

### Western Dairymen's Association of Ontario.

The annual meeting of the Western Dairymen's Association of Ontario met in London, Ont., on Tuesday, 10th inst. Notwithstanding the severe storm that was raging, and the intense cold, there was a large gathering of dairymen assembled at the hour appointed.

Mr. J. Geary, the respected and energetic President of the Association, was ready on time and called the meeting to order. In his opening address, he gave a resume of their work for the year, and said: "Your Board has, since I last met you at Brantford, departed somewhat from old ways. In order to meet the growing wants of the dairy industry, we appointed a young man as secretary, Mr. J. W. Wheaton, who is to devote his whole time to the work of this association. He will devote part of his time to attending annual meetings of cheese factories, and give addresses at these meetings on breeds and feed of dairy cows, care and handling of milk, and the best methods of manufacturing the milk and the best methods of utilizing the by-products of the dairy. This departure seems to have met with your hearty approval, shown by the reception he has received at those meetings which he has already attended, and also by the numerous applications which have been received for his services, which, I fear, are more than he can overtake."

"I also feel exceedingly thankful to both the Dominion and Provincial governments for the assistance they have given us in aiding us to develop and increase our dairy work, and also in assisting us in improving the quality of our produce."

In order to induce farmers to become members of this association, we have reduced the membership fee to 50 cents, and we confidently hope this will lead to a very great increase of members. We also hope the members will attend and encourage local meetings throughout the province, where they will discuss the various subjects relating to their dairies, and endeavor to acquire all the available information they can."

The President then introduced the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, to the Association, who on rising was greeted with a most hearty reception.

We need not here state that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture is always a welcome visitor, not only to our conventional gatherings, but at all agricultural gatherings.

The hon. gentleman said: I am here to represent the Ontario government, and I suppose the motive power of this, as well as other associations, is money, and I am sure the government will continue their support as long as it is needed. My department is related to the dairy department, and I can say that the annual reports of this department, which includes the annual reports of the Eastern and Western Dairy Associations and the Ontario Creamery Association, are most interesting to outside parties, especially in Great Britain, where they say our reports are the best, the most instructive and the most practical of any they receive from anywhere. There is no doubt but this and the sister associations have been the direct means of the growth and increase of our dairy work to its present condition. One good these reports do is to scatter information amongst those who do not attend these meetings, and it seems about the only way of reaching a great many. The educational advantages which the Travelling Dairies have extended to the farmers have been of great benefit, and this is only a step—only a beginning—leading on and up to a larger system of co-operation in dairying where it is not now in operation. The income has in the past been more uniform from dairying than from any other branch of farming. The cultivation of the home market should be more attended to than it has been. We don't want you to cull out your poor cheese and ship them to Toronto to supply the local trade. That is not the way to cultivate the home market. Some say we are booming this dairy work. Yes, and we intend to keep up the boom—to increase and improve our dairy industry all we can. It is right for the government to provide for the education of the people. We are establishing a dairy school at Guelph, and we purpose to make this school the best on the continent of America or anywhere else. We mean to equip our school so as to give both technical and practical education. We have provided fifty chairs for our dairy school, which we thought would be ample accommodation for all, but to my surprise there have been eighty applications for admission already received. We have been obliged to refuse thirty applications. These must be provided for in the future. We cannot afford to allow these young men to go without education, or allow them to go out of our own province to seek that which they need and should receive at home.

These points which we have given were illustrated and spoken to by the Minister with great earnestness, and were listened to with the greatest interest by the audience.

Prof. Dean, of the Agricultural College, Guelph, gave a fine address on "The needs of the dairy." More knowledge was needed regarding the value of milk and its products, butter and cheese, as a perfect food. More knowledge was needed how to maintain the fertility of the soil. More knowledge was needed how to produce more milk cheaply, and of good quality. The standard should be raised from 3,000 pounds per cow to 5,000 or 6,000 pounds. More knowledge is needed how to increase winter dairying. More knowledge is needed in co-operative dairying, to pay according to the quality of the milk. This is coming to be the question of the time. Butter fat is the most

valuable and the most variable part of the milk, and milk should be paid for accordingly.

The other speakers, Messrs. Vanslyke, Hoard, James, Fletcher, Ruddick, and others, were all in good trim, and gave valuable information upon each of the subjects discussed.

The convention was the most successful ever held by the association. The membership has about doubled, and the interest manifested throughout the three days' meetings was continued to the very close.

On the last afternoon the convention was honored by the presence of His Excellency the Governor-General, who addressed the meeting shortly, giving kind words of encouragement to the association, and wished it the greatest success.

As our time and space are both limited at present we cannot give the papers read at the convention, but will at some future time give our readers the cream of these, which we believe will be productive of great good. We congratulate the Association and its officers on the complete success of this convention, and hope the results will meet their highest expectations.

### FARM.

#### Weeds.

BY J. HOYES PANTON, M. A., F. R. G. S.

SCROPHULARIACEÆ (Figwort Family).

Many of the flowers of plants in this order present a somewhat irregular appearance, showing a sort of two-lipped structure, as seen in the snapdragon.

*Verbascum Thapsus* (Mullein).

This common plant by the wayside is too well-known to require minute description. Its coarse, hairy-like leaves, the long spike covered with yellow flowers, serve to identify it readily. It is a biennial, and can easily be got rid of by pulling when young. Its presence is always taken as an evidence of slovenliness and negligence on the part of those near whom it grows.

*Veronica arvensis* (Field Speedwell).

This is common in the fields as a low-growing plant of spreading nature; the stem hairy; three to eight inches high, with small blue flowers. Cultivation soon destroys this annual.

*Veronica peregrina* (Neckweed).

This is a great garden pest. It is becoming very common and spreads rapidly. It bears white flowers; is low growing and spreading in character. It has some resemblance to chickweed, but the flowers are much smaller.

*Linaria vulgaris* (Toad flax) Fig. 27

This is a creeping perennial; spreads rapidly, and in some places is becoming a troublesome weed. The thin, smooth, pale green, crowded leaves, on stems one foot high, covered with pale yellow flowers, having an orange centre, give the plant a striking appearance. Owing to this combination of color, the name butter-and-eggs has been applied to this plant. It bears many small black seeds, and generally grows in patches, which should be thoroughly hoed and the plants never allowed to get sunlight.

VERBENACEÆ (Vervain Family).

*Verbena hastata* (Blue Vervain).

This is the only species we shall notice in this family, and is not a bad weed, but is comparatively common on low ground near streams. The plant is three to four feet high; leaves two to three inches long, much longer than broad, and toothed along the edge. The small blue flowers are very irregular in appearance; grow upon spikes that are quite numerous on each plant. The stems have a purplish appearance, and are quite shrubby.

LABIATE (Mint Family).

A very large family, chiefly herbs, with square stems, and generally very aromatic. The flowers are irregular, mostly two-lipped in appearance. The family is valuable for its medicinal properties; in it we find such plants as mint, sage, thyme, etc.

*Leonurus Carduaca* (Motherwort).

This is a common weed in waste places, and is seldom if ever seen in cultivated fields. The leaves of the flower stem are quite unlike those which appear in the early part of the season. It is a difficult plant to describe so that the ordinary reader can identify it. The most striking character is in the leaves, the lower being large and palmately lobed, somewhat like the maple, and the upper three-cleft; the upper lip of the flower is bearded and purple. It is a perennial, and grows from one to three feet high.

*Nepeta Cataria* (Catnip).

Though classed among weeds, it is not a very obnoxious one, and seldom finds its way to the fields, but seems to linger about stone heaps or fence corners by the wayside. Cats are very fond of it, and will travel quite a distance in search of it. The whitish, small, irregular flowers appear in late summer in clusters or spikes at the end of the branches. The leaves are oblong, heart-shaped, and the plant is of a soft, downy-like appearance.

*Brunella vulgaris* (Self-heal).

Very common in low fields, low spreading, with oblong leaves and three flowers under each of the broad and round purplish bracts of the head; flowers, bluish purple. Though perennial, it is not troublesome to any great extent.

BORRAGINACEÆ (Borage Family).

Here we find some of the plant "tramps" of nature. The weeds here have a rough, uncouth, unpleasant appearance, their form, structure and smell in most cases being very unattractive; yet, in this family, there are some respectable members that serve to give it tone. Here we find the burs, stick-seed and beggar's lice, the heliotrope and forget-me-not. The plants of this order are mostly rough and hairy, producing hard seeds, usually four to a flower; flowers are arranged on one side of the stem; the juice is bitter, and sometimes mucilaginous.

*Cynoglossum Morisisoni* (Beggar's Lice).

A kind of small bur, which is troublesome by getting into the wool of sheep, and sometimes sticking to the clothes of man. The seed is about one-third the size of a wheat grain, and is covered with prickles. The plant grows about two feet high; is common in woods, and seldom invades the fields; flowers a pale blue, something like those of the forget-me-not. Cutting down wherever found will soon kill out this biennial.



Fig. 28

*C. officinale* (Common Hound's-tongue) Fig. 28. This weed is our common coarse burr by the wayside; reddish purple flowers; large, rough, flat, prickly seeds. It grows about two feet high. You seldom find it growing in cultivated fields, but frequently in the fence corners, where it becomes a nuisance, on account of the seeds sticking to sheep. Being a biennial, spudding it below the surface will destroy it.

### Timely Notes for January—No. 2.

A happy, a progressive, and a prosperous season!

WISHES AND RESOLVES.

With each succeeding January we are all prone to make numerous resolves for a new and better life—with some in a financial and others in a spiritual sense. Let us not forget that "the road to — is paved with good resolutions." It is in the carrying of them out that there lies the hope of regeneration. Among a few of the good intentions I would call your attention to the following:—To get out of the hands of traders, either of horses, cows, or trees; rear your own calves; get a good horse that you can and will keep for half a life time; and get your trees from the Experimental Farm, and the nearest spruce bush; to join the Institute, the Dairymen's Association, the Stock Breeders' Association, and, lastly, the Patrons of Industry; to pay up the arrears on your agricultural paper, obtain the bulletins from the Experimental Farms, and try to improve your returns from each acre and from each animal.

GENTLENESS IN STOCK RAISING.

The "still, small voice" is what tends most to make the stock gentle and kind. Both cows and horses are unnerved when shouted at, and, being frightened, very often kick in self-defence. Many folks tie a heifer's legs together, draw her head up high to a beam, then give her a few caresses with the milking-stool, yell at her a few times, and then are very indignant if the poor beast tries to kick and holds up her milk. Now, let us reverse the treatment, and tie the man's feet together, put a gag in his mouth, so that he can't swear, and tie both his hands behind him, so that he can't pinch the heifer's teats. I think that particular cow would not kick then. "Put yourself in his place" is a good maxim on the farm, and should be placed over the cows' stalls. Kindness pays.

ECONOMY IN TAKING STOCK.

We have now our slackest time. Let us sit down and take stock of our belongings, as a merchant does. Beginning with the farm itself. What was it worth last January? \$2,000, or \$3,000? What is it worth now? Any more or less? Say \$2,000 last year. Now with the extra plowing done, the fresh stable and sheep pen, it is worth say \$2,500—no mortgage—then we are \$500 better off on this item. Then the horses. Our teams are worth say \$20 less each than last year, on account of their being a year older. Our young horses are worth more. Let us then put down what we honestly think they are worth at present market values. Say two teams at \$300 each, and four young horses at \$75 each, in all \$600—300 = \$900. Let us now turn to the cattle. Is our bull a pure-bred? If not, why not? Is he worth more than last year, or less? And so on with the cows, the pigs, the sheep and the poultry. The implements and "dead stock" are all to be reckoned out in the same way; and lastly, our cash, with our bills payable and receivable.