

grapes and tomatoes to perfection and giving the apples an extra color. The pastures have been unusually luxuriant, cheering our dairy-maids and dairymen. If the winter wheat has any fault, it is that it all looks too well. The fall plowing has been done in good order, and roots and fruits have been well taken care of. The prospects are that we may look for a long continuation of good fall feed and pasturage for our stock. Prices of products are still low, with the exception of cheese, which is the most remunerative in this locality, although those who take care of their apples and have them properly stored, are likely to realize well from them in the spring. Larger quantities than usual have been shipped this year, and with better prospects of higher remuneration.

#### Caution.

We have been informed that the names and addresses of our subscribers have been in some manner obtained, and that every device has been and is being used to reduce the influence of this journal; also that some parties have used their influence to induce the public exchequer of more than one Province of our Dominion to be drawn on to aid in circulating other literature, and indirectly aiding partizan publications under the name of agriculture, etc., etc. We have been informed that some officials have been and still are using their influence for such a purpose; that even ministers of the Gospel have been engaged and agents induced to act—that truth has been disregarded in attempts to injure the *ADVOCATE*. We trust none of our subscribers who really desire the prosperity of the agriculturist, will be influenced by any clap-trap. If the *ADVOCATE* has not been true to its cause, by all means reject it; if it has done its duty, use your influence to increase its utility.

#### Pleuro-Pneumonia.

Strenuous efforts are being made to counteract the effects of the reports that this disease is spreading on American soil. It is becoming extremely hazardous to venture an assertion of truth in matters pertaining to live-stock diseases. It is true that there is an army of "vets," office-seekers, who are personally interested, sounding false alarms in order to increase their prospects for sinecure offices; but there is still a greater army of manipulators who are concerned in suppressing the truth when the diseases actually break out. The reports from different parts of the United States, especially from the Union Stock Yards in Chicago, are extremely conflicting, but there is no doubt that pleuro-pneumonia exists at some points to an alarming extent. The latest reports mention the slaughter of a large number of affected animals. Our governments and our farmers cannot act too cautiously.

We quote the following from the "Agricultural Gazette":

Although pleuro-pneumonia has prevailed more or less in the United Kingdom for upwards of forty years, and imposed the loss of many valuable herds, yet its treacherous and contagious nature does not appear to be generally understood. It cannot be too widely known that the period of incubation varies from a fortnight to three or even four months, that it is extremely contagious and very fatal, it rarely happening that animals recover; but sometimes the attack is not very severe, and they do recover. Even then it is not safe to

place them with other cattle, as they have been known to convey the disease to healthy animals for twelve months or more after their apparent recovery. This fact may account for the mystery which is sometimes considered to overhang an outbreak of the disease.

#### Dominion Experimental Farms.

Our esteemed fellow citizen, Prof. W. Saunders, F. R. S. C., has been appointed Director of the Experimental Farm Stations to be established by the Dominion Government.

Agriculturally, the appointment is a very important one. Prof. Saunders is an eminent authority in horticulture, chemistry and entomology, very important sciences connected with agriculture.

We have not favored the establishment of these stations, believing that their cost would be too burdensome, and that their tendency to partizanship would take precedence to the interests of the agriculturist. We are informed, however, that Prof. Saunders refused to accept the position unless he received complete control. If he can display sufficient moral courage to resist party designs, appointing the members of his staff entirely upon their merits, there still remains some hope for the accomplishment of good. All we can now do is to criticize the misdoings, and use our influence to make them as useful as possible.

It is consoling to find that the concern is not hydra-headed, like our Model Farm, Prof. Saunders having accepted the entire responsibility. The public now know to whom the blame, as well as the praise, is to be attached.

The breeders of draught horses have had a busy and profitable season, no fewer than 600 Clydesdales having been shipped from Glasgow for Canada, United States, Brazil, Australia, and New Zealand; while to the same countries, but particularly to the United States, over 100 Shire horses have been taken. A demand has also begun in America for Suffolk horses.

A French writer says:—"Few colts are born with defective hoofs, and if, in riper years, such appear, the cause must be attributed to the farrier's vicious handiwork. It may arise from his ignorance in this respect. The first shoeing ought to be done by an experienced farrier, one not likely to coerce or torture the colt, and so have an unhappy influence on its temperament forever."

At the milking tests conducted at the Bristol show, the highest number of points was won by an Ayrshire cow, and the next highest by a Shorthorn. The percentage of butter fat, as shown by analyses, varied from 5.68 to 2.83, the former figures being from a Guernsey cow, and the latter from a Shorthorn. The Ayrshire cow, which won the highest points, gave a fat percentage of 3.73.

At a meeting of the leading milk purchasers in the Vale of Berkeley, held lately at the Lady-mead Dairy, it was resolved unanimously: "That the system of purchasing milk according to its value, estimated either by total solids or butter fat, is the only fair one in the interests alike of the purchaser, the seller, the public, and of dairying generally, and that this meeting recommends its adoption to all purchasers of milk."

## Farmers' Clubs.

### Dominion Farmers' Council.

[This Council meets on the third Saturday of every month at 2 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, W. A. Macdonald, London, Ont. The Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, also pamphlets containing a form of Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers Clubs, which will, on application to the Secretary, be distributed free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

The regular monthly meeting of this Council was held on the 16th ult., President Leitch in the chair. This being the first regular meeting since the adjournment last June, and there being no special programme prepared, the attendance was small.

Several communications were read from farmers and others asking for copies of the pamphlets containing Constitution and By-laws recently published by the Council.

#### THE COUNCIL AND THE GRANGE.

The following communication was read, which created a good deal of discussion:

Sombra, Ont., Oct. 7th, 1886.

W. A. Macdonald, Esq., Secretary Dominion Farmers' Council, London, Ont:

DEAR SIR.—Your letter of Sept. 28th and Constitutions came, for which accept thanks. A question came up since, viz: What fees are each of the Farmers' Clubs to pay to the Council?

A Grange is in good working order about three miles from this place, and the question was asked me, if the proposed clubs were calculated to supersede the Grange, or if a Grange could occupy the position of a Farmers' Club so as to co-operate with the Farmers' Council in the manner intended.

I have just read on page 163 of the *ADVOCATE*, your article on registration of unregistered stock, which pleases me very much indeed, as I have been advocating the same for some few years. My standard is not so high as yours: 20 lbs. daily for 275 days (about 9 months), equal to 5,500 pounds of a good standard quality in the first book or of third grade; 24 lbs. daily—6,600 lbs. in 275 days—of standard quality in the second book or of second grade, and a greater quantity to be agreed to upon further consideration for the first grade, the books to be called A, B, C, for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grades respectively; also a register of their issue to be kept, graded D, until they prove themselves worthy of registration in the higher grades. I cannot give more than this crude outline on the subject. What think you of it?

Yours truly, W. S. HOWELL.

PRESIDENT LEITCH.—I don't think it has ever entered into the head of any member of the Council to interfere with the Grange in any respect. There is nothing in our Constitution or By-laws to prevent the Grange from forming themselves into a Farmers' Club and amalgamate with us, so long as it subscribes to our objects. With regard to the payment of fees, it would not be judicious for us to impose any, and besides we do not stand in need of such fees; on the contrary, we have funds which we might advantageously spend amongst amalgamated clubs for the purpose of carrying out objects of agricultural importance. The only one of these objects which we have as yet proposed is the presentation of a lactoscope to each club upon condition of receiving reports of the best cows in the respective localities, it being the object of the Council to keep a record of such cows.

This question was discussed at length by other members of the Council, but the views of the President were in general concurred in. The question was raised as to whether the