to face positive opposition and some criticism that was probably not always unwarranted; men have been skeptical of its utility, and others have regarded it with a species of negative indifference not infrequently the fate of state-aided concerns. These obstacles have in a large measure been overcome, and it is to-day the center of an ever-widening influence for good. The progress of the institution has not been of the pyrotechnic sort, but, corresponding with nearly all advancement that is of any real or permanent value, has been patiently, though steadily, made like the growth of an oak. Consequently, the secure and honorable position which it now holds is all the greater credit to its promoters and staff. Does the reader ask for proof of the foregoing statements? We point to the college now thronged to overflowing with students, the brightest of young men from Canadian farms; to the results of experimental work that commend themselves to the practical men and other investigators of standing throughout the continent; to graduates chosen for important positions in similar institutions; and to a farm proper that is clean, creditable, and growing luxuriant crops, the result of a system of tillage that seems well adapted to the soil there, and by the application of manures produced on the farm.

But what of its future? Has the institution attained perfection? Has it reached the limit of its usefulness? We trow not. Agriculture is of sheer necessity progressive, because the conditions that confront the farmer are subject to change; hence, its scope and equipment must be enlarged and enhanced. We have, therefore, no hesitation in saying to the newly-reorganized Government of Ontario and to the legislators of the Province generally that any cheese-paring policy toward the O. A. C. will not commend itself to those who have the well-being of agriculture at heart; in other words, to the men who lead the van. Indeed, we look forward to the time when Canada will sustain not one only, but half a dozen agricultural colleges or schools.

We would encourage farmers, instead of sending their sons to the Collegiate Institute and High School, say, after passing the entrance examination, to give them a good course of two years at least at the Agricultural College. Why? In the first place, the cost would be less—though that is a comparatively trifling matter—for all students have an opportunity by working on the farm to earn a portion at least of their board, and that occupation is most healthful and strengthening. Natural science occupying so large a proportion of the A. O. C. course, supplements the lack of it which is the weakness of the Ontario public-school curriculum. This will accord with the more modern view of the superiority of science teaching as against the old classical system of education. With the former the student learns to know and to do by doing, training his faculties by a study of the things and the processes with which in actual life-work he has to deal. By increasing a love for nature, it will check the tendency to leave the farm, to which, as the records actually show, the great bulk of the Agricultural

College students return. The associations at the O. A. C. are such as to create a greater respect for agriculture, and, other things being equal, should make those who take a course there more successful farmers. But the supreme function of education is not merely to impart information nor to train the student how to do things so as to succeed in acquiring wealth on the farm, but, above all, to develop manhood.

"Ill fares the land to hastening ills a prey
Where wealth accumulates and men decay."

Herein lies the paramount importance of maintaining and liberally sustaining a college staff of high character and qualification, infused with the true genius and spirit of education. Coming under such influences for a fairly complete term, the young man will receive an inspiration which he does not get at the ordinary school, and the great body of students acquire, as we believe they do at Guelph, a morale or an *esprit de corps* which, coupled with the other advantages of the institution, must prove to them of incalculable benefit in the battle of life.

The Crude Petroleum Remedy for San Jose Scale.

The letter, which we publish elsewhere in this issue, from the pen of Dr. Bethune, editor of the *Canadian Entomologist*, is a decidedly notable contribution to the literature of the San José scale for the reason that it presents very fully the results of the official investigations in New Jersey, which appears to have very thoroughly demonstrated the efficiency of a new remedy for this serious foe of the orchardist, viz., crude petroleum oil. At the time when the recent Ontario Government Commission was at work investigating the question, and how best to combat and if possible eradicate the pest, this new treatment had not been made public, but it is patent on the face of Dr. Bethune's letter that it should without delay be thoroughly tested in the areas of infection, which, fortunately, are limited. With all the advancement that is being made in entomology, and with a scale insect which experts can locate and which does not run away from them, it has seemed to us a most remarkable thing if some less drastic and costly a remedy could not be devised than the axe and the torch for the chopping down and destruction of orchards. The summary of the report of the Commission, published in our September 1st issue, suggested some modification in the original plan of campaign by the scale inspectors; but a test of the petroleum treatment will now be in order. We are not aware that the official reports from the New Jersey Station say whether crude oil from the Ohio or Pennsylvania fields was used; but if the latter, then the Western Ontario oil fields would probably furnish a better insecticide, as it is a decidedly better lubricant. At the Petrolia and Oil Springs wells, crude oil has been quoted lately at \$1.65 per barrel, and even with freight and cost of barrels included, it would certainly be very much cheaper—probably not much more than half the cost of the whale-oil application. If found as effective as indicated in Dr. Bethune's letter, the Provincial Department of Agriculture will no doubt make such arrangements with the oil producers that a sufficient supply can be made available for fruit-growers and those engaged in combating the pest, at wholesale rates.

At Buffalo in 1901.

In the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for November 15th, reference was made to the proposal to revive at Chicago a fat stock exhibition befitting the city and the western interests that center there, and which, it was hoped by those promoting the idea, would rise to the dignity of an international character by again attracting Canadian exhibits. In the meantime, events are shaping towards a big exhibition of live stock at the Buffalo Pan-American

Exposition in 1901, to which Congress has already given its recognition by a generous subvention, and the promoters have effected a masterstroke by securing for Director-General the services of Hon. W. I. Buchanan, whose executive abilities were crowned with such marked success in the administration of the Agricultural Department at the World's Columbian Exhibition at Chicago in 1893. Since that time he has been rendering the United States interests distinguished service as its representative in the Argentine Republic. With the memories of their Chicago achievements of '93 in mind, the stockmen of Canada will naturally follow with interest the unfoldment of plans for that department at the Pan-American, and whether individually or in a more comprehensive way, measures will no doubt take shape so that the "studs, herds, and flocks" of the Dominion will be appropriately represented at Buffalo.

Ontario Grain for Paris Exhibition.

The Dominion and the Ontario Departments of Agriculture are desirous of having a good representation of Ontario grains, threshed and in the straw, and the Provincial Department is now in communication with a number of representative farmers and grain-growers. The exhibits of grain will be shortly sent from Ottawa along with the fruit and other agricultural exhibits, and any farmers having grain suitable to exhibit should communicate at once with the Department at Toronto.

Public Stock Sales.

The question whether public auction sales of pure-bred stock are in the interests of the breeders generally or not is one that will bear discussion. It is probably true that as a rule better average prices are made by private contract, taking the years as they come, than are made at auction sales. In this regard much depends upon the business ability and tact of the seller, and quite as much on the quality, breeding, and condition of the stock to be sold. In order to share in the best prices going for stock of any class, the first desideratum is to have animals ranking as nearly as possible with those of the most generally approved breeding, type and quality, and the next to have and keep them in such condition that they will be attractive and catch the eye of the prospective buyer. This, of course, applies equally to private and to public sales. While the system of doing business by private contract is and will continue to be the general custom, being, as a rule, the most convenient and least expensive, there are occasions and circumstances where it is necessary or expedient to call a public sale and to dispose of an entire stock, or a portion of it, by public competition as the readiest means of dispersal. The necessity of closing or dividing an estate, or of raising money for any special purpose, a change from one line of business to another, the fact of being overstocked for the stable accommodation or of being short of feed owing to an unfavorable season in the district, are all legitimate reasons for the adoption of the public vendue as a means of bringing buyers and sellers together, and may be to their mutual advantage.

The question of the advisability of establishing annual or other periodical auction sales is another question, and one on which there is room for difference of opinion. Judging from observation of the experience of those breeders who have tried this system in Canada in the past, we cannot say that we are sanguine of the prospects for success. The fact that so many have started out with the purpose of holding such sales, and so few have continued them for any considerable number of years, is liable to lead to the conclusion that for the seller at least the results have not proved satisfactory. The failure of one or of a number to make a continued success of such sales is not, however, by any means a conclusive argument against the system. In these