

immense swimming pool, and several refrigerators large enough to hold sides of beef, or carcasses of vension. Also in the basement are the wine vaults, where the walls are honeycombed with thousands of "port" holes, that once contained "cobwebbed bottles of rare vintage." Today, however, you will find in the converted basement a few souvenir booths, a cafeteria, and a room for square dancing, while in the wine vaults only the cobwebs remain in those "port" holes.

No article on Casa Loma would be complete without mention of the stables. They are of striking design and with their lofty towers have always been a source of comment. They are connected with the castle by an extremely long tunnel, which is finished in white tile, and covered with the autographs of visitors. The stables have accommodation for about twenty horses and were once the home of some of the finest animals in Canada. The stable floors are tile, and when visitors came, Sir Henry had the servants spread a red velvet carpet the length of the stable. The stalls are of Spanish mahogany, ornate with the Pellett monogram, while the fittings are bronze, and there is a special system of ventilation—so the horses would not catch cold!

With its stables and all its surroundings, Casa Loma cost its owner over two million dollars, so that it became known as "Peelatt's Folly." But, folly or not, it has become a famous landmark. And when you walk for the first time along Spadina Avenue, do not be surprised to see, on the hill before you, the battlements and turrets of a medieval castle. You will know that before you stands Canada's famous castle, Casa Loma.

DOREEN CUSACK, '58.

ISLAND OXODUS

Many students within the College circle as well as many other people throughout the province have expressed concern over the large and steady exodus of the young people from Prince Edward Island. We shall concern ourselves here with the exodus from the farms because this is the more serious since the farmers constitute the backbone of the country.

The first notable decline in the number of farmers took place in the period between 1920 and 1930 when industry began to operate on a large scale. Since that time industry has continued to increase and conditions among its members have become better through labour unions but the farmer's plot since that time has, for the most

part, become worse. During this same period farmers in the United States received only 10% of the total income, being \$30,000,000, and the decline in the number of farms operated was 159,000. Some may say that the farmer's income has increased considerably in the past thirty years. This is true to a certain extent but the costs of operating a farm have increased at an even greater rate. Some time ago a Dominion civil servant said that a maritime farmer during the next couple of decades could remain in agriculture and on the farms only at the price of accepting lower standards of living for himself and his family. If this statement is correct, then we can expect more and greater difficulties in retaining young people on the farms and a further dwindling of a rapidly falling rural population. One fifth of the farmers are now over sixty years of age.

There are several things which could be done to overcome this problem. The Government of the Province could help by improving the educational system. The teachers in rural schools are, generally speaking, less qualified to train children than those of the city schools and they are certainly receiving much lower salaries. This is all the more unfair since country teachers have from five to ten grades to teach while in the cities each teacher has charge of only one class. There are restrictions also which directly affect the farmer. For example, the 6000 pound weight restriction which is put into effect on our paved highways during the mild spring weather is a great hindrance to the farmers who have to move their products to market during these periods. Because of this restriction, the farmer has to pay upwards of thirty dollars per carload to have his potatoes hauled in the cold weather which he himself could do while the weather is mild. All this detracts from the already meagre income received by farmers. If this restriction were changed to 8000 pounds it would greatly benefit the farmers and would not damage the highways.

But besides this there is something which St. Dunstan's can do to help alleviate this situation. It seems strange that a College which is in its second century of existence and which is equipped to send forth students with certificates in Engineering, and degrees in Arts, Commerce, and Science who will, in the majority of cases, leave the province to become famous in other parts of the world, offers nothing for those young people who are destined to spend their lives as farmers and who will participate in providing the province and the College with the youth of future generations. Most farmers cannot do without a son for four, five or six years until he has completed a College education. They need his help. Most parents, however, could arrange for one year to do without his help or to solicit the help of someone else for that period. This is where St. Dunstan's could very well enter the picture.

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Numerous results could be achieved on our Island farms if a one year course was offered on the campus for those young people who are to remain on farms. I would be the last one to say that one can learn how to farm by studying it in books or through courses of any kind. The only way to learn this is to be brought up on a farm and to do things yourself. This course would, on the other hand, give the student a sound understanding of the various economic situations encountered in the occupation, and it would instruct him as to how he should cope with them; the need for and the use of Marketing Boards and other means of obtaining some control over the marketing of their products; it would stress the need for organization among the farmers so that they would, as a unit, be able to work together for their common good. The benefits of co-operatives and credit unions might also be stressed as well as other timely hints on better farming which may come to pass. If only the farmers were taught how to organize and work together it is unbelievable what they could accomplish for themselves. Just one glance at what other groups of workers, especially in industry, have accomplished through labour unions in the last fifty years is ample proof for this. A year ago last November the farmers of Prince Edward Island voted out what could have been the greatest event in the history of Island farming, namely, the proposed selling agency. It was through this proposed selling agency that the farmers were to receive a Federal support price for their most important product, potatoes. They were advised a few years previous to this by Federal agents, to go home and organize and they would receive a support, but too many farmers acting either from selfish motives or because they did not properly understand the situation, or both, caused the disaster.

Such a proposal as this will require the establishment of greater facilities and thus more expense for the College. But it is to be hoped that when such a program comes into effect the fees will not be so great as to be out of reach of the ordinary farmers. Since this program would benefit the whole province in general, it seems only right that the Government should share, at least financially, in getting it under way. If not, its inauguration may seem hard, perhaps impossible, but then when we look at what we already have from which to start as compared to what was available in 1855 when the College was founded—they had nothing behind them except the dismal failure in 1845 of St. Andrew's College which was founded in 1831, and nothing ahead of them except the veil of uncertainty—the realization of this plan may not involve such difficulties as we may think; certainly we are in a better position to fight them than were our predecessors.

WILLIAM TRAINOR, '57.