

Mr. A. P. Pettit, of Grimsby, was again unanimously chosen as Secretary-Treasurer.

The following gentlemen were then elected as members of the Executive Committee by the delegates from their districts:—J. C. Dance, Kingsville; Hon. Chas. Drury, Crown Hill; J. T. Blain, Black-creek; David McCrae, Guelph; J. B. Ewing, Dartford; R. J. Jelly, Jelleby; Andrew Kennedy, Winchester.

Able and instructive papers were delivered by the President-elect on "How Can Government Best Further the Interests of Agriculture."

By J. L. Frazer, Burford, on "What Improvements can be made in General Farm Practice that will most Promote the Present and Future Prosperity of the Farmers of Ontario?"

On the "Improvement of Our Public Roads," by J. T. Beam, Black Creek.

"The Future Work of the Farmers' Institute," by Prof. Mills, President Ontario Agricultural College.

Owing to lack of space, we must leave over a considerable number of these papers until our next issue.

Hon. John Dryden, Mr. Nicholas Awrey, Mr. Chas. Drury and others delivered practical addresses, and were listened to with much attention.

Farmers' Institutes in Ontario.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

In your far-reaching columns kindly allow me space to make a few remarks regarding farmers' institutes and the interest taken therein. About five years ago farmers' institutes were started in Ontario. They were formed with the object of bringing the farmers together, where they could discuss the many questions relating to the farm. The meetings were to be as instructors, as educators; they were to interest the farmer in the better methods of farming, and the certain result of a better knowledge of farming would be to better their social and financial welfare.

The Department of Agriculture for Ontario, ever ready to advance the interests of the farmer, encouraged the good work, and gave monied assistance to help the work along; also it gave literature free of charge, and without stint, to every institute member. And this was not all, it sent out men of known ability, years of experience, and sound judgment as practical farmers, to give lectures at farmers' institute meetings on the different subjects relating to the farm. It was a most generous thing on the part of the Department of Agriculture to place before the farmer a chance of learning many valuable things without cost or hindrance; such generosity should be taken advantage of, and eagerly accepted by every farmer great or small, rich or poor.

Allow me to ask the thinking man, the observing man, to what extent are all those good things appreciated by the farmers as a whole. I am sure his answer will be to a limited extent. From personal observation of a number of farmers' institute meetings held this winter, I have noticed a great lack of interest in them. At Drumbo, in North Oxford, there were three meetings held on January 3rd, 1894; the average attendance there was about twenty-five, the discussions of little interest, the farmers did not turn out and take an interest in them as they should have done. With such well-known and eminently successful and practical men to address them as Hon. Chas. Drury and Mr. Simpson Rennie, the farmers did not turn out, not even the president or secretary of the institute were there, and I venture to say not a member of the institute was there either, but the meetings were not allowed to fall through for want of a chairman, as one was chosen.

At Freelon the meeting was fair, but there was not that depth of interest that there should have been; the farmers did not enter into the discussions with a spirit which would show that they were alive to the importance of that occasion—the great majority were content to sit and listen to the few who tried to make it interesting. And the meeting for the evening would not have been attended by half as many, only for the music so ably rendered by the Harris family, which certainly was a drawing card.

At Milton the meeting in the afternoon did not speak well for the farmers of Halton; they did not turn out in the numbers that they should have with such an able man as John Dicken for president. It was hard work to keep up that interest. There are many institutes where it requires the greatest exertion on the part of a few heroic workers to keep it alive. I might mention North Waterloo as one. This is one of the best of farming districts in Western Ontario, and North Waterloo Institute has only a membership of about fifty-four, and there was talk of disbanding it, but the heroes would not give up the ship without another struggle, and I see another Scot in harness struggling hard for the life of his institute; and in other parts I find that institute meetings are not at all successful, the lecturers sent to them are very able men, well qualified for the work, and it certainly must try the patience of these gentlemen to take the platform and address a small and half-interested crowd, when the hall should be packed with a live audience that would enter into the spirit of this good work with a will.

Over in Wisconsin the farmers' institutes are doing a most successful work, the deepest interest is taken in the meetings, after a paper is read the subject is discussed in a way which is characteristic

of a knowledge-seeking and progressive people. In that State they have a superintendent of farmers' institutes, whose duty it is to look after and direct the good work, and it certainly is well and ably managed. Farmers' institutes in that State are doing a grand and progressive work. The money spent by that State is bearing better fruit than the money spent by our Department of Agriculture here. What we want is an able and experienced man to give his whole time and attention to the management of our farmers' institutes; we want the work so managed that a greater interest will be awakened among the farmers than has been done in the past; we want to bring him out; we want him to take a greater interest in agricultural literature, a greater interest in scientific farming; we want to drive out of his head those superstitious and stick-in-the-mud ideas, as are possessed by so many, which are the greatest drawback to a farmer's progress. Many farmers think that scientific farming is all rot, and agricultural literature a nuisance. Let us look back over the past year. Was there ever a time when science was more necessary or agricultural literature more in place? It required a scientific knowledge to be able to fight the many pests which were ever ready to destroy both fruits and roots, and prey upon our stock. Through the agricultural papers came many valuable receipts and suggestions which were of the greatest value. Surely the man who studied and read was better off than the man who sat and nursed his ignorance, and grumbled at the hard times.

In conclusion, let me say, Farmers, turn out to the institute as a duty, subscribe for a good agricultural paper, get right down to business, drive away those queer notions that have so long held you back.

C. RUTLEDGE.

Leaner Hogs Wanted.

BY WM. DAVIES, TORONTO.

For the past few years we have, through the press, advised farmers to raise and feed more hogs, and to sell them alive. This advice has been acted on to a considerable extent, and farmers have not been slow to own the advice was good. Hog-raising and feeding, as well as dairying, have been branches of agriculture that have not suffered during the depression that has overtaken almost every other. Then it is worthy of note that the two industries named above adapt themselves so well to each other—the swine thriving so admirably on the waste products of the dairy. Grain, even including wheat, has been so cheap of late that farmers have not needed any urging to convert the feed into fat hogs.

The last point is what we now wish to call the attention of farmers to. A very large proportion of the hogs now offered, dead and alive, are too fat, and packers, unless they are prepared to lose money faster than they ever made it, are obliged to discriminate most severely against fat hogs, no matter what weight.

We are now paying 60c. to 75c. per 100 lbs. for long, lean hogs from 150 to 220 lbs. This advantage, which amounts to a handsome profit, the feeders will lose if they persist, as so many are now doing, in making such fat hogs.

Possibly the farmers have not yet experienced this sharp discrimination, but the drovers have, and unless they are prepared to play the role of philanthropist, the feeders, in turn, will speedily suffer.

Here we want to point out very clearly that the mere fact that hogs are between the weights named does not bring them within the charmed circle unless they are long and lean.

Doubtless there are many who will think packers very "pernickitty," to which we reply: We would far rather handle the fat and heavy hogs if we could sell the product, but every dealer must buy what will suit his customers. We have a large retail and jobbing trade in the city. In addition to our export shipments we send our manufacture to B. C. and even New York, and from every buyer comes the imperative demand—lean meat.

Nothing is easier than for farmers to produce such hogs. Yorkshires and Tamworths are scattered all over the province. Grades of either of the above are easily obtained, and if they are liberally and judiciously fed till 6 or 8 months old they will be the very "beau ideal" of bacon pigs, fit for local or export trade, and will bring the highest price.

There can be no conflict of opinion on the above between the export packer and the local men. The demand for lean bacon and hams is as urgent in one case as the other.

Cable advices reach us almost daily, "fat unsaleable," and this mail brings us the following from our English agent: "Buyers have got wonderfully fastidious about weights the last year or two, and in every section of the country where they used to work heaps of fat they will not look at it now, and consequently it is a terrible drug. It is most difficult to find buyers for it at any sort of price. We have held on to two or three parcels of fat bacon until we could hold on to them no longer, and had to let them go this week. Fat Danish is down at 'mud' price almost, and Irish fat is very cheap."

We feel sure that this condition of the trade will become more marked, not only from year to year, but from day to day. We have lost many thousands of dollars in fat hogs in the last six months.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

Veterinary.

ANSWERED BY W. A. DUNBAR, V. S., WINNIPEG.
CONDITION POWDERS.

WM. SHEPHERD, Rathwell:—"Will you kindly inform me if it is safe to feed St. John's Condition Powder to a mare in foal, and, if safe, how much and how often should it be fed. If this is not a safe thing to use, please prescribe the best medicine to clear her blood, with directions how to use."

We are ignorant of the ingredients that compose St. John's Condition Powder, and therefore not in a position to certify as to its fitness as a medicine for your mare. Most of the so-called "condition powders" may be safely recommended as being very harmless, but usually very useless. Your mare being in foal, we would not advise a very extensive use of medicine, unless the state of her health demanded it. You do not mention any special ailment, but merely that her blood requires "clearing." Give the animal wholesome food, such as moderate rations of good hay and oats, and an occasional diet of boiled wheat or barley. Give twice a week, for three or four weeks, in bran mash:—Epsom salts, two tablespoonfuls, and powdered gentian, two teaspoonfuls. See that your stable is clean, comfortable and well-ventilated.

ANSWERED BY DR. MOLE, 280 ADELAIDE ST. WEST, TORONTO.

CHRONIC INDIGESTION.

J. H. LADD, Lock Levin, N. S.:—"Will you please inform me what is the matter with my mare, now 5 years old? Since last autumn she has been rapidly losing flesh, skin tight, and hair standing on end; not much alteration in her bowels, excepting that they seem more free than natural. I have treated her for worms with linseed oil and turpentine, but to no purpose, as I have not seen any worms come away. Legs swelled, dull, heavy, hangs her head and does not seem to have the slightest ambition to move. Please advise as to treatment."

There is no doubt, from the symptoms you have detailed, that your mare is suffering from "chronic indigestion," which has been in existence a long time. Follow out this line of treatment:—Give a dose of purgative medicine consisting of Barbadoes aloes, one ounce, in solution. Have made up twelve balls composed of the following ingredients:—Barbadoes aloes, 6 drachms; nitrate of potash, 2 ounces; powdered resin, 2 ounces; powdered gentian, 1½ ounces; powdered ginger, 1½ ounces; powdered capsici, ½ ounce; sweet syrup, quantity sufficient to mix, and divide into 12 balls. Give one a day and report progress.

SCOURING OR PURGING.

D. SINCLAIR SMITH, Petitcodiac, N. B.:—"Will you please let me know the reason why a team of my horses, that have been accustomed to get 16 quarts of oats a day, when given the same quantity of crushed oats scoured so much that the quantity had to be lessened? Does feeding whole oats give a horse more life than the same weight of crushed oats? If so, why?"

The only reason that can be assigned is, when given the crushed oats it must cause a little indigestion, and thus the scouring. I am of opinion that feeding whole oats will keep a horse in hard condition and develop more life. Try the following powders:—Powdered sulphate of iron, 4 oz.; powdered carbonate of soda, 4 oz. A tablespoonful of this mixture to be administered in the horses' food night and morning.

MALNUTRITION.

DAVID AITKIN:—"I have a young (four years old) horse which I had on pasture August and Sept) last year. Some dogs ran the horse around until he became overheated; one dog caught him by the heels, leaving several scratches. Have used such remedies as are common for healing purposes, but the hair came out in large patches on different parts of the body. Have the horse in a warm stable, feed lightly—hay and oats occasionally, still the horse is very thin and has little life, and a large number of blotches like "ringworm." I have used condition powders that are recommended for blood purifying, but this does not seem to improve the horse."

Your horse is no doubt suffering from malnutrition, and, first of all, see that the teeth are in good order. Feed on soft, nutritious food, with an occasional mash of linseed or flaxseed with bran. Try the following powders, which are at all times beneficial to horse not doing well:—Sulphate of iron, 4 oz.; carbonate of soda, 4 oz.; gentian powder, 4 oz.; capsici powder, ½ oz. Mix, and give a teaspoonful in each feed. Report progress.

SWEENIED.

J. A. S., Ida:—"I have a valuable young horse, rising five years old, which is "sweenied" in both shoulders. I have been applying turpentine and oil, but it does not seem any better. Please prescribe through the columns of your paper."

We are of opinion that these cases of so-called "sweenied shoulders" are all due to some irritation of the feet. Have both shoes removed, pare down the heels, and place the feet in bran poultices for a week, and then search for corns or bruised heels. If no better after this treatment, have a competent veterinary surgeon examine him for "Navicular" disease.