

The Dominion Farmers' Club.

A NEW INSTITUTION.

It is now proposed to establish a Dominion Farmers' Club, to have a Director in each county, the Directors to appoint their Secretary and President. The propositions for officers are to be made public, the names of those proposed to be publicly submitted through the *ADVOCATE*, and the votes to be taken by mail. Useful suggestions, discussions and questions to be submitted through the *ADVOCATE*. Two pages of the journal may be devoted to this interest. Should the Secretary not be able to select good subjects and good matter from our own county, the space will be filled with selections to correspond with this Club.

Writers must condense their suggestions and remarks to the subject at issue, and avoid all unnecessary introduction. If too long, or if not of sufficient interest, they might not be published.

This plan is suggested because our Clubs and Granges are not working as efficiently as we could wish in spreading information. We extract from the *Elmira Husbandman* and other American journals useful discussions, and hope by this plan to bring forward Canadian discussions. The following communication is from W. B. Kimball, Penn Yan, N. Y. :-

The Farmers' Club report in the *Husbandman* of Oct. 10th contains a discussion respecting the best feed for swine. Now, gentlemen, I am no Jew, nor vegetarian, but am one of the few who believe swine raising and eating not only unnecessary, but one of the great evils of the world, notwithstanding all that is said and written in favor of them, and respecting the best breeds, the best feed for them, &c. A great evil, first, because the tendency of fat pork is, notwithstanding all that is said to the contrary, in proportion to the quantity eaten, to produce bilious disorders, and to corrupt the blood, producing scrofula and other eruptions of the skin; and second, because hogs are loathsome, filthy animals, and the most troublesome of any that farmers raise, and the hardest and most dirty work that they do is to kill and dress them. If it were a necessity to raise and eat them, it would be a humiliating one indeed; but there is no such necessity whatever. I think the very looks, habits and smell of swine should be enough to satisfy refined and intelligent people that they are not suitable animals to raise as food. True, people having naturally strong constitutions and plenty of muscular exercise may eat considerable pork and remain apparently healthy, and perhaps live to old age, especially if they have plenty of fruit to eat, and possess cheerful temperaments of mind to counteract the ill effects of it; much on the same principle that they can drink whiskey and use tobacco longer without feeling the evil effects than slender people and those of sedentary pursuits; yet pork eaters are much more liable to take the loathsome and contagious diseases, and to have them much more severely than people whose blood is pure and uncorrupted by pork eating. A large share, also, of all the pork raised is barreled for summer use—just the time when not much carbonaceous food is needed. A little fresh meat, fowl or fish, is all the meat that is needed during the warm part of the year; and for the cold part there is an abundance of carbon in milk, butter, cheese and corn meal, and in other good, wholesome food, to produce all the animal heat in the human system which is necessary. And if people would use more corn meal for their own eating, and feed more to cattle instead of converting it into pork, and raise more calves and have plenty of young and tender beef, it would be much better for their health, if not quite as profitable as raising and packing pork. Money should not always be the highest object with enlightened, moral people. That pork is not needed to impart strength, activity and the capacity for enduring the cold, as many people claim, I think is fairly proved by referring to those qualities possessed by the horse, ox, the deer and buffalo. I believe they all, except the horse, have two stomachs similar to those of man, and their teeth are very similar.

The Scotch people who live in a cold climate are strong, active and healthy, and subsist mainly up-

on potatoes and oat meal porridge; and about the same may be said of the hardy Irish, until they learn swine raising from the English and Americans. I will also refer to the strength, activity and power of endurance possessed by the native Indian who eats no pork. But people usually cling with great tenacity to long established customs and ideas which they were brought up to believe right, however wrong they may be. If it were possible that people could be persuaded to abandon the raising and eating of swine entirely, it would be one of the greatest improvements for the refinement and elevation of society which could take place.

The following was from a lady :-

Seeing in one of the letters to the Farmers' Club in the spring of 1875, the statement that by planting the stem end of potatoes successively, the crop would be improved in quality as also in evenness of size, I cut one Early Rose potato in halves and planted in the garden. The weights of the products were equal, potatoes from the stem end being all of medium size, whilst the eye end produced one very large potato and the remainder very small. In the spring of 1876 I planted the potatoes thus raised, making four "sorts," viz., the stem and eye from those raised from the eye, and the same raised from the stem end, the result showing a perceptible difference in favor of those raised from the stem end. Last spring I planted only the stem ends of those raised successively from stem ends, thus raising the third season, from one-half potato, one bushel, which averaged more than medium size (besides about two quarts that were less in size than a hen's egg), and superior in quality to any others of the same kind raised on the place, although the place where they grew was not considered good for potatoes.

The following letter from Mr. Arba Campbell, of Oswego, N. Y., on an interesting subject, was read :-

I wish to say in answer to E. Johnson's enquiry as to the best plan of plowing, fertilizing and re-seeding an old worn out meadow: Last fall I plowed a meadow of ten acres that had been mown and after-fed for many years, till it did not produce half a ton of hay to the acre. Early in the spring I sowed ten bushels of slaked lime to the acre, and worked it in with a cultivator. I then sowed 200 pounds of superphosphate to the acre, and ten bushels of oats, sowing the oats thin to give the grass seed a better chance after harrowing. I sowed twelve quarts of timothy, and four quarts of clover seed, and cross harrowed. The oats came up and produced a rapid growth, standing full by three feet high, and the one acre which we let get ripe threshed forty-four bushels. The other nine acres we cut with a mower just as a few of the heads began to turn yellow; when dry we raked them up and put them in as hay. As a fodder crop they are worth more than all the hay grown in the same meadow for the three previous years. And as I sell no grain but wheat, except in the form of butter, pork, beef and mutton, we have found this the cheapest and most profitable way of using our oat crop. For horses and sheep I know of no better fodder. Our grass seed took beautifully, and we have now a stand of timothy and clover thickly set and fully six inches high, with every prospect for a good crop of hay the coming year. I will recommend Mr. Johnson to try the same experiment on his soil—and report the result. My soil is a gravelly loam, inclining to clay, with little or no sand in it. I have found but little benefit in plowing and re-seeding old exhausted meadows without using some fertilizers, not only to get the seed to catch, but to supply the wants of the grass in its future growth. And I wish here to say that in buying my timothy seed I always buy that which is not hulled in threshing; hulled seed will grow I doubt not under favorable circumstances, but that which is not hulled will grow under less favorable circumstances, and I think it much cheaper to buy, though costing a little more.

Many of our old subscribers might give us their ideas on the Dominion Club, and might nominate the person they consider that takes the most interest in agricultural affairs in their county or township.

NOTICE.—In remitting money to this office be sure to name the post office to which you wish your paper sent. Do not forget to sign your name.

Excessive Hay Feeding.

BY L. B. ARNOLD, SEC. OF AMERICAN DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Cows are quite sensitive in respect to the quality of their diet. If different kinds of food are placed before them they are very sure to select the best flavored. In regard to quantity it is different. In respect to the amount for a meal their instincts lead them widely astray. They will partake of any thing they relish as long as they have any room in their capacious maws to store it away, regardless of all consequences. They were evidently designed to roam over plains and forests and to subsist on food but little concentrated. In the hands of man they are in a comparatively unnatural position, and cannot be trusted with the more concentrated foods he prepares for their use. There is no safety in allowing them to help themselves at a pile of fruit, or at a bin of meal or grain, or at the corn crib, as they will be sure to take more than they can digest, and a severe illness, if not death, is the certain consequence. Nor will they eat discreetly even of those coarser foods, such as potatoes, roots, pumpkins, cabbage, green clover, &c., till they come down to provender for which they have very little relish. They are unlike other farm stock in this respect. The healthy, well fed horse may be safely trusted in the apple orchard, or even at the oat bin, though such lenity could not be given to a starved beast, nor to a dyspeptic animal with an abnormal appetite. So with sheep and poultry; and even the hog, with all his hoggishness, is not so much of a glutton as the cow. In feeding cows with any sort of food which is well relished by them, the cowherd must always keep an eye turned carefully to their needs. He must regulate amounts by their necessities, and not by their inclinations. There is often occasion for a very careful discrimination by the feeder in determining just where his judgment may give place to the inclinations of his herd. I class hay among the doubtful articles, notwithstanding most feeders give all their cows will eat, and some, so to speak, crowd it down them. "I give my cows all the good hay I can get down them," is often the boast of the dairyman who would be thought a generous feeder. It is doubtless better to give good hay than poor, but there is a chance for the query whether the man making this boast has not been a little too soon in letting the inclinations of his cows take the place of his judgment—whether cows having free access to all the good hay they can eat will not take in more than is for their benefit and the profit of their owner. There are several circumstances which conspire in leading to the inference that they will. First, when cows are to "come in" in the spring, feeding them during the previous winter with all the hay they can eat so distends their enormous stomachs as to crowd them so hard against the growing fetus, which is now large, as to disturb its envelopes, causing pain and injury, which manifests itself in severity and irregularities of labor. It is a fact which has often attracted my attention, and doubtless the attention of others, that following the winters when cows have been fed freely and exclusively on hay, it being very abundant, there has been the most trouble with them in the spring, and that when hay has been scarce and its place in part supplied with grain, there has been the least difficulty in the spring, and the cows have invariably done better in the summer following. The contrast in results following the different modes of feeding have sometimes been very marked and wide.

Second, it is not economical. The digestive capacity of cows, even though very large, is limited. The gastric juice is not poured out in sufficient quantity to do perfect work with such a very large bulk of food as cows will crowd down when hay is