

marked defects in our system of education. Whilst, therefore, this species of instruction could be made subservient to improved physical as well as mental development, it accomplishes the great practical point in which the State is so deeply concerned.

Let the experiment be fairly tried, introduce and provide by law for regular Military instruction during portions of the year in all the Colleges and Academies in the State which partake of the State's bounty, appoint a Military Officer of high professional standing and merit to inspect them from time to time, and soon the merits of the two plans will have a practical solution, which will be the end of all argument.

The agricultural interest of the State has been in a great measure overlooked by the Legislature. I feel it my duty to call your especial attention to the subject, and to recommend that something be done for the increased development of our landed resources, and for the promotion of agricultural education. The pursuit of agriculture is incomparably the most important of all the avocations of life. It constitutes the basis upon which the permanent prosperity of all others is founded, and is surely entitled, equally with others, to the favor and patronage of the Government.

That great and uncomplaining class of our people, the tillers of the soil, who have always contributed so largely to the support of Government, and upon whom in seasons of pecuniary embarrassment and trial, the burdens of the State have been so profusely thrown, have been most sadly neglected. They have relied mainly upon their own unaided resources, and have been content to await the slow returns of patient and plodding labor and industry, rather than seek the uncertain and capricious aid which might be obtained from the favor of Government. It is, however, extremely gratifying to perceive the increased zeal and interest which is beginning to pervade public sentiment, in relation to this elevating and ennobling pursuit. No one who has attended the annual exhibitions of the State Agricultural Society for the last few years can fail to be struck with the vast improvement and progress in agricultural science, which has been attained within this brief period.

I respectfully submit, that this is an auspicious time to encourage an association whose efforts have been attended with such public benefits. This society sustained thus far by private liberality and enterprise, has spread abroad through the community most useful and practical information; by stimulating labor and rewarding skill and industry, it has done much to arouse the dormant energies of the people in behalf of an interest which lies at the foundation of all national prosperity. With a view to the promotion of a more practical and thorough agricultural education as well as the more general diffusion among the people of those elementary and well established principles of agricultural science, which can as well be learned in youth, as by the slow process of