URGES STATE CONTROL
Rev. Dr. Steffens Advances Plan
For Agricultural College.

HE SUGGESTS CO-EDUCATION

Says Other Such Colleges Do More
For Farmers Than Does The
Maryland institution.

Believing that this is an opportune time to express an opinion regarding the management of the Maryland Agricultural College which suffered the loss of several buildings by fire last week, Rev. Dr. H. H. Steffens, a member of the State Board of Agriculture, who is also a member of the Lutheran Church, declared yesterday in favor of State control of the college. He Steffens said:

"Every man interested in agriculture in Maryland and every friend of the Maryland Agricultural College must regret the destruction of its two most valuable buildings by fire last Friday night. The trustees, however, are under no obligation to discuss the question of continuing building.

Money Probably Ready.

The opinion has been expressed that this college may be safely under the control of the State. The sentiment at the next session of the Legislature would not fail to provide the necessary funds. I hope that this will be done. I may be pardoned if I express the opinion that this is a most opportune time to ask ourselves if the Maryland Agricultural College is to simply continue on its old lines, or whether it is not presented in such a measure as to increase its importance and usefulness now?

Perform Real Service.

"Since the State is expected to defend, at least in part, the educational institutions of Maryland, every citizen has a right to ask this question.

"It may be true that the Maryland Agricultural College is a semi-public institution, as provided by this State constitution, and as under the control of the State. If this is correct it raises the question of the wisdom of continuing this arrangement. It is not the best and most efficient agricultural colleges of this country are State-owned colleges."

Different Elsewhere.

"While we Marylanders may pride ourselves on our having, but the first agricultural college in the United States, we cannot say that this institution rank with the agricultural colleges of the west, the state of Michigan and Pennsylvania.

"Indeed, there are as many as our agricultural college which are studying agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry are lamentably small. The United States Department of Agriculture of Pennsylvania State College has 824 students. 624 students in the last year. How many has the Maryland Agricultural College?"

Gives Training Also

"Most of our eastern agricultural colleges are restricted to the training of the farm men and educate us few men for the management of large properties. What has the Maryland Agricultural College done in that line? In my opinion, our State is upon the threshold of an immense agricultural development. Immigration from the middle west, the west, the field demonstration work of the United States Department of Agriculture, and an interesting experiment by Mr. William H. McKee in lower Prince George's, shows a tremendous and an almost universal effort is being made to bring the soil and productivity. I believe that the time is opportune to ask ourselves if the Maryland Agricultural College is organized to do its full share in the promotion of this Urges Progress.

"If not, let us ask seriously what ought to be done? To simply replace the buildings destroyed by this fire with the assumption that the people of this State are ready to vote the bills and the State will make the least of such an opportunity as presented to the people of Baltimore and other portions of the State for its disastrous fire of 1909.

"I am interested in the development of our southern states and I have a fair knowledge of their agricultural conditions. I therefore believe that the people of the State and the trustees of the college will make the most of this present opportunity and plan whatever is done along broad and progresive lines."