

Pages Missing

The O. A. C. Review.

The Dignity of a Calling is Its Utility.

Vol. VI.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, MARCH, 1895.

No. 6

EDITORIAL NOTES.



THE letter in last month's issue on the Experimental Union has called forth a terse suggestive letter from J. G. Ross, '81. For ex-students to discuss this subject in short crisp letters is just what we desire. Let them tell us what will induce them to attend the Union. Mr. Ross asks a suggestive question, "What College with the influence and prominence of the O. A. C. has not an annual meeting and banquet." etc.? It is claimed that we lack College spirit, due to several causes, among these is the shortness of the course, which cannot be lengthened until the attendance is much increased; so we must try and arouse it in other ways. Would not a social rally once a year of ex-students greatly tend to arouse this spirit, and in this way alone repay the trouble which might be necessary to make it a success? Most of the present students are here through the influence of those of the past. Keep warm the feeling of ex-students for the institution, keep them fully in touch with it, and this influence will be much increased. How to do this is what we want to find out. Ex-students write and let us know your thoughts on the question.

Now that the Dairy School Examinations are over the regular students have entered upon the special two weeks of practical Dairy work. Three years ago when this plan was adopted it was supposed that the arrangement was but temporary. Such does not seem to be the case. Coming as it does immediately before the Easter Examinations, which are the heaviest in the whole course, this little scheme of being called to lectures at 6.30 a. m. in order to reach the Dairy in time for a day's work seriously disturbs the regular work of the College. Just at this season of the year too, when the Farm Superintendent is getting things in shape for the spring work, he can ill afford to lose the labor which earlier in the year he is at a loss to expend to advantage. The Christmas vacation has been felt by the majority of us to be too long. Four weeks with very little to do at home soon grows wearisome to the most ardent lover of vacations. Now, why not lengthen the term and shorten the vacation by having the two weeks' dairy work begin soon after the first of January, and close the school immediately their examinations are over, instead of dragging on for fourteen days, endeavoring in that time to do four weeks' work? We can see no reason why this plan could not be made to work, and we are sure that it would be more satisfactory to all concerned.

AGRICULTURAL.

Some Hints on Fattening Cattle.

IF our farm animals are kept with a view to profit, it is of the highest importance that the conditions and food shall be such as to produce the best results. Not only is this of the highest importance, but it is important that the feeder of that stock should understand the nature of the animal, and food he feeds, so as to adapt the one to the other, and so combine the different foods that the best results will be attained.

I do not say that in order to feed to a profit the farmer must understand the composition of the animal he handles, or the exact composition of the ration fed; because we know that there are hundreds of successful feeders throughout our Province who do not know the difference between albuminoids and carbohydrates, and who would sneer at the suggestion; yet at the same time these very men are putting scientific facts into practice every day. They pursue a certain course and feed a certain ration because they have found by actual practice and observation that these produce the best results.

The composition of the animal is very similar qualitatively to that of the plant. It was once supposed that animals had the power of changing and combining the elements of their food into such forms as their necessity required; but it is now known that they do not possess the power of even compounding the substance of the muscles from its elements, and can only appropriate from the vegetable what they find, ready formed, for their use—that the vegetable must elaborate, and the animal can merely appropriate. Food then must contain all the elements of the animal body.

The animal body is constantly undergoing changes, the substances of which they are composed are broken down or destroyed, and substances identical in composition in the vegetable foods are replacing them in the animal. These substances because of their nourishing properties are called nutrients. No two foods contain the nutrients just in the same proportions; but by intelligently combining them a ration may be obtained with these nutrients in such a proportion as not only to repair the waste but supply material for the laying on of flesh. It is in thus properly combining the foods, that the skill of the feeder is shown.

Pope says: "First follow nature and your judgment frame." This advice is just as applicable to cattle feeding as to poetry. Stock feeders often forget the natural habits of the animal, in their anxiety to make the most rapid progress, and

ply them with too concentrated foods, and thus derange the animals constitution. The structure of the digestive apparatus of the ruminants points to the fact that they were calculated to consume bulky and fibrous food. Nature never intended that they should be fed on concentrated food alone. The stalk has twice the weight of the grain, and animals naturally masticate both together. In this condition it goes into the first stomach from whence it is brought back, re-chewed, and more thoroughly mixed with saliva, and then in this finely divided state it goes through the second and third stomachs into the fourth, where, owing to its porous condition it becomes thoroughly saturated with digestive fluids, and is passed on, receiving digestive fluids and giving up nutrients as it goes.

In many parts of our Province ignorance is shown of the nature of ruminants by feeding corn meal and other concentrated foods alone. This, being moistened with saliva, passes into the third and fourth stomachs. The gastric juice cannot, because of its doughy nature, penetrate and circulate through it, and consequently much of the meal is found to be undigested. Physiologists tell us that the muscular coat of the stomach by its contraction gives a gentle motion to the contents of the stomach intermixing these with the gastric fluid, but in the case of food like corn meal, this muscular action can only succeed in rolling it over, but could not break it or render it porous for the entrance or absorption of the gastric juice. But if this meal is fed with cut hay or straw so that both must be eaten together, the coarse fodder will separate the particles of the meal and thus make the mass porous. When thus fed, the meal is raised and re-masticated with the coarse fodder.

In selection of cattle for fattening the feeder should pay particular attention to the general conformation and age of the animal. These two points are sometimes overlooked by young feeders in buying cattle and they are points which cannot be too strongly emphasized, for the success or failure of the business depends largely on whether the right or wrong kind of animals are chosen.

The animals selected should have a general appearance of thrift about them indicating the absence of disease, and active digestion. The eye should be mild, the skin soft and pliable, hair silky; these when connected with an animal of the beef type (low, square build with roomy respiratory and digestive apparatus) go to make up all that is desirable as far as appearance is concerned.

The age of an animal also has a great influence on the rapidity of fattening. While an animal is young and immature, its appetite, digestive and assimilative functions, are most active, and these functions grow less and less active after maturity. After the period of perfect development the natural habit of the animal is to eat and digest only so much as is necessary to supply the waste of the tissues; and consequently its weight remains nearly stationary. Another most important point is, that while the animal is young, and in an active stage of growth, the percentage of waste in its system is much less than at and after maturity. The food of support or what is necessary to supply the constant waste of the system, and keep the animal without loss has accumulated to a large item at maturity. It then becomes very clear that the interest of the feeder requires that the animal be young. According to this we gather also that the time required for the growth of a calf of his own breeding should be as

short as possible. It must be evident that the cost of supplying the waste of the system during a period of four years, will be as great as to produce animals of the same weight in 24 to 30 months: or in other words, a skillful feeder of young animals will produce twice as much weight at 24 as at 48 months with the same food.

It is hardly necessary to mention the fact that good stables are absolute necessities where cattle are being fattened. Although all admit this yet many who make a business of fattening cattle actually lose hundreds of dollars every year through carelessness. They are not particular about keeping their stables clean, which is so important, for cleanliness is a great promoter of good health. Often we enter stables, where great currents of cold air, caused by a broken window, seem to have taken possession of the lower stratum of atmosphere, causing the cattle to draw heavily upon the fat forming materials of the food to keep up heat. There are other essentials of almost equal importance such as pure water, salt, a temperature of about 60°, and quietness, of which space will not permit me to treat; but will only say in conclusion that some times it is the attention to these details which may seem small in themselves but which determine the margin of profit in cattle feeding.

A. A. E.

A Harvest-Time Trip to Manitoba.

(CONCLUDED).



ALTHOUGH our railway journey was ended as our train steamed into Brandon station, we still had a good ten miles to accomplish before our final destination was reached. We decided to make use of our limbs for this part of the journey, and accordingly set out early on the morning following our arrival for our first prairie walk. The sun shone bright and warm as we passed the last straggling cottages of the town and descended the gentle slope toward the Assiniboine River. Away to the left the wigwams of the red men were seen in groups, herds of cattle grazed peacefully near us, while in front the opposite slope looked forbidding enough. We are on the "Rapid City Trail, (although so far the trail appears like an ordinary road), and soon see three dusky young braves swinging along in front of us. They must know we are strangers, for their manner of stopping and glaring at us until we pass them is unpleasant. However, we leave them aiming at some birds which are perched on the bridge we have just crossed, and begin our climb of the hill in front of us. We now are passing the Manitoba Experimental Farm, where Superintendent Bedford is doing his best to teach the farmers that, even in Manitoba, neatness, care, and forethought accomplish a great deal. We notice with pleasure the neat fences, handsome substantial buildings, and attractive rows of trees, which are all features of this station, but of few Manitoba farms. As we reach the level plain again our eyes behold a real Manitoba landscape in all its glory of waving wheat. Immense fields of the golden grain stretch away on either side, broken sometimes by the virgin prairie or the rude trails which run in different directions. We pause and hear the gentle rustle of the grain as the waves come sweeping subtly toward us, and catch the glint of

the far-off binder, already at work. The houses and their surroundings here give the idea of being merely dwelling places: comfort and taste in arrangement do not seem to be desired. After going directly north for some time we turn to the left and pass the famous farm of Mr. Sandison, which is often called the C. P. R. farm. We have all seen pictures of this place representing a harvest scene with innumerable binders in perspective one behind the other. The picture here represented, and exhibited by the Canadian Pacific Railway, is all too bright. They do not publish the fact that even this farm, this wonderful object-lesson of what the settler can do, has failed and the owner become bankrupt. Our journey, however, was made during a prosperous season, and the sight of these vast fields of grain was certainly enough to fire the imagination of a traveller from our Province. Some of these fields contain each a square mile of grain in one unbroken sweep, a simple trail being the only division between them. As we travel farther still from the town the proportion of prosperous settlers grows smaller. We now and then see the bachelor's dwelling (well-named shanty), where the bachelor, after his long lonely day's work with his oxen comes "home" to his supper of stale bread and water and his bed of straw. Such is the daily life for years of many who avail themselves of the glorious opportunity of taking one of the free farms or homesteads which are so often flung at us through the C. P. R. literature. Here the farms become fewer and the country more monotonous, a low ridge on our right seeming to take from the appearance of the scenery, rather than add to it. No rocks, fences, or trees even here to break the wide sweep of the landscape: the only glory is the sky. If the ancients had lived here they would have worshipped the sky: for it is ever awe inspiring, whether with its broad blue, with different colored clouds tossing and struggling together as they are hurried madly who knows where, or with its brilliant ever-changing sunset which fascinates the beholder until the last rays have faded away and he is called to himself by the chill night breeze which arises and the lowering shadows which bid him hasten to regain the train, ere it be too late.

After our long walk we are glad to reach at last the farm-house which is to shelter us during our stay in Manitoba; and we are more than satisfied with our unceremonious but hearty welcome. We are near the banks of the Little Saskatchewan, which with its deep valley, green shrubs, and small trees, forms a delightful contrast to the surrounding scenery. The farm-house is plain and unattractive enough, both inside and out, and consists of a kitchen and bed-room downstairs and a loft above. In this place nine of us spent many bleak cold days while our Ontario friends had not yet quite given up their straw hats, or boating-trips. Nevertheless, we were a jolly household, and made the most of the uneventful days which succeeded. If rain came, one of the boys, generally our leader, saddled the broncho and started on a week's visit to some friends who lived a half-day's ride away. There was nothing then for us to do but sit on our beds in the loft, and shoot at the knots in the opposite wall with a small rifle. We had so much of this target practice that we were proficient enough to drive nails before the rainy season ended.

After the grain was all cut and stooked we struck our tents—or, to speak more definitely, we placed our goods and chattels on a stone-boat, and transferred them by means of a gentle broncho to another

farm some miles east. Here we found things in a more prosperous condition: the owner had seen ten successful years come and go, bringing increased comforts, buildings, and more land. Still he spared neither man nor beast during harvest-time; for his own day's work was measured by the sun, and any unwilling to follow his example were not fortunate in dealing with him. Our work here was pitching and stacking, and we pitched for three weeks without a break, three of us harvesting the grain off one hundred and eighty acres—and Manitoba wheat too. How our backs and arms ached when Saturday night came,—sweet Saturday night—and how glad we were on Sunday that this was a grain farm, and not a mixed or dairy farm. Each day was like the other. We started to the fields after breakfast with our dinner and tea in a box. At twelve o'clock we stopped to "get a bite o' truck;" or sometimes the welcome announcement that it was "time to chew" greeted our ears. In less than half an hour we were at it again, working hard to complete the first stack which we had started in the morning. Our tea, taken about five o'clock, was over in fifteen minutes, and before our last mouthful had been masticated, we had grasped our forks and were working again. We generally reached the house when it was quite dark; and got through with our work in time to enjoy a short talk before the fire ere bed-time, which came none too soon. After all the grain was stacked came the season of threshing. But before this was over the days grew much shorter, the evenings and mornings quite cold, and sometimes a light fall of snow reminded one of the iron grasp of winter which was soon to hold that vast country in its clutches. After the threshing is done the year's work is completed, with the exception of some fall plowing. All that is then necessary is the drawing of the grain to the nearest shipping point, and this work is often protracted far into the winter.

This sojourn on the prairie gave us a better insight into the condition of Manitoba than a much more extended visit in any of the towns would have done. We saw that the country is prosperous and has a great future, without being what agents and other interested persons claim for it. The hardy, hard working man who wishes to better his condition or the farmer of small means who does not succeed here for lack of capital, can do no better than go West. But in many cases where one is doing fairly well, it would be folly to leave friends, surroundings, and everything, to venture into the unknown wilds; as many have learned to their cost. I hope a word of advice will be pardoned. If this meets the eye of any one who contemplates making his home in the West, let him not invest in any way until after an extended sojourn in the country; for while many a Manitoba farmer would change his lot for no one here, others would return to-day if they had the wherewithal to come.

MARK TAPLEY.

A catalogue of the 1,750,000 books in the library of the British Museum is about completed. The work of cataloging has been actively carried on since 1831. Twenty-three volumes are filled by the titles beginning with the letter A, and 35 with those beginning with the letter B. The entire catalogue will consist of 600 volumes.—Ex.

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Ex-Students are requested to contribute to our columns.

MARCH, 1895.

To the Editor of the O. A. C. Review

DEAR SIR.—I am sure that Mr. G. F. Marsh has touched upon a very important matter in his letter on the Ontario Experimental Union in the February number of the Review, and a subject which has already been too long neglected as far as the social aspect of the Union is concerned.

I believe I was present at the organization of the Union, or at all events during the very early stages of its career, and the impression left upon my mind was that the purposes of the Union were threefold, viz:

1. To promote intercourse between the officers and students, past and present, with the view to mutual information.
2. To discuss subjects bearing upon the wide field of agriculture with its allied sciences and arts.
3. To hear papers and addresses delivered by competent parties.

The Union, therefore, had in view objects which were, we might say, for the benefit and use of the officers and students past and present of the O. A. College, alone; therefore, let us see what the Article on membership says in the original Constitution. "All officers and students of whatever time shall be entitled to become members of the Union on paying their subscription." So that taking everything into consideration there is no doubt that the object of the Union being originally for the social, and then the experimental gratification of students past and present, that the experimental feature has collapsed and snowed under as it were the social aspect.

While no one will regret the expansion and success of this feature of the Union, yet we cannot but regret that the social portion did not keep up the same improving pace; and hence the accounting in a great measure for the slender attendance and interest taken in the Union by the older students of the College.

There is apparently something else wrong, it seems to me, in the

interior economy of the present Union, which would be the letter of some thought and improvement, viz:

1. Thoroughly discuss the approaching meeting of the Union in the publication of the Review previous to the meeting; give the programme of papers and addresses; the names of the speakers, &c., &c. so that a fair idea of the meeting may be had before hand.

2. Let the Secretary notify all ex-students whose addresses he may have, by circular, of the date and place of meeting two or three weeks before the date arranged, so that they set their houses in order (if they have any) before setting out for the meeting,—whether they are paying members or not. Some may have forgotten; others may wish to join, who have not considered it before. Set the ball rolling; it will soon gather in the leys, if the meetings are only attractive enough.

Mr. Marsh's suggestion, which is a good one, now comes in. Set aside the portion of the time for social duties confined to past and present students and officers. Let us have a family gathering as it were before hand; where we can meet old friends and make new ones. What College with the influence and prominence of the O. A. C. has not an annual meeting and banquet to which members throng from all parts of the Dominion to attend, and with the more serious open meetings of the Union coming afterwards, would it not act as a great stimulus?

Seven or eight years ago I recommended forming a branch of the Union into a students society, and corresponded with R. F. Hollerman and W. J. Stover in regard to it. The matter was discussed, I believe, at one of the meetings; but evidently dropped out of sight, as nothing was done to forward the idea.

No one feels more proud of the success of the Union in its experimental and agricultural sense than I do, and long may the meetings remain as popular as they are, to spread broadcast over the land the truths of the sciences and arts which are so essential to the success of our agriculturists. Long may they last, and brighten the homes of our neighbors, but while we are doing so let us gladden our own doors with some extra rays of sunshine.

Let us then send a rallying cry through the country for a rousing meeting next year; let us have a social reunion, where flow of soul and reason may be poured out; where we renew our acquaintances of the past and enjoy ourselves in the present, and look forward in welcome anticipation to the future. Let us have a chat of old days, and a laugh at the old jokes; let us sigh for those that are absent, and drop a tear for those that are gone—gone to that bourne from which no traveller ever returns. Let us visit the various departments of the farm by ourselves, and commune with the rising generation who have taken our places, and let us meet in solemn conclave on our own society affairs, and then on the morrow, when the great meeting takes place, strengthened by old acquaintances, and welcomed by new ones, we will be more ready to attend it, and help forward to the best of our ability the onward march of the young giant Agriculture.

Give us a welcome, and meetings such as these, and he indeed would be a misanthropist, who would want to cut short his annual visit to the O. A. C.

Yours very truly,

J. G. ROSS, '81.

MONTREAL, 15th March, 1895.

Locals.

King (looking at the total eclipse of the moon out of the Editor's sanctum)—By jove it just looks like a thick mist over the moon; I believe Lang must be up there smoking.

N. F. W. is now the proud possessor of a cork-screw, which he obtained as first prize for being best gentleman euchre player at a small party in the city, a few weeks ago. Attached to the handle by a beautiful ribbon was the well known quotation from Shakespeare: "Screw your courage to the sticking place and you'll not fail." For further particulars apply to Wilson.

The Dairy School examinations were held in the gymnasium on the 13th and 14th inst. Altogether about seventy students wrote on the exams, and had not the smallpox scare caused some to decamp for their respective homes, the attendance would have been larger than ever before. This department is now equipped in the latest style, and has done much as an advertising medium for the College.

We regret that we have to announce the departure of Mr. S. Loghrin from our midst. Mr. Loghrin was a prominent man in his year, taking a high standing in his exams, and an active part in the Literary Society, of which he was Secretary. Sam was a jolly good fellow when here and we dare say that he is yet, and his well known "yell" is missed by all within hearing distance of 25, and especially by the editors in the tower.

Remember your class mates, Samie, who wish you every success and hope to see you back next year to complete the course.

Mr. Wm. Houston, Director of Teacher's Institutes, paid our College a visit a few days ago and delivered a few lectures to the Second Year on Political Economy. Mr. Houston is an easy speaker and is full of his subject, consequently his lectures on the subject were very instructive and highly appreciated by the students. He also delivered an address on Tennyson to the 3rd year students, in which he showed his extensive knowledge regarding the life, and character of the writings of the late poet laureate. Mr. Houston has always been, and we predict, always will be a welcome visitor in the halls of our Alma Mater.

Since the last issue of our paper the College has been honored by a visit from a large number of the members of the Local Legislature. The three different parties were well represented and were met by our worthy President at the depot and at once drove to the College. The party, on reaching the farm, drove up by the College where they were greeted most heartily by the students, who were formed in two lines in front of the College. The party at once visited the Dairy Department and occupied the remainder of the forenoon in inspecting that important part of our institution.

At one o'clock they assembled in the dining hall for luncheon, where speeches were made by representatives of each of the different parties, most of whom spoke in gratifying terms of our College as a seat of education. Fortunately the weather was all that could be de-

sired and admitted of a pleasant inspection of the buildings on this side of the road during the afternoon.

At about 5 o'clock the party took their departure for Toronto, taking with them, we trust, a good impression of the O. A. C.

We hope that the Legislature can now see its way clear to promote the interest of the institution, and will endeavor to extend the already broad and practical education which is obtainable here.

The professors, officers, and students of the college have had a group taken which promises to surpass all previous ones taken in the history of the institution. It contains all fifteen professors and officers and one hundred and three students. The well known firm of Burgess & Son was intrusted with the contract, and the single photos show artistic skill of a superior quality, and when the large group is completed it will not take second place on the walls of the reading room. The committee consisting of Messrs. McPhail, Payne, and Viddifield, is to be complimented on their efforts in making the group such a success.

Some things we wish to know:

- (1). If the engineer at the dairy is one of the instructors on cheese-making.
- (2). If all people are not on an equal social standing why jealousy exists between different classes.
- (3). Why it is reported that McConachie and Evans are to become brothers-in-law in the near future.
- (4). Why Edelsten is so often seen in the vicinity of the west end of the front hall.
- (5). How Single Tax affects the prospects of King's marriage.
- (6). Why McGillivray takes such a deep interest in the G. C. I. Literary Society.
- (7). Why Kip is so deeply interested in W. C. T. U. work.
- (8). Why the reports of the term exams. in Drawing and Dairy-ing were not taken into account in the last term's final examinations.
- (9). If Devitt is ever satisfied.
- (10). Why Campbell turned Episcopalian.
- (11). Why Scissors requires salting.
- (12). If A. W. Macdonald intends to study law, or type-writing and phonography.
- (13). If Dame Rumour's report is true that McPherson, G. A. Smith, and Arms are about to renounce Protestantism.
- (14). If Minister Dryden intends to hire Thom, Taylor, and Harris to run a travelling dairy next summer.

In this issue we continue our short biographies of some of the more prominent students of the College.

— sprung into existence some time in the seventies; is 5 ft. 9 in. in height, weight about 155 lbs., is fair to look upon, and at the present time is raising a stunning moustache.

Ever since he has been able to tread terra firma, he has been engaged in agricultural pursuits and has a strong liking for farming as an occupation. Being of an investigative turn of mind, he decided to obtain an extensive knowledge of the science of agriculture. He,

therefore, took a tender farewell of his friends and that same day registered as a student of this famous institution.

During the first year, besides passing all his exams, about the top rung of the ladder, he led captive a great many of the feminine hearts in the city, and no doubt could have left the ranks of the uncoupled some time ago if he had so desired. In the latter part of June he bid his city sweethearts a loving farewell and repaired to the parental roof once more, where he endeavored to put into practice the theories he obtained here.

He returned for his second year and was elected one of the Local Editors of the College journal, a position he is admirably well fitted to fill.

It is said of him that he has broken more College rules than any other student in the institution but always escaped being fined. He is justly popular and enjoys a smoke with his College chums as well as is possible to do so. We have no hesitancy in venturing the assertion, that he will, on leaving the halls of his Alma Mater, soon take unto himself a partner, settle down and become of the foremost farmers in his native county.

— first saw the light of day in the vicinity of Dereham Centre, Oxford county. Ever since earliest boyhood he has manifested a strong liking for farming as an occupation, and in this respect has outshone most competitors, especially in hog breeding. Dame Rumour has it, that, what this particular student does not know about pigs, especially Chester Whites, isn't worth knowing. As a student he is a great "pluggor," as shown from the fact that studies occupy the greater part of his time during seven days in the week. He is also of a musical turn of mind and would be greatly missed as organist of the Y. M. C. A. As a cunning planner of laughable escapades he stands without a peer, and if there is any particular undertaking to be carried out by the students, without the authorities having a ghost of a show of ascertaining the ring leaders, he is always chosen to lead the band on to victory. We recognize in him certain peculiarities which admirably fit him for becoming one of the foremost leaders of men; and when he returns to his favorite calling, Oxford county will have cause to be proud of him.

— the subject of our short sketch was born in the State of Illinois some eighteen years ago, and is a typical specimen of a loyal American in every sense of the word. It is estimated that this man can talk more in five minutes than the majority of men can in half an hour, and as we might expect his particular themes are: The U. S., the greatest country on the face of the globe to-day. Canadians good fellows but too slow, hockey and baseball as sports, and how to bet on them so as to win. Hereford cattle and how to breed them, and cock-fighting as a Sunday amusement. On these he persistently argues his point giving his opponents no time to put a word in edgewise. During his stay with us, so far, he has acquitted himself well. It is justly said of him that if a fellow student is in trouble of any sort, he is the first man to lend a helping hand to enable the student to get out of the difficulty. His father was one of the foremost exhibitors of Hereford cattle at the World's Fair, and we freely venture the assertion that his son is a "chip off the old block" and will, after he has received a thorough Canadian college training, do credit to himself, his Alma Mater, and his native State.

Literary Society.



HERE is nothing of particular interest to be reported this month: the usual round of music, song, recitation, and debate taking place each night with wonted decorum. The debates on political subjects introduced last term have not proved so productive of contentions as was predicted by some of the more cautious members of the Society; but on the contrary, by provoking warm discussions, they have done much to prevent that liturgical condition into which the meetings are apt to fall as the Winter Term advances. The reviving of debates on Economic subjects has also contributed not a little to the interest and practical value of the meetings. Too often debaters allow themselves to select time-worn subjects because the preparation of them demands but little study. The arguments already trite, are doled out to a disgusted audience, interest flags, attendance becomes sparse, and the Literary fails to do the work for which it was designed.

For the first time since the establishment of the Dairy School, its students have met those of the College in debate, and, much to the chagrin of the latter, have succeeded in carrying off the honors of the occasion. The debate, "Resolved, that a Limited Monarchy is a better form of government than a Republican," was hotly contested by both sides. The affirmative, Messrs. Lang and Paterson, labored to show that a Monarchical form of government tends to bind the people together, while a Republican, produces the opposite effect: the ease with which a representative can be approached by party friends; and, taking England and the United States as examples of countries governed under these systems, the advantages of an unwritten constitution over a written one. The negative, Messrs. McDonald and Stonehouse, showed that the tendency of all government was towards Democracy, and dwelt upon the inequality of men under a Monarchy, in this way appealing strongly to the democratic sentiment of the time.

Inspired by the glowing arguments for single tax brought forward by Henry George in this city a few weeks ago, the officers of the Society thought that it would be a good thing to have the matter fully discussed at one of the meetings by a few of the older heads about the College. Accordingly, on the 15th, Mr. Reynolds moved, that the single tax is a more equitable method of raising a revenue than the present system. In making the motion the mover questioned the justice of taxing the product of man's labor, proved the injustice of allowing speculators to enjoy unearned increment, showed the result of single tax on land in country and city, and successfully combated the argument that non-owners of land could escape taxation. Mr. Day seconded the motion in a happy speech in which he dealt with the tax as affecting bachelors, farmers, etc. Prof. Dean followed in a few words of reply and labored in vain to overthrow the arguments for the motion. In the open discussion, Mr. Clark reviewed the salient points in Political Science, and ably supported Mr. George in the main points of his theory. Messrs. Thompson, King, Robertson, and McPhail also joined briefly in the discussion.

Paradoxical as it may seem, it was proved at one of the meetings held during the month that civilization is a failure. The debate was hastily gotten up being almost extemporaneous, notwithstanding the arguments of W. A. Kennedy to the contrary. Mr. White easily proved his position, illustrating by practical example the principles he endeavored to inculcate.

Athletics.

1 WING to want of space in our last issue, the account of the Hockey match against the Imperial Bank, of Toronto, had to be held over.

This match, the best and fastest played in the rink this season, will long be remembered, not only by those who actually took part in the game, but also by the spectators, as one of the most exciting games they have ever had the pleasure of witnessing. The game throughout was characterized by the entire absence of anything like rough play, although both teams did their best, especially our team who did not know what they could do before they tried in this match. There was a very good attendance of spectators who showed great interest in the play by their loud and repeated applause. Soon after the game began, the College scored a goal amid great enthusiasm, and indeed for the first ten minutes it looked as if the College had a very good chance of winning. Unfortunately our goalkeeper got hurt during the early part of the game and Langtry of the Imperials, who had been hurt before the game began, went off to even matters up, so for the remaining half of the match there were just six men aside. The combination and speed of the forwards of our opponents were bound to tell in the end, and the score at half time was four goals to two (4-2) in their favor. In the second half our team managed to hold its own, and when time was called each side had added 3 goals to their score, bringing the score up to seven goals to five (7-5) in favor of our opponents. D. J. Macpherson and G. A. Smith put up a good game on the forward line, while N. F. Wilson proved very useful behind, stopping several dangerous rushes by the opposing forwards. Creelman and Cosby played well for the Imperials. The score was as much a surprise to the Imperials as it was to us, they being confident of an easy win, while we expected they would "walk," or rather skate, "all over us." This match proved that our first team can play when they like, and the only thing to be regretted in connection with hockey this year is that more matches could not be arranged.

On 7th of this month our team met the Guelph players in a return match and won after a good game by seven goals to four (7-4). Ed. Mills was unable to play for us this time so Parker played in goal and G. Robertson, one of the second team, played in Parker's place. Notwithstanding this change, our boys had the best of the game throughout, although at one time in the second half of the game the score was even, each side having obtained four goals. The score at half-time was three to one (3-1) in our favor but when play began again after adding another goal to our score our team seemed to be taking a rest, and Guelph added 3 goals in quick succession, bringing the score even. However, the rest seemed to have done our boys good for before the end of the game they succeeded in scoring three more goals and we were left the winners by three points. Guelph played a slightly different team with Burgess in goal and Mercer cover-point. Wettlaufer, from Berlin, refereed the game to the satisfaction of both sides.

Following are the teams;

O. A. C.—Goal, F. A. Parker; point, N. F. Wilson; cover point, G. Robertson, W. E. Thom; forwards, D. J. MacPherson, G. A.

Smith, J. Naismith.

Guelph—Goal, Burgess; point, Suider; cover point, Von Island, Mercer; forwards, T. Day, G. Petric, Laughton.

The G. C. I. played our second team on the 14th, and succeeded after a very good game in making it a draw, each side obtaining four goals (4-4). The score at half time was (3-1) in our favor. The G. C. I. turned out in full force to cheer their team on. The fair sex were well represented and particularly distinguished themselves; for remarks on this subject refer to an article in the Mercury of last Saturday, the 16th. The paragraph referring to the match, is well written by an evidently interested spectator, and no doubt the G. C. I. were greatly aided by the cheer of their fair friends, as the writer remarks, but if we have another match we hope the fair friends of the College will turn out and cheer us on, for we feel sure that there must be some of the fair sex who are in favor of the College at hockey matches as well as at other times. We congratulate the G. C. I. "yellers" on the part they took in the game, and ourselves on not getting "rattled" at so much discordant harmony! We dare not say, nor do we think, that the fair sex do not harmonize with a hockey match, for there, as at other times, we could not get along without them. But we have wandered from our subject, hockey, which sometimes is as interesting even as the opposite sex, and was especially so on this night, although at times we noticed our opponents turning longing glances towards their fair supporters in the gallery.

It is a pity the rink is so badly lighted, the ends being so dark that the "puck" is frequently lost; except for this, Guelph has no cause to complain of the rink used for hockey, and we wish the G. C. I. and Guelph Hockey Clubs every success next season, and hope that next year we may again have the privilege of defeating them.

Personal.

W. A. Elms, '93, is attending Brantford Collegiate.

—o—

Frank Webster, '90, is farming near Creemore, Simcoe Co.

—o—

Joseph Conn, '93, is managing his father's farm near Heathcote.

—o—

W. J. Carlow, '92, has charge of the Warkworth Creamery this winter.

—o—

W. G. Birdsall is now a full fledged veterinary surgeon, and practicing at E. Caygeon, Ont.

—o—

William Rendall, '89, took the Dairy Course this year and was particularly interested in dairy bacteriology.

—o—

Wm. McGarry, '90, has brought his knowledge of dairying up to

date by attending the course at the Dairy School, with a view to accepting a position in a cheese factory.

—o—

G. Carlow, '87, has taken the regular dairy course, intending to make dairy a specialty on his father's farm (200 acres) at Warkworth, where he has been farming since leaving College.

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At the Utah Dairymen's Association meeting held last month in Salt Lake City, Professor Linfield, B. S. A., '91, took an active part, drawing special attention to the need of legislation against the sale of adulterated dairy products.

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Near Heathcote, Grey Co., three of the young men who took a course at the O. A. C., are farming. James White and James Rorke, '88, and Joseph Conn, '92. The first mentioned renounced his single blessedness a short time ago, and it is expected that with his worthy partner he will demonstrate how peaceful and enjoyable life on the farm may be made.

—o—

Leonard G. Bell, jr., '92, sends an interesting reply letter from Qu Appelle Station, Assinibolia, saying by way of introduction, "as my friends will tell you, in doing so I have to struggle with my extreme bashfulness in having to tackle such a delicate subject as my self." Not having the pleasure of personal acquaintance with our correspondent we ourselves cannot gauge the degree of Mr. Bell's bashfulness; but when this meets the eye of some of his numerous College friends we will take it as a favor to be informed on this point. What an interesting correspondence may result from this, to be sure. It is to be regretted that space will not permit publication of all letters that may be received;—so write at once not forgetting to send a few items regarding "self." The letter continues thus: "To begin with, I am in good health; still enjoying single blessedness (every prospect of its continuing)." (Is this I wonder owing to Mr. Bell's "bashfulness?" There is another point for those intending to correspond on this interesting subject "with the necessaries of life well supplied, including an extra large dose of plenty to do." So you see Mr. Bell writes in very good spirits despite the fact that he finds it difficult to make even dairying pay well, "owing to the prevalent bad times." "Butter," he says, "has not been higher than 15 cents this winter and recently fallen to 10 cents." Mr. Bell is confident, however, that the increased shipping of butter to England will greatly improve prices. Mr. Bell and his father own 640 acres in one block, partly wooded with poplar and willow; the soil is light loam with subsoil of blue clay. Wages are high and the labor generally of a poor class. The root crops last summer were almost a total failure, so that the cattle had to subsist chiefly on hay with light grain ration twice a day, and many on surrounding farms fared worse.

This rather tends to shake one's faith in the golden West, but we must remember that experiences differ.

Exchanges and Thoughts from the College World.

By attention ideas are registered in the memory. Locke.

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Let no man presume to give advice to others that has not at first given good counsel to himself.—Seneca.

—o—

'Tis now about the time of year
When each friend, overbold,
Fires off this question in your ear:
"Where did you get that cold?"

—o—

OUTLINE OF A SHORT STORY.

- Chap. I. Maid One.
Chap. II. Maid Won.
Chap. III. Made One.—Ex.

—o—

According to the Student, the nine longest words in the English language are as follows:—

- Subconstitutionalist.
Incomprehensibility.
Philoprogenitiveness.
Honorificabilitudinitary.
Anthropophagenerian.
Dysproportionableness.
Velocipedeanistical.
Transsubstantiationableness.
Proantitranssubstantiationist.

—o—

"I wish I were a bird," she sang,
And each disgusted one,
Thought to himself the wicked thought,
"O, would I were a gun."

—o—

College Ethics.

President John of DePauw College, in a recent address is quoted as saying the following:

Put into plain English, the sentiment which prevails in many colleges, whether professional or literary, is this: To tell a lie is wrong on the street, but right in college; to use personal violence is wrong in a saloon, but right in college; to boycott is wrong in Ireland, wrong even in the business circles of the United States, but right in college; to destroy property is wrong in a cowboy, but to deface walls or to carry off gates and signboards is right in a college student; to howl and screech on the street is wrong in a drunken man, and should consign him to diet of bread and water, but to make night hideous with unearthly yells is a sign of culture, provided the yells proceed from the throats of the college boys."

F. J. C.