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Extra Convention of the B. C. Dairymen's Association, Held at Kelowna, Okanagan Valley, June 22nd and 23rd, 1917

At the annual convention of the association, held in the city of Nanaimo, Vancouver Island, last January, members from the Okanagan Valley urged upon the association to hold the next annual convention at Kelowna. It was felt, however, that the annual meeting, which has always been held in different points on the Island and Lower Mainland, should remain in the older dairy districts, and a promise was given them that if possible an extra convention would be arranged for the up-country districts, and to take place some time during the summer. Accordingly arrangements were completed for a two-days' convention to be held in Kelowna on June 22nd and 23rd. Local business men and farmers of the district, under the direction of Michael Hereron, local director of the association, greatly assisted the acting secretary in arranging details.

First Day.

The morning session consisted of demonstrations in placing and judging dairy cattle and horses at the farm of Mr. Leslie Dilworth by Prof. J. A. McLean, of the B. C. University, and Prof. W. T. McDonald, Provincial Live Stock Commissioner, and much useful and valuable information was given to the farmers for their guidance in the breeding or purchase of these animals.

Afternoon Session.

After a most satisfactory picnic lunch served in an adjoining grove by the ladies of the community, the afternoon session was opened by an address of welcome by Mr. J. W. Jones, local member of the legislature who, in a few well-chosen and happy words, welcomed the speakers and delegates to the district, and told of the rapid development of dairying in the district. Two years ago there were but few cows, and a little dairy butter was made and traded off for the usual family groceries in the local stores. A co-operative creamery was established in the spring of 1915, and over one hundred thousand pounds of butter will be made during the current year. Until two years ago there were no silos in the district. The first one was built as a demonstration silo by the Department of Agriculture on the farm of Mr. Hereron in the fall of 1915. At the present time there are some thirty in the district, and many more are being built this year. The Kelowna district is one of the very best in British Columbia for the growing of the two great dairy fodders, corn and alfalfa.

Professor McLean's talk on "Feeding Dairy Cattle" was full of valuable information regarding suitable feeds for the economical production of milk. Mr. T. A. F. Wiancko, Provincial Dairy Instructor, talked on the "Causes of Variations in Cream Tests," and brought out some valua-

ble points for the guidance of the cream producer, and made it quite plain that the blame for variations can seldom be placed upon the hard-working and patient butter-maker.

Prof. L. Stevenson, superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Sidney, Vancouver Island, took for his subject "Corn and Its Relation to the Dairy Industry," and emphasized the importance of proper cultivation and seed selection for maximum production. He believed that corn and alfalfa such as can be grown in the Okanagan would solve the problem of producing milk and cream at a minimum cost.

The session closed with an interesting talk on "Hogs" by G. S. Harris, Moresby Isle. As money makers when skim milk and good alfalfa or clover pasture are available, pigs cannot be beaten. They take but little time to look after, and if kept out of doors largely during the summer season and comfortably and cleanly housed during the winter, they become a most valuable adjunct to the dairy industry.

Evening Session.

The evening session was held in the school house at Rutland, about six miles from Kelowna. The farmers in this section are becoming very enthusiastic dairymen, and on their small holdings are going in for intensive methods. Corn, alfalfa and roots are grown largely between rows of fruit trees, and having plenty of water available for irrigation, this method can be followed without damage to the fruit trees.

Dr. S. F. Tolmie, B. C. representative of the Dominion Live Stock Branch, opened the evening's programme with a live talk on "Contagious Abortion, Milk Fever, and Bloating," and pointed out the essentials in handling these dread diseases.

P. H. Moore, now of Alderley Farm, Royal Oak, V. I., but until recently superintendent of the Dominion Experimental Farm at Agassiz, gave some very valuable pointers on the making of clover silage. He recommends a mixture of 9 lbs. red clover, 3½ lbs. alsike, 1½ lbs. white clover, and 2 lbs. rye grass. Clover silage is more profitable than summer pasture, and is one of the most abundant of early spring crops. Alfalfa can be handled in the same manner. The silo is especially valuable in years when rain interferes with successful curing of alfalfa or clover for hay. These crops can be put into the silo in the wettest of weather with most excellent results.

Prof. P. A. Boving, of the University of British Columbia, followed with a talk on "The Production of Roots," and emphasized the importance of early seeding and sufficient seed to insure a full stand. Cultivation must be thorough, and thinning done early, in order to keep ahead of weeds.

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work in my barn"

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Deputy Minister Wm. E. Scott, of the Department of Agriculture, urged upon those present the importance of increased production to meet the Empire's needs. He expressed himself as particularly pleased with the progress made by the dairymen of the Okanagan Valley, and hoped that extra conventions, such as this, be held by the association each year.

Concurrently with the Rutland meeting, Prof. W. T. McDonald, Provincial Live Stock Commissioner, addressed the Boys' and Girls' Club at the Board of Trade rooms, Kelowna. There was a good turnout, and Professor McDonald expressed himself as greatly pleased with the work of the club.

Second Day.

The programme opened in the morning with a field road demonstration at the Bankhead Ranch—one of the largest of the fruit ranches, where dairying is carried on as a paying side line. Mr. L. E. Taylor, the manager, is an enthusiastic grower of corn and roots; in fact, he won by a good margin the first prize for corn at the Provincial Seed Fair at Armstrong, B. C., last year.