

Don't ask me when they got home again—probably in the night, if they had good horses, and perhaps not until the next day some time, usually bringing some necessities with them.

There was always a "bee" to put up a log house, and men and women went for miles, nearly always taking some article of food along, which the women cooked while the men worked. I remember hearing of a "bee" held by a man who, for some reason or other, wasn't very popular among the men. After a drink all round, they put up the walls about breast-high, and demanded more whiskey. When it wasn't forthcoming, they pulled down the walls again, and these operations of building and pulling down were repeated until all hands had had enough whiskey to please them, when the usual amount of building was done, and the family left in peace.

## Ontario Corn-growers' Convention.

The Ontario Corn Show, whose third annual event was held at Chatham, Ont., Jan. 31st to Feb. 3rd, has amply justified itself. The attendance, the interest, the display, and the marked improvement in the corn on exhibit over that of previous years, furnish the strongest kind of evidence that an annual corn exhibition in the corn-growing counties has been a wonderful stimulus to the industry, that it has greatly improved the product, and that the people are appreciating its value. This corn show for Ontario is of recent origin. Three years ago it had its beginning, when about a dozen young men gathered in A. McKenney's office, in Essex, Ont., and spent a few hours for a couple of days studying corn. Two years ago, \$100 was obtained, and a hopeful nucleus for a show started. Last year, \$800 was offered in the prize list, while this year \$1,300 was offered to encourage the corn-producers. The attendance has grown proportionately, until this year, for three successive days, upwards of 1,200 people were in studious attendance. There were 575 different exhibitors, and a total of more than 1,700 entries.

This corn show is the occasion of the annual convention of the Ontario Corn-growers' Association, and the show, which began more or less as an incidental feature, has grown, until it now occupies the large ring. However, the other educational features have in nowise been neglected by either the management or the people. Throughout the three principal days of the convention, lectures of the most valuable and practical nature have been skilfully presented, and much has been added to the working knowledge of the corn-growers. The talks upon corn have been handled entirely by Prof. Klinck, of Macdonald College, excepting one by Prof. R. A. Moore, of the University of Wisconsin, upon "The Breeding and Dissemination of Pure-bred Seed Corn."

At the one evening meeting, Dr. Creelman, President of the Ontario Agricultural College, discussed the question of agricultural education.

The interest in the lecture work was most gratifying. The morning lectures, which partook of practical exercises, were held in a room which could not accommodate more than 200 men, which was regrettable, since more than twice that many men wished to hear. The afternoon addresses were delivered in a hall of 600 capacity, and in it standing room was at a premium. Not only did the men, young and old, attend these meetings, but they listened eagerly to the very last, and lingered by the score to ask questions after the meetings adjourned. Further than this, the people spent much time in examining the prize-winning exhibits, studying them in much more than a cursory manner. They are bound to learn and know corn and how to produce it, and the effects of previous shows were markedly shown by the great improvement in the quality of the exhibits. Two years ago, Prof. Klinck stated that he could find in the show exhibits all the various defects which he wished to demonstrate in his talks; last year he had to search closely to find them, and this year he had more difficulty to find these illustrations in the market corn than he did two years ago in the show corn. That, surely, is great improvement. The exhibits certainly showed that the growers are learning what is demanded in superior corn; and the uniformity of type, the evenness of the rows, the shape of the cob and kernels, and the factor of maturity, as displayed by the exhibits, in comparison to these factors as observed in previous years, bespeaks the readiness of these corn-growers in learning what is right, and in putting into practice what they have learned. The degree of maturity, and the high percentage of samples showing good vitality, were agreeable characteristics in the exhibits. There were a number of ears nipped by the frost amongst the exhibits, however, which shows that these breeders must most carefully select the early-maturing varieties, to which factor they will undoubtedly give still closer attention.

The prize list, as it now stands, offers a great variety of premiums, and it is probable that it

The settler's wife had the question of providing fruit for winter use, but her methods were simpler than those of a housekeeper of to-day. The fruit—berries, wild grapes and plums—were dried, and in winter were stewed and sweetened with maple syrup or maple sugar. Pumpkins were cut in rings and dried, or boiled down into "pumpkin sauce." Bee-trees were plentiful, and honey made a welcome addition to table dainties.

Taken all together, settlers and their wives must have had strength and courage of no mean order, and I think few of us can realize the trials they overcame, or we should prize more the fact that we are descended from the brave men and women who have made our smiling country such a pleasant place in which to spend our days.

PIONEER'S GRANDDAUGHTER.

The Canadian Seed-growers' Association had a valuable demonstrative exhibit, showing the difference in yield of corn from good ears and bad ears, and clearly demonstrating the advisability of selecting seed corn carefully in the ear.

The most rousing address of the session was that of Prof. R. A. Moore, from the University of Wisconsin. He is not quite as large as Taft, has a voice that can easily fill the largest hall, talks at the rate of 200 words a minute, and never needs to stop. He occupied fifty minutes in the regular programme, and, after the meeting was dismissed, the people gathered around him and insisted on a continuation. He was thoroughly enthusiastic, and must have inspired all his hearers in a way that will show on the next year's corn crop. In discussing the breeding of corn and other grains, he told of the work in Wisconsin. Before corn-breeding properly began in Wisconsin, there were about 150 varieties in the State, and every man thought he had the best. The State Experiment Station got about 100 of these varieties together, and by careful breeding work, evolved four superior strains of corn, which are about the only kinds now grown in Wisconsin.

In this particular, the Ontario corn-growers may well learn from Wisconsin. There are too many types in Ontario, especially late-maturing types. If efforts were concentrated on the early-maturing dents by all the growers, there would undoubtedly be greater improvement.

Prof. Moore drew attention to the importance of selecting the seed corn after studying the whole plant. In Wisconsin, they kiln-dry all their seed corn, and test the germinating power of all ears. They have extended the corn line from the center of the State to the shore of Lake Superior. All seed corn is bought and sold on the ear, thus eliminating the scoop-shovel method entirely.

Similarly, they have improved the barley and oats of the State.

The great factor in reaching the entire State has been the Wisconsin Experimental Association, organized in 1901. There are over 1,600 paid-up members in this Association. Through them have been established over 1,000 seed-growing centers in the State. There are 1,500 centers now for Wisconsin No. 7 seed corn, and 1,600 barley-producing centers. Through these clubs and their work, farm boys are welded to the farm and the Experimental Station vitally linked to the State.

By all concerned in the show it was pronounced a huge success, and, while it is undoubtedly true that every member of the executive, and a great many more, have worked faithfully to bring about this culmination, yet they all unite in according to A. McKenney, the Agricultural Representative in Essex County, and secretary of the Association, and to J. O. Duke, Olinda, its resourceful president, the chief credit for these splendid results.

The new officers of the Association are: Hon. President, J. O. Duke, Olinda, Ont.; President, J. H. Williams, Fletcher, Ont.; Secretary, A. McKenney, Essex, Ont.; Treasurer, J. H. Coatsworth, Ruthven.

It is impossible to give many of the awards at this time. What appears to be a regrettable fact was that the sweepstakes over all for the show was a sample of Reid's Yellow Dent corn. Much credit is due to the producer for having accomplished this feat, yet it is generally proven that this corn requires too long a season to be of any use in Ontario. Both the single ear and the sample of ten ears of this corn were grand specimens, of splendid vitality, excellent shape of kernel and of cob, almost perfect in the butt, tip and in rows, and undoubtedly lured many an unknowing man to plan to use them next year—and a year from now he may have many regrets.

Essex farmers have achieved great success in the show, as will appear from the full prize list, and to them much praise is due for the excellence and success of the show. And they have scarcely begun to do all they can do down there in the rich, flat lands of that county.

A few of the chief first-prize awards here follow:

Open classes:  
Ten ears Bailey, Butler, and Howey.—James Pearce, Essex Co., Ont.  
Ten ears Leaming, and allied kinds.—F. G. Hutchins, North Malden, Ont.  
Ten ears Reid's Yellow Dent.—Wm. Woodbridge, Kingsville, Ont.  
Ten ears White-cap Yellow Dent (large).—C. J. Neville, Ruthven, Ont.  
Ten ears White-cap Yellow Dent (small).—John Hammond, Essex.  
Single ear Yellow Dent.—James Martin, Amherstburg.  
Single ear White-cap Yellow Dent.—Alvin Burn, Ruthven, Ont.  
Single ear White Dent.—C. J. Neville.  
Single ear Eight-rowed Flint Corn.—C. J. Neville.  
Single ear Twelve-rowed Flint Corn.—Blake Smith, Ridgetown, Ont.  
Counties of Kent and Essex barred:  
Ten ears any variety of Dent, ten ears Eight-