

THE REVUE

Vol. IV.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, MARCH, 1893.

No. 6.

Ordered Clothing

DEPARTMENT.

*To the Students of the
O. A. C.*

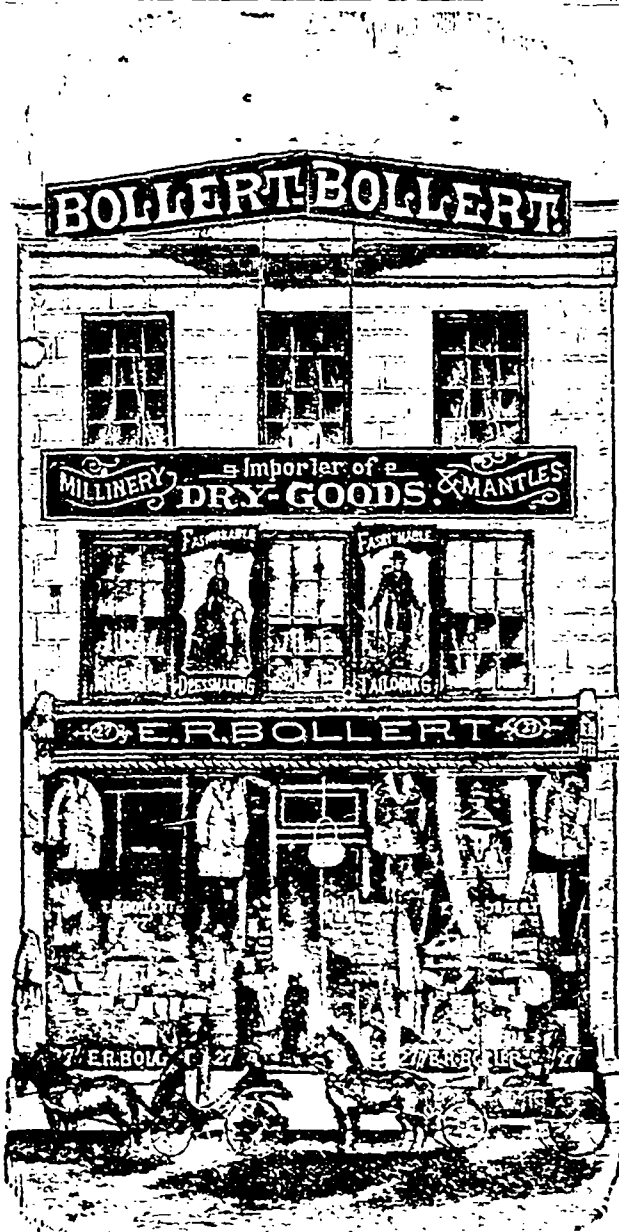
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THE O. A. C. REVIEW.


THE DIGNITY OF A CALLING IS ITS UTILITY.

VOL. IV.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, MARCH, 1893.

No. 6

Editorial

 IN last month's issue we offered a few general criticisms upon the course of study in this college. We tried to point out the need for reform, and at the same time to present the difficulties in the way. We asked graduates to send along their views and suggestions, but as yet no one has responded. Perhaps sufficient time has not elapsed to allow graduates to gather together their views, and we trust that by next month we shall have heard from some of them. We believe the matter is already under consideration, and no doubt suggestions will be gladly received. The same subject presents itself to different men in different aspects, and to the prudent man, the opinions of others are of great value in enabling him to map out a moderate and judicious course of action. We know that those in authority are anxious to make the college as efficient as possible, but to make a radical change in a long established system is a serious undertaking, and is worthy of the most deliberate consideration. We cannot say that we are in favor of any violent change. Educational reforms are, as a rule, accomplished gradually, and we believe this should be no exception, but should proceed step by step towards perfection. Then, graduates, let us hear from you, but let your remarks be to the point, and brief.




WE have received a circular from the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, relating to the testing and distribution of seed grain. Farmers sending samples of grain to the Experimental Farm can have the germinating power of the same tested, and a report returned to them in about ten days. Those having doubts regarding the vitality of their seed grain would do well to take advantage of this offer. In addition to the above, the same station is sending out samples of the best varieties of oats, barley, wheat, peas, etc., free of charge to those who may apply. Each sample contains three pounds, and each applicant can obtain two, and only two, samples. The request is made that a sample of not less than one pound of the product be returned to the station at the close of the season. Samples for testing and all correspondence may be sent free of postage to Wm. Saunders, Director Experimental Farms, Ottawa.



An incredulous student from the Maritime Provinces heard the Prof. of Zoology state that in a certain country fossil whalebones were so numerous that the inhabitants used them for making fences. He immediately closed his note-book with the remark: "I'm not going to take any more notes. I can't swallow that."

LEAKS ON THE FARM.

 HIS is a subject of vital interest to every tiller of the soil. If we only realized the direct bearing that these leaks have on the profits of the season's labor, many of the worst would not exist at the present time. The present age is characterized by low prices and small profits, and in order to secure even this small margin of gain we must obtain quick returns, as the following incident substantiates. This may not appear at first thought to apply directly to the farm, but it does as certainly as to any other industry: If you put 100 bushels of potatoes in your cellar in the fall worth 50 cents a bushel, that would be \$50 if realized at once; in the spring you find you have only 90 bushels worth 60 cents a bushel, i. e., ten bushels have been lost by decay, frost and shrinkage. Now the advantage of selling those potatoes in the fall is quite evident when we consider that we have had all our extra labor and anxiety for the inadequate remuneration of \$4. Yet this and similar unprofitable practices are very frequently observed on the average farm.

The next leak we notice is the practice of leaving implements exposed to the weather. There is no more certain way of ensuring their rapid destruction than this. It is very evident folly to pay an exorbitant price for some implement manufactured by a combine and leave it out to be warped, rusted, and destroyed by rain and frost. This is one of the ways in which the agriculturist throws away his hard earned savings and enables his much-detested friend, the manufacturer, to carry on his business and grow rich at his expense.

We have the power to help ourselves to a great extent in this respect. Let us avail ourselves of the opportunity and send the money saved in this direction in extending our operations in some other department of the farm.

Another error many of us are guilty of is not doing things at the right time, and its results are often very serious indeed. You ask how it is that Farmer Jones had such a magnificent crop of wheat. My field adjoins his. The soil is very similar, and I thought mine received more attention even than his. But on inquiry we find he sowed his field just one week earlier, and thus obtained the benefit of one week's longer period of growth, and this is the whole secret of his success. The old adage, "That there is a time when everything can be done to best advantage," is here truly verified. Through a little carelessness a crop may be planted just two days later than it might have been, and yet that may mean a difference of millions of dollars to the farmers of this continent at harvest time.

Again many of us are keeping and feeding poor stock and not properly housing or attending to those we already possess. This is a sad mistake. Suppose you are interested in the dairy business, and you are keeping a cow that only gives 2,500 pounds of milk yearly, when you could keep a cow at exactly the same cost that will yield 5,000 pounds of milk, does it not appear foolish to struggle on in the old rut? This statement is not exaggerated, but is being performed by many dairy herds in this province. Their stock in general is not comfortably housed and cared for. There is no more sensitive animal on the farm than the cow, and yet how many are expected to give an abundant flow of milk that are kept in cold, miserable stables at night and fed by the side of the straw stack in the day time.

It is a physical impossibility for an animal to do so on such rough treatment. As you treat your animals, so will they return profit according to whatever interest your care commands.

Just one more thought under this head. It is a notorious fact that most people allow their cattle to be shamefully abused. If you do not believe that every harsh word or blow means so much less meat or milk as the case may be, try more rational treatment and be convinced for yourselves.

Manifestly another fertile source of waste is the weed patches which are allowed in too many instances to exist on the farm. For every weed that you permit to grow on your farm means that much less fertility in the soil to support the succeeding crop. And when we learn that weeds are in many instances harder on the land, and owing to their large and extensive roots draw their food from a greater distance than the average crop, it behooves us to take steps to keep them in check. For we are aware that, if a field is infested with weeds and they obtain a start of the crop, the profit from that field must be secured from the weeds. Then it looks very untidy to see fence corners full of all manner of obnoxious weeds, not to speak of the damage these breeding grounds do not only to succeeding crops, to your neighbors, but also in reducing the value of your property, for the average purchaser will not buy a dirty farm if he can avoid it. Now nearly all weed life can be destroyed without any extra cost if things are only properly attended to. It is not always from lack of time that this state of affairs exists, but from lack of energy and determination on our part.

Too many agriculturists neglect to consider that important factor—rotation of crops. It may be wondered how this can be a source of loss. But if you manure a potato crop very heavily, it is certain they will not obtain the full benefit of that application in one session. Well, the rains and drainage will have washed that fertilizing material so much deeper into the ground, and if a shallow feeding crop is sown we see it will derive very little benefit from that manure, which will the next year be so much deeper in the soil and eventually be lost. Whereas if a deep feeding crop followed the potato crop the result would be reversed and the fertilizing material brought up from the subsoil instead and the ground thus enriched. So it is quite plain that the rotation of crops followed is of considerable value in keeping the soil up to a high standard of productiveness.

Next we come to a very important number of leaks termed "little things." Of all the sources of loss on the farm none is more fatal or wasteful than this one. Agriculturists above every other class are careless in this respect. For example, the tent caterpillars are left to breed at will on the apple trees, and then we are surprised that our apples are all wormy the next year. The harness is left hanging behind the horses exposed to the fumes of ammonia, and then when it decays we blame the harness maker for what is our own fault. The cattle do not get sufficient water, and when they fall off in their milk yield we cannot understand the cause. I only mention these as a few of hundreds of similar practices that we see on the farm. If it was only possible to show in dollars and cents the enormous amount lost by this negligence, people would be amazed at their own folly.

The profit from a business is not made from one or two departments, but from the "little things." Some may argue that it is unreasonable to expect farmers to attend to all these things. Why, it would pay you to curtail your estate or employ more help and do things systematically and well than to struggle on with everything at once and then only eke out a meagre existence, as is too often the case.

And now we have come to the most important leak on the farm, viz.: the drifting of our farmers' sons off the farm into other businesses and professions. Agriculture is the basis of our national prosperity—the greatest, noblest and most extensive of all sciences. How is it then that

every one is endeavoring to flee from it to something more congenial and remunerative? Well, we are reluctantly forced to the conclusion that parents are somewhat to blame in this respect. Nearly all farmers' sons have to work too hard. They are kept drudging away all the time and never have a holiday, no social enjoyments, no interest in the farm, and must ask father for every cent of spending money, which he too often grudgingly gives, and then when the boys get a little older and get out and see other people enjoying the privileges mentioned, the spirit of free America rebels and they assert their independence and leave the farm. Evidently this matter could be remedied if a little more thought were exercised. Give your sons a good education. Inspire them with a love of your profession. Teach them it is the noblest and grandest in existence. Give them an interest in the farm and consult their opinions occasionally. Look after their social enjoyment and give them a few holidays for recreation, and see if the results are not more satisfactory.

Many of our farmers are laboring under great disadvantages. We can never hope to produce with a poor implement what our neighbor does with a first-class one. It does not pay to work with a poor tool if you incur the extra expense of a new article and use it properly, it will pay every time. Inconveniences take up much valuable time and are a source of both loss and annoyance. For instance, driving your cattle a quarter of a mile to water two or three times a day, when by a few dollars' outlay you could procure a well of excellent water in your own yard and save all your trouble and have the satisfaction of knowing your cattle are getting good water and not drinking some impure stuff that will pollute the milk.

Another leak is permitting the fertility of the farm to become impaired. This is frequently the result of carelessness, for it is quite possible to keep the farm in a fair state of fertility without buying any artificial fertilizer. The object should not always be to see how much can be obtained from a field, but how much can be profitably taken off the field and yet leave it in a better condition for the succeeding crop.

Most farmers allow the winter to leach away as it were without accomplishing much. This is the proper time to secure the summer supply of wood. Yet how many neglect to do it then and have to encroach upon the precious harvest hours to do the work. This is the time to get the manure drawn out. Yet how many fail to do it and have to spend a good portion of the most valuable time of the year, viz., seed time, at this work. This is the time to read and study to think and meditate upon everything pertaining to the business, but how many fail to do so. Some may laugh at these ideas, but no farmer can afford to do so. It is only reasonable to expect that the most varied science will require more thorough study and wider reading to master its intricacies completely than any other. These are some of the most noteworthy leaks that are commonly observed on the farm. There are many others, but the writer thinks they are of minor importance, and if more attention was paid to the details on the farm, many of these errors could be remedied and more satisfactory results be attained by all concerned in the pursuit of agriculture.

A. M. S.



FLOWER CONCEITS.



THE readers of the REVIEW may be somewhat surprised to find an article appearing in the agricultural department under the title of "Flower Conceits," and some may wonder what relation it bears to agriculture. Flower culture should, to a certain extent, be of interest to farmers. It should not only form a pastime for them, when tired by the duties and business connected with their occupation; but it should be looked upon as a source of pleas-

ure and delight, in beautifying farm homes and in making rural life more cheerful and attractive.

Having seen that the cultivation of flowers should form part of the attractiveness of a home and its surroundings, we will proceed to consider some peculiar stories relating to them. Some of these stories are true, and some are legendary, the latter having been handed down to us by tradition. Although there is no one source from which information of this kind can be obtained, still, by gathering together those facts which have come under our notice, from time to time, we are enabled to present quite a number to our readers. A knowledge of such facts should tend to increase our interest in flowers, more especially those with which we come in contact most frequently.

It is impossible to confine our remarks to those flowers only which are most familiar to us. Relating to some of these, we can find scarcely anything of interest, while some stories connected with others have been lost sight of in various ways. Then there are some unfamiliar plants of which queer stories are told, but seem so peculiar and interesting that we should not omit them. The Druids fancied that the mistletoe, with which we are familiar now especially in the winter holiday season, was the resting place of fairies in a leafless winter. A strange story is told about one of our commonest house plants, the geranium, the Turks believing that it was originally a swallow, and was transformed into a flower by the touch of Mohammed's robe as he walked in his garden. In the latter place, tradition tells us grew the apples of Paradise, each one of which had a bite on one side. The Hindoos believe that the nilica is the resting place of bees asleep, and that the peepul is haunted by the spirits of the departed.

We are told by an antiquarian that the nettle was unknown in England until it was introduced by the Romans for the purpose of exciting warmth in their limbs in case very cold weather should come upon them. The aromatic properties of a rare variety of the jessamine were so highly valued, that the governor of Pisa placed soldiers on guard around the gardens containing it. A species of thorn, called the thorn of Glastonbury, was said to have blossomed only on Christmas eve. The shamrock is held sacred in Ireland because St. Patrick explained the doctrine of the Trinity from its three-leaved structure.

There are several interesting tales told regarding the forget-me-not, for instance, the story of a drowning lover, who threw his sweetheart a bunch of forget-me-nots just as he sank beneath the surface of the water.

Some names of persons, particularly those of ladies, have been derived from the names of flowers, such as: Angelica, Hortensia, Flora, Laura, Lilian, Rosamond, Viola, Olivia, Myrtella, etc.

Then we may notice that particular flowers were favorites of some noted persons, or emblems of families, parties and nations. The hyacinth was the favorite flower of Zante, the daisy that of Margaret of Anjou, the violet that of Napoleon, the white rose that of the Pretender, the broom that of the Plantagenets, and the white and red roses those of the houses of York and Lancaster, respectively. The thistle of Scotland may be ranked among the flowers which have become national emblems. Then there is the leek of Wales, the shamrock of Ireland, the lily of France, the olive of Spain, the cornflower of Prussia, the wall flower of Russia, the mignonette of Saxony, the cherry blossom of Japan and the lotus leaf of India. There is the rose of Sharon of Palestine, and the eidelweis of Switzerland.

From what has been learned from history and tradition, we find that many trees and flowers were dedicated to deities, as, the oak to Jupiter, the myrtle to Venus, the poppy to Ceres, the lily to Juno, the laurel to Apollo, the vine to Bacchus, and the olive to Minerva. At the same time we find that architecture derived some pleasing adornments by copying from trees and flowers. This class of architecture was employed chiefly by the ancients. In the temple of Jerusalem the palm, pomegranate and lily were represented. The lotus adorned the sacred edifices of Egypt,

and still continues to do so to some extent. The acanthus was also used for ornamental purposes.

Among the many symbols, we might mention that the vine represents the church, the cedar and date indicate its faithfulness, the lily its purity, and the olive its peacefulness. Very many flowers are symbolic of certain qualities as possessed by persons or inanimate objects.

The oak is emblematic of independence, the mountain laurel of ambition, the orange of generosity, the snow drop of hope, the pansy of thoughts.

"Alas! we make

A ladder of our thoughts, where angels step,
But sleep ourselves at the foot, our high resolves
Look down upon our slumbering acts."

The lily of the valley, of unconscious sweetness:

"White bud, that in meek beauty so dost lean
Thy cloister'd cheek as pale as moonlight snow,
Thou seem'st beneath thy huge high leaf of green
An Eremite beneath his mountain brow."

The water-lily, of purity of heart:

"Bright lily of the wave,
Rising in fearless grace with every swell
Thou seem'st as if a spirit meekly brave
Dwelt in thy cell."

The violet, of modesty:

"Violets, shy violets!
How many hearts with thee compare,
Who hide themselves in thickest green,
And thence unseen
Ravish the enraptured air
With sweetness, dewy, fresh and rare."

Camellina Japonica, of perfected loveliness:

"If by any device or knowledge
The rosebud its beauty could know,
It would stay a rosebud forever
Nor into its fulness row."

The thistle of Scotland, of liberty:

"It is the banner of the free,
The starry flower of liberty."

Coleridge speaks of the forget-me-not as,

"That blue and bright-eyed flow'ret of the brook,
Hope's gentle gem, the sweet forget-me-not."

And so on, we might continue to enumerate others and select suitable passages for them. However, having noticed these few, do we not feel impressed with the sentiment of the one who wrote,

"Your voiceless lips, O flowers! are living preachers
Each cup a pulpit, every leaf a book,
Supplying to the fancy numerous teachers
From loneliest nook."

R. S. S



PRINCIPLE.

Principle, we bring thee praises
As we worship at thy shrine.
Thou support of all good graces,
Let our motives thee entwine.

We will go to spread thy glory,
Guided in thy paths, kept pure;
Though with age thy head be hoary,
Yet thy ways are safe and sure.

Let king Policy boast loudly,
Thou wilt stand when he has fled.
Though he sways his scepter proudly,
Thou wilt reign when he is dead. G. P. N.

The O. A. C. Review,

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Ex-students are invited to contribute to our columns.

MARCH, 1893.

THE O. A. C. LITERARY SOCIETY.

On Friday, the 3rd instant, Vice-President H. L. Beckett occupied the chair of the Literary Society and was supported by the faithful few. A letter was read from the G. C. I. Literary Society, extending to the members of the O. A. C. Society an invitation to attend any of its meetings. The secretary was instructed to acknowledge the receipt of the same. The programme was opened with some lively music by the orchestra. Mr. W. J. Brown should have then favored the society with an essay on "Romance in Business," but Mr. Brown's romantic nature had evidently carried him to more interesting scenes, and the audience drew on its imagination for the essay.

The debate:—"Resolved that the professions offer greater inducements to young men than do trades," next occupied the attention of the meeting. Messrs. Atkinson and Spencer came out boldly for the affirmative, whilst Messrs. Mackenzie and McNaughton presented the dazzling attractions of trade.

The orchestra again came to the front, after which ensued a spirited discussion upon the subject under debate. At the close of this exhibition of oratory, it was found that the sentiment of the Hon. Society and the opinion of the critical judges were agreed in favor of the negative.

It then devolved upon Mr. Watson to demonstrate that a First Year man can make a very neat extempore speech. Mr. Henderson told "How we licked the Schoolmaster," and seemed to retain rather vivid recollections concerning the same.

In the absence of Mr. J. A. S. Burns, Mr. McFie acted as critic and the members dispersed with his words of good advice still ringing in their ears.

No member of the Literary Society takes a deeper interest in its proceedings than our friend, Ebenezer Doolittle, Poet and Philosopher. Accordingly when our reporter, suffering from a violent cold contracted while examining the new stained glass window in Convocation hall, was unable to attend the meeting on March 10, Mr. Doolittle kindly furnished the following graphic report:

O. A. C., GUELPH, Mar. 11, 1893.

DEAR MR. EDITOR: There was a meeting of the Literary Society at the O. A. C. on Friday evening. I was there. It takes twenty-five cents to go to a concert down town, but only a sense of duty takes one to the weekly meetings of the society. This is the first Literary Society I have attended. I like the meetings very much; they are not at all like concerts. At concerts all the dudes who

can pay the extra cash take the front seats, but here they are more modest. There were two men on the platform; one with a big moustache and a goatee did a lot of talking, and the other wrote it down in a book. The man with the book read a long list of names, to which no one answered. I guess they will be fined by the bursar next week. One of the members spoke on "Education." He must be an educated man, he spoke so well. I did not understand all he said, but it was very interesting. There was a debate about pens and swords, and the speakers cut high and strong and struck—an attitude. A man from Toronto got up and said that the pen had more restraining influences than the sword. (I think he meant the penitentiary). When he goes back to Toronto he will be made an alderman. A man from Wales spoke next. He was a funny man and made us laugh. He showed how much use war had been to our ancestors, and how it had helped the farmers to grow larger crops. A King was the next speaker. I always thought that kings liked war, but this one did not seem to. He told us of the effects the sword has had on Indians and Socialists (the O. A. C. Students are good socialists; indeed, they may be said to take the cake on such occasions). After Mr. King was through speaking another man put in his oar and began to Rowe around the subject. When he sat down the two men who spoke first came back and said some things they had forgotten to say before. Then men got up in all parts of the room and made nice speeches. Three clever men gave their opinion in favor of the scribblers. We agreed with them, and so must also be clever. After a recitation the critic began to talk. The critic is paid by time, but two hours and a half of his discourse was enough for me. It was a nice meeting and I will go again.

Very sincerely yours,

E. O. DOOLITTLE.



Y. M. C. A. NOTES.

In order that the students of the O. A. C. (both past and the present) may become intelligently interested in our association, it is essential that they make themselves acquainted with the work which it is performing. While the undergraduate may see this for himself, the ex-student is dependent for information on the columns of the college paper, and we will endeavor to trace as clearly as we can the progress of Christian work at the O. A. C. Special attention is called to the reported meetings of the executive, as this is the only method by which much valuable information can be made public.

The important subject of Foreign Missions was, on Feb. 16, laid before the association by the Foreign Mission Committee. Attention was called to the great conquests which the soldiers of the cross are making in all lands, and members were asked to give prayerful study to the subject.

At the meeting on the 23d ult., the association under the leadership of Mr. MacFie, considered three stages in the life of an educated man; the youth, the conversion and the death of one of the first college men (Paul) of the New Testament church, received our careful attention and many valuable lessons were drawn therefrom.

Passing from the teacher we were directed by Mr. J. A. Stead Burns, on the following week to one of the most important lessons taught by him (2 Cor. x. 5.) The necessity was emphasized of having our minds brought into harmony with the will of Christ, and the way by which this could be accomplished was discussed. A most important aid to this desired end was reserved for special discussion till the 9th instant, when the subject of prayer was introduced by Mr. F. Dean. A letter was read at this meeting, from the chairman of the Provincial College Committee, which contained some valuable information.

A meeting of the executive committee was held on March 6th. President Harcourt in the chair. Present, Messrs. Bell, J. A. S. Burns, Harcourt, Jas. Atkinson, Ferguson, MacKenzie, MacNaughton, Spencer, Walker and Newman. The meeting was instituted with prayer, Mr. Spencer leading, after which the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

President Harcourt stated that a Young People's Rally was to be held in Guelph on March 10, and read a letter asking that a person be appointed to represent our association and to speak on an appointed subject. Moved by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Bell, that we appoint Mr. Sharman as our representative. Carried. Moved by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Bell and carried, that the regular meeting for our association on March 10, be omitted to allow the members to attend the rally. Moved by Mr. Burns, seconded by Mr. Ferguson and carried, that a finance committee be appointed to assist the treasurer.

On motion of Messrs. Newman and Spencer, the date of the annual meeting of the association was fixed for April 20, while on motion of Messrs. Burns and Walker it was resolved that the chairman of all committees be required to furnish reports in writing at the annual meeting.

The corresponding secretary was instructed to procure a copy of the International Hand-book for 1893.

Mr. Hunt was re-appointed as the representative of this association on the Provincial College board.

On motion of Messrs. MacKenzie and McNaughton, it was resolved to adjourn and meet again on April 16. The meeting was then closed with prayer, Mr. MacNaughton leading.



PERSONAL.

It is rumored around the college that Mr. W. R. Graham, A. O. A. C., '92, was lately offered a situation as superintendent of the poultry department of T. Eaton's farm near Toronto. He did not accept the situation.

A. D. Harkness, A. O. A. C., '87, Irene, Dundas, is enjoying life and bachelorhood on a farm of about 300 acres, where he is making a specialty of dairying and pork raising, keeping between forty and fifty cows in milk all the year round. The livestock of the farm is composed of Ayrshires and Ayrshire and Jersey crosses, and pure-bred and grade Berkshire pigs. The butter produced is manufactured on the farm and has averaged a price of 20½ cts. per pound during last summer. The deep-setting method of cream raising has been followed until lately when Mr. Harkness purchased a No. 7 Alexandria Separator, to be run by hand in the winter and by power in the summer. He has kindly promised to write and let us have some of his experience with this machine. No doubt all who read these columns will be glad to have whatever information he may impart.

D. P. L. Campbell, A. O. A. C., '80, Vankleek Hill, writes that he is still enjoying single blessedness, and is so contented with his lot as far as this is concerned, that he does not want to change it just at present. He is trying to keep abreast of the times by reading all he can find about agriculture. The farm on which Mr. Campbell is living consists of 100 acres of good soil and is situated in the township of Locheil, Glengarry County. Our correspondent thinks that sheep raising would bring handsome profits in his district as winter lambs bring \$5 per head at Montreal and \$8 to \$9 per head in New York during the month of March. Mr. Campbell in closing his letter gives some advice that is so good we cannot forbear quoting: "Many imagine when they leave college that their education is complete. This is a great mistake. . . . Another fact which I wish to emphasize is, that while improved livestock, pure-bred males especially, are a necessity, yet proper feeding is none the less important to ensure success.

If females are allowed to be in a failing condition during the period of gestation, this failing habit will be inevitably transferred to the offspring."

A short time ago we received a very interesting letter from J. G. Ross, A. O. A. C., '81, who is at present in Montreal. Lack of space not permitting us to present the letter in its entirety (which we would have much liked to do) we will attempt to give to our readers a comprehensive digest of the letter we received.

"On 13th July 1881, W. R. Motherwell, W. Pettapiece and myself left Guelph *en route* for the west. At Emerson we spent a few days and left that place on the 21st July in a prairie waggon behind a team composed of a mule and an Indian pony; we had a tent and provisions with us, and were fairly well equipped for the journey, which we intended should extend through to the Turtle Mountains. The novelty of prairie travelling was very agreeable to us, especially the glorious sunsets and sunrises for which the prairie is noted. The Mennonite settlements were passed with much interest, their houses huddled together in villages and their farms strung out in large narrow stretches. The cattle were all herded together on the village common, the grain-fields being unprotected by any fences. These Mennonite villages are built of wood with straw thatches, which make them very liable to fires. We saw one of these villages in flames, and, as it was night, the prairie was lit up almost as plain as day by the flames. Our next noteworthy point was the crossing of the Pembina River, which flows through a valley some miles in width. At Pancake Lake our provisions gave out, and, as there were no houses within twenty miles, the old muzzle-loading gun, which had been bought a day or two previous, was pressed into active service with the good luck that a couple of duck were shot in the lake, across which the wind was blowing them at the rate of about ten miles an hour. It required a long swim to get them, but we were hungry and they tasted all the better after the exertions in recovering them. At our driver's newly constructed house we put up, and during the next few days we land hunted, looking for locations that were still unoccupied. This we found a difficult job, and soon gave it up in that locality. After a further examination we commenced our return trip to Emerson, which was reached three weeks after leaving on our outward trip. One of the greatest luxuries we enjoyed during the whole trip was at a place called Alexandra City, consisting of one house, which was the post office. Here we met a man leading a cow whose udder was badly swollen with milk, and, as the man could not milk, he invited us to help ourselves, which we proceeded to do with great satisfaction to all parties concerned. From Emerson we returned to Winnipeg, where we met many of the O. A. C. boys who were very glad to meet us."



LOCALS.

Albert! Albert! Are you sick?

An object of rousing importance—the gong.

Have you seen my dog anywhere?

The exams are drawing near—Miller has gone home.

Rod Fitz, did you see your girl this afternoon?

Fitz—Yes, she was with a fellow driving a *shaved* horse.

Findlay (looking at a half Durham and half Jersey calf)
That's a nice Guernsey calf.

Why is Fitz like a sea-squirt?

Because, if you touch him, he will throw water at you.

McLean—Oh, you brutes! you brutes! Where are my trousers?

Prof.—Mr. Stuart, what do you think of that fleece?
Stuart—It's full of bugs.

Prof.—What kind of fat would you feed to animals?
Lehmann—Steers require stearin.

A verdant Freshman, seeing our dressing gown, asked if it was a military coat.

Prof.—How long would you fast an animal before killing?
—.—About a fortnight.

Duffet would make a very harmless soldier, as he was seen to fire his rifle with the breech open.

Extracts from Chemistry. I will have far more pleasure and it will do you much more good to take alcohol.

What order of insects does this belong to?
Squash-bug.

As it has been thought advisable to have a uniform for drill, we would suggest red or white as being the best colors to blend with the green appearance of the First Year.

The following is an answer given by a Third Year man in the geology class: "The anulus is a spiral shell reaching from Eastern Europe to Asia."

Stranger How much do you get an hour for splitting wood?

Student --Nothing. I'm *instruction* on engine.

Story, after studying an almanac for some time, ejaculated in a surprised tone: "Why, Easter is on Sunday this year."

Graesser's excuse for being absent from a lecture, when he was watching the dissection of a sheep, was that he "stayed to see the *pig* cut up."

Duffet does not hide his light under a bushel, but he does take an umbrella to protect it when he goes out to work on a rainy day.

According to a debater, if a man was married in the time of King Alfred, at the present time he would have one hundred and forty-nine and a half million *ancestors*.

Mr. Putman went to the Pauline Johnson recital in the city hall with "Taken" placarded on his back. Had this reference to the programme or to his nearest neighbor?

A seedy looking individual, having the appearance of a coal heaver out of employment, was around the college making enquiries about dumb-bells. Was he a detective?

A front-rank man, on being cussed by his rear-rank comrade for stepping off with his right foot, said that he had obeyed the order, which was, "By the right, quick march!"

Bell returned from town late for tea. After the meal he put the following question to "Uncle:" "Can you suggest a name for a young—"

"Uncle"—Male or female?

Extracts from Dairy lectures. Noah discovered fermentation and Moses brought it to a high state of perfection.

Thoroughbred grades make good milkers.

The Faculty are thinking seriously of erecting one or two large troughs outside the dining-room door for the fellows who rush in as soon as the door is opened and help themselves to the best of everything, and begin to devour it before grace has been said.

A prominent Third Year man went to Hespeler recently to attend the opening of a certain church. It is rumored that he wandered about in a "cloud" all day; emerging, however, in time for tea, but when he had *Eaton* enough he was again enveloped in vapor.

Wood was cleaning grain a short time ago, and was much surprised because the fan-mill did not start when the rest of the machinery in the barn did. After watching the operation of fanning for some time, he exclaimed in astonishment: "This is a good machine. We put in one kind of grain, and three come out!"

How lamentable it is to see opportunities thrown away! There is a Third Year man in the college who, after two years' practical (?) experience, cannot hitch up a team properly. Bob tried the other night and failed. He forgot to put on the martingales, and did not discover their absence until he began to go down hill, and then—"Get up! Hold on tight behind! We've got to go!"

James, suffering from a sore throat, requested Traviss to procure a gargle while in town. That gentleman did not go down to the city, and not wishing to disappoint the invalid, made a mixture of various ingredients borrowed on the flat, such as coal oil, tooth powder, soap, scent, etc., and gave it to him. James used the supposed gargle freely and does not now hold a very high opinion of our doctor's professional ability.

Recently a fiery-headed First Year man received a note, purporting to come from the matron, containing a request for the pleasure (?) of his company at half past nine. Despite the fact that he was just about to retire for the night, the sunset-headed youth donned his best apparel, borrowed a clean collar, and proceeded to his supposed hostess's sitting-room, and found that she was out. After deep cogitation he came to the conclusion that he had been fooled.

While on "cattle" the other day, Caldecott entered a box stall for the purpose of cleaning a cow. He approached the "female of the bovine species" with the remark, "Whoa, now, old socks!" "Old socks" resented the insult by lowering her head and backing for a run; but the running was all done by Caldecott, who should have no difficulty in lowering the hundred yards' record next spring, judging by the rapidity of his exit.

A certain youth fleeing down the hall about midnight, to escape the officer in charge, came across, as he thought, another boy in search of a hiding place and seized him by the arm with the remark, "Come on this way!" Just then another fugitive appeared on the scene, who promptly seized them both, saying, "Come on this way, boys, quick!" Suddenly a well known voice was heard to issue from the supposed *boy*, and too late these nocturnal prowlers found that they had caught the President.

DAIRY ITEMS.

What gives Robertson such a Rosey appearance?

Freshman—What do you put that match in the milk for, when you take the rennet test?

De Hart—That ignites the acid in the turnipy milk and coagulates it.

Rice—I say Wolley, who is that old fossil with whiskers and a linen bag tied round his body?

Wolley—That is the Resident Master and instructor on wey vats.

Stranger—(to stout party)—What are you busying yourself at this morning?

Stout Party—Oh! I was running that ar' *De Laval* machine and the darned handle quit on me. So that professor with the dirty coat (Linfield), told me to wash 'er up and let 'er go, and I *did* let 'er go.

A First Year man has located the brisket at the junction of the hindquarters, and a Dairyman said the *De Laval* separator would not work because there was something wrong with the *pedals*.

Dean procured a horse and cutter to take two Dairy lady students to a concert, but when he arrived at their boarding house the birds had flown, or more strictly speaking the young ladies had departed with some other fellows.

THE RAVING OF DUMB-BELL.

Once upon a midnight dreary, while I pondered weak and weary,

Over many a monstrous volume full of agricultural lore ;
While I sat there vainly grumbling, suddenly there came a
rumbling

As of something rolling, tumbling, thundering past my
chamber door.

" 'Tis some lunatic," I muttered, " firing dumb-bells past
my door—

Only this and nothing more !"

Once more I resumed my labor, when some vile mysterious
neighbor,

Started out that furious dumb-bell on its mission as be-
fore ;

And the dumb-bell fiercely tearing, thumping, bumping,
onward bearing,

Neither wood nor plaster sparing— madly ranged the hall
once more,

While a laugh of fiendish import echoed from a distant
door,

Nameless here forever more.

Suddenly a footstep stealthy, warned transgressors 'twas
not healthy

At that hour to pass beyond the threshold of their cham-
ber door ;

And a voice of stern commanding, of each one was heard
demanding,

Whether his sleepy understanding could account for all
this roar,

And requesting that the dumb-bell be forthwith delivered
o'er.

Quoth the dumb-bell, " Nevermore."

And the dumb-bell still is hiding, in some obscure spot
abiding,

And no more its thunder echoes as it did in days of yore ;
While the veil which hides the dumb-bell—that iniquitous
old dumb-bell,

That obscure uproarious dumb-bell, that intolerable bore
That used to mar our slumbers as along the hall it tore,
Shall be lifted nevermore.

H. ASH.



Hallet—

" We greatly marvel how you still go free."

Servant Girl—

" A weary lot is thine, fair maid,
A weary lot is thine."

Fmdlay—

" My camp resounds with fearful shocks of war,
Yet in my heart more dangerous conflicts are."

Crealy—

" Sweet bird that shunn'st the noise of folly,
Most musical, most melancholy!"

Kennedy, P. B.—

" Who gave consent to steal away my heart
And set my breast, his lodging, on a fire?"

Dean—

" I love thee ! I love thee !
'Tis all that I can say,—"

Bobby's puns—

" A good that never satisfies the mind."

Lehmann (in House of Commons)—

" Nature's sweet restorer—Balmy sleep."



Sprigs and shoots from my moustache. Will grow in any
place, however unpromising the soil may be. Stock al-
most exhausted.—NEWMAN.

FARMING IN MUSKOKA.



MUSKOKA, though looked upon and spoken of
by so many outsiders, especially foreigners,
with so much awe and curiosity, and thought
to be a vast, howling wilderness, inhabited
almost solely by wolves and other ravenous
animals, and unfit for human habitation other than Indians
and Esquimaux, is nevertheless fairly well settled by
human beings who think and act like most other white
men ; and whose chief occupation is the tillage of the soil ;
though lumbering has been and is yet a very important
branch of industry.

The country being of a rocky and lilly configuration
farms are more or less broken and scattered, so that
farmers cannot always work their soil to the best
advantage. The land is not stony, as so many seem to
think it is, but the rock is in the form of solid hills and
ridges, and sometimes one may travel over many miles and
not find an acre of good arable land. The soil is for the
most part light, but varies from a light sandy and gravelly
soil to a stiff clay ; and taken as a whole there seems to be
a deficiency of limestone.

The climate is rather more severe than in the south-
western part of the province ; the winter being somewhat
longer, and there is generally a heavier fall of snow ; but
the summer is warm and often inclined to be excessively
dry in July and August, though last season was a very wet
one.

Farms are as a rule small, consisting of a hundred acres
in all, of which there are on the average probably not more
than twenty acres under cultivation, the rest being bush-
land. As the country is comparatively new yet, and the
fields for the most part rough and stumpy, complicated
machinery is not much used ; but mowing machines and
reapers are rapidly finding their way into the country.

The chief crop grown is hay, which is generally abundant
on the heavier soils, and of excellent quality. The most
important grain crop is oats ; but peas, barley, and spring
wheat are also grown, though to a less extent. Fall wheat,
it seems, cannot be successfully raised. Roots and pota-
toes are not extensively grown, though the latter is gener-
ally an excellent crop. For most of the above crops there
is generally a fair demand and comparatively good prices,
more especially for hay and oats, of which large quantities
are used by the lumbermen. Of growing and curing green
fodder crops very little is known, and in all Muskoka there
is but one silo that we know of ; but the owner of it is
extremely well satisfied with the results obtained. If early
maturing varieties are planted and well cared for, fodder
corn can be grown to good advantage, and it is the opinion
that within a few years silos will be more numerous, and
the feeding of stock will receive more attention.

Of pure-bred stock we find but little ; a small number of
Durham bulls, and one or two Jerseys and Holsteins, but
few, if any, pure-bred cows. The cattle are, for the most
part, scrubs which scarcely pay for their feed. Sheep and
swine are mostly of mixed breeding, and horses are plenti-
ful, but also of very mixed breeding.

In the past, and even at the present time, the majority
of the so-called farmers of Muskoka spend a large portion,
if not the greater part of their time, in the lumber-woods ;
looking upon the farm as a sort of summer residence, as
they go to the woods early in the autumn and only return
in the spring, when work in the bush ceases, to do a litt'e
plowing and hurry in a bit of crop, which they scarcely
wait to harvest properly before they again go to the bush.
Thus it may easily be seen that farms are sadly neglected,
and cannot be expected to yield any profit. But as the
lumber trade is fast becoming exhausted, and people will,
sooner or later, have to depend on the farm for a livelihood,
matters will necessarily have to assume a different aspect.
The soil must receive better cultivation, farms will become
larger, stock will be increased, pure-breds will be intro-
duced, and the feeding and handling of cattle for beef and

dairy purposes will receive more attention. At present cattle are turned out into the woods in the fore part of the month of May (in many cases earlier) and left there to forage for themselves until the following autumn, when the weather becomes cold again. Thus it costs the farmer nothing for feed during nearly half the year. But while the native stock fatten with this treatment, most pure-breds would scarcely subsist.

Muskoka is not, and never will be, a great grain growing district, but in many respects it is well adapted to dairying and sheep raising. The country is undulating and hilly. There is an abundance of fine aromatic herbage, and the hay, if cut and saved at the proper time, is delicate in fibre and very fragrant. The most important dairy foods can be successfully grown, and there is always a plentiful supply of good pure water. As regards sheep raising, we have many reasons for believing that some of the lighter breeds, as the Southdown and Shropshire, would thrive excellently if properly managed; and I am of the opinion that Muskoka will at some time be an important dairying and sheep raising district.

A. T. WIANCKO.



SWITZERLAND.



SWITZERLAND, although a small country, attracts a large amount of attention both from tourists and adjacent nations. Its surface is composed of mountains, valleys and lakes. A tourist, being asked how he liked Switzerland, replied: "If all the mountains were thrown into the lakes, one would have a chance to see something." Lying as it does between France, Italy, Austria and Germany, Switzerland is of great importance as a neutral power in the event of war, as artillery and cavalry are almost totally unable to operate within its borders, and should one of these countries obtain possession of it there would be little fear of invasion from that side. It is owing to this fact that Switzerland has been able to maintain her independence for the last two centuries.

The form of government is republican, consisting of a president and two houses; besides this each canton or province possesses its own local government, the same as in Canada.

The population is very mixed, consisting of German, French and Italian-speaking people. This necessitates printing most official notices in two at least of these languages. This mixture of languages is very embarrassing to travelers. More especially is this so in the case of the average Briton, who knows no language but his own.

Some of the Swiss scenery is magnificent. High snow-capped mountains and rich fertile valleys, roaring mountain torrents tumbling over precipices to empty themselves into some larger streams or into the deep blue waters of a lake, form the subject for many a poet's pen or artist's pencil.

In their habits the Swiss are industrious, but they also love a holiday, and when they get one, like their French neighbors, enjoy it to the uttermost.

Owing to the character of the country the industries are varied—silks, wines, cheese-making and dairy products, watchmaking, etc., being all carried on according to the locality. Dairying forms an important branch of farming. In summer the cows are sent up to the mountains and are sent down as soon as the cold weather begins. Butter and cheese are made in large quantities and are of excellent quality. The Gruyere is a famous cheese and only needs to be smelt to be remembered. Condensed milk is manufactured at Vevey, a small town on Lake Geneva. Grape growing is extensively practised, wine being the national beverage. This wine is very light and excessively sour. The vineyards require very careful attention, and the fact of their being located on hillsides necessitates the use of manual labor exclusively. The best grapes only are used for the manufacture of wine and when these have been

gathered it only requires a slight "tip" to have access to the vineyard, where excellent grapes may still be found. Fruit and trees are protected by the government, who keep up a system of police for this purpose alone, and offenders are very heavily fined. The fact that the complainant receives one half of the fine is a great inducement for the strict enforcement of the law.

Mixed farming is also carried on in the localities suitable for its pursuit. Grain and hay yield good crops, the latter two in a year; flax is also largely grown.

The educational system in Switzerland is well attended to, the schools being under government control, and attendance compulsory.

The religion is Protestant and Roman Catholic. The former predominates and is found mostly in the valleys, the latter in the mountains, where the people are very superstitious, besides being very musical.

Thousands of tourists visit Switzerland every year, some for pleasure, others for health. The former amuse themselves by scaling mountains or in walking and bicycling tours, the two latter being particularly pleasant on account of the excellent roads which abound in the country.

Mules and oxen are the chief beasts of burden, but horses are used for the lighter work.

Owing to the agricultural tendency of the inhabitants most of the labor in the cities is done by Italians, who come into the country in the spring and leave when winter sets in.

Switzerland possesses some fine cities, of which Geneva is the most historic and Berne, the capital, is noted for possessing in one of its churches the finest organ in the world. On Lake Neufchatel the first boat built of aluminium was tried, and on the shore of Lake Geneva stands the castle, in the dungeons of which the subject of Byron's touching poem, "The Prisoner of Chillon," was supposed to have been confined.

C. A. H.



ON A CERTAIN PROVERB.

There is a saying which, though meant for good,
Is so expressed to give impression wrong
That "all things come to him who waiteth long"—
A proverb making most delicious food
For the dull palate of the laggard brood,
Or for the ill-rewarded 'tis a song
Which dims despair, tho' only to prolong—
But for ambition 'tis a stumbling wood.

Wait not beside life's deep, storm-tortured river
For waves to fall and tempests to subside,
Or magic bark to bear thee smoothly o'er;
Plunge in the torrent's rage nor fearful shiver
Buffet the billows, on the surges ride,
Turn not nor pause and thou hast gained the shore.
—*Acadia Athenaeum*. E. BLACKRADER, '94.

The first college journal appeared in the year 1800. It was published by the students of Dartmouth College and was called the *Gazette*. It is chiefly memorable as containing in 1802-3, numerous articles by Daniel Webster, who at that time was a graduate of one year's standing. They were signed "Icarus," a pseudonym not acknowledged at that time, but which a few years later Mr. Webster confessed belonged to himself. A few years after, the students of Yale College followed the example of Dartmouth College by publishing an eight-page fortnightly called *The Literary Cabinet*. The publisher announced that it was his "unalterable resolve to appropriate the pecuniary profits to the education of poor students in the seminary;" but, unfortunately for the poor students, *The Cabinet* died in less than a year after its birth. Other papers followed, but their lives were also short, as they seldom lived more than a year. But in 1836 was established *The Yale Literary Magazine*, which is the oldest college journal in existence, and is also one of the best college magazines published.