

Farmers' Clubs.

Dominion Farmers' Council.

[The Dominion Farmers' Council meets in the city of London, Ont., on the third Thursday of every month, at 2 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, W. A. MACDONALD, LONDON, ONT. This Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, objects, etc., also 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. Clubs amalgamated with this Council are entitled to instruments for testing milk.]

After the summer vacation, the DOMINION FARMERS' COUNCIL held the first of its winter meetings on 22nd ult. The meeting was chiefly occupied in discussing plans for the winter campaign.

After the reading of communications, the Secretary stated that the plans for the coming winter's work could not be fully discussed until reports from the amalgamated clubs were received, when it could be ascertained how effectually they performed the work already placed into their hands. He was aware that one of the clubs at least had continued its session through the summer months, viz., the Granton Farmers' Club, and he expected a good report of its doings, the club being large and its members intelligent and enthusiastic farmers. All the clubs expressed their willingness to conduct the tests placed in their hands, and it would be well to ask the secretaries to report the results, and state what progress they had been making generally. The funds of the Council were accumulating, and if the amalgamated clubs could not report satisfactory progress with the tests placed in their hands, the funds of the Council should be spent for other purposes. He considered that the Council was making a grand test of the ability and willingness of farmers to make simple tests which would be of great practical benefit to our farmers and which would cost very little time or trouble.

After some discussion as to the disposal of the surplus funds of the Council, it was decided to postpone the discussion until after the reports from the amalgamated clubs were received, and the resolution also embodied the request to ask the opinions of the amalgamated clubs as to how these funds could be most advantageously employed in the interests of Canadian agriculture. The Treasurer stated that there was a surplus of over \$200 in the treasury.

OUR BUTTER INDUSTRY.

The following paper, received from the Secretary of the Granton Farmers' Club, was read. The paper was written by Mr. Wiltse, and was read and discussed at the July meeting of the above club before being sent to the Council:

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN.—The advantages of dairying is a subject which should have fallen into abler hands, especially as I know that those who will criticise this paper to-night follow a different system of farming, and I have no doubt that, did they consider there were advantages in favor of dairying over any other system of farming, they would turn their attention thereto. The advantages of dairying are, to my mind, of a two-fold nature; first, cash returns; secondly, improving the condition of a soil already exhausted by continual grain growing. I think you will all agree with me that in order to do this it is necessary that a large share of our land must be given a rest in the shape of pasture, and all the coarse grains grown on the farm fed thereon. Having thus easily established my second advantage, I will now attempt the more difficult task of establishing my first. Money making I suppose to be the chief aim in farming

as in every other business, and dairying, I believe, is destined to become the most profitable mode of farming.

Of the two modes of dairying, cheese and butter making, I consider the latter to be the most profitable, on account of the high value to be placed on the skimmed milk; therefore, it will be butter making that I will discuss to-night. I was reading not long since a report of a speech delivered by Prof. Robertson, of the Agricultural College, who had charge of the dairy department of the Canadian exhibit at the Colonial Exhibition, and he gave it as his opinion that there was an almost unlimited market for all the butter and cheese we could produce at higher prices than had hitherto been paid, providing, of course, that we maintain the excellent reputation we have already established by producing a first class article. Assuming Prof. Robertson to be right, and I think he is, let us look at what has already been done. I noticed in the papers last fall that quite a number of the patrons of Seaforth and Lonsdale creameries had received over thirty dollars per cow for the season of about six months. If this can be done with cows not especially selected for the dairy, we would be justified in assuming that a great deal more might be realized by taking the pains to secure cows of the best milk and butter producing strains. At a test in London not long since, the first prize for the best milk and butter cow was awarded to a grade Durham, and I would recommend them as the best suited for the purpose, for the reason that their calves would be more valuable than those of the smaller breeds. Assuming, then, that with cows of this kind, we can count on from thirty to forty dollars, according to the market, for the creamery season, we may safely assume that ten or fifteen dollars may be made from them during the three or four months of milking season in which the creameries are closed. To sum up, then, we will have as the returns from each cow, say from thirty to forty dollars from creamery, ten to fifteen from butter made at home, and at least ten from sale of calf, making an average of from fifty to sixty-five dollars, which, although it seems large, I believe is no more than may be obtained by giving this system careful attention, and which I also believe to be more than can be safely counted on from any other system of farming.

DISCUSSION.

J. K. LITTLE—I tried the creamery business on the milk gathering system, but did not make it a success, although I believe that, with the most modern inventions and appliances, it could be made more successful now. It takes 25 lbs. of milk to make a pound of butter, which quantity will make over 2 lbs. of cheese, and I think that under average prices the cheese-factory is more profitable than the creamery. The great drawback in the creamery business is that it is very difficult to get the milk or cream in good enough condition for making butter. I consider \$30 per cow to be a very small profit during the dairy season. I have obtained receipts of \$45 per cow in the cheese factory, and it is very common for me to receive \$35 per season. My cows are Shorthorn grades.

PRESIDENT LEITCH—Our butter market is too far away. Butter deteriorates in shipment to a foreign market, while cheese improves. A farmer who sends his milk to my factory has just realized \$400 for his season's milk. He has eleven cows, or rather ten, for his two heifers which came in late may be counted as one cow, thus realizing \$40 per cow. He also made butter enough to support a large family all through the season. His herd consists of common stock and Shorthorn grades. His cows received no feed except grass, and a few windfall apples in the fall. Out of his 150 acres, he has only 50 of good land, the rest being a poor sandy loam. He depends largely upon clover pastures, and has plenty good water. He raises his own calves

and feed, and his success is to be attributed to his skill in breeding and management. I consider that, for our present conditions, the cheese-factory is better than the creamery. Our reputation for cheese is up, which greatly assists us in this branch of farming. In Elgin, Illinois, they make skim-milk cheese at remunerative prices, realizing an average of about 6c. per pound, and sometimes \$1.30 per 100-lbs. is realized for milk at the creameries, which is made into butter to mix with butterine. The American cheese men lost their reputation in the British markets by making cheese from partially skimmed milk. Finding that we got a cent or two per pound more than they for our cheese, they sent over a deputation to find out where our advantages lay, and they ascertained the cause to be better pastures and less skimming.

HENRY ANDERSON made a few remarks in favor of cheese-factories in preference to creameries.

W. A. MACDONALD—The upholders of cheese-factories speak of our conditions as they are instead of what they might or should be. All the drawbacks to our creamery system can be easily overcome; all we lack is enterprising men in this branch of dairying. By adopting the European methods, we could make as much, if not more, profit in the creamery as in the cheese factory, taking all circumstances into consideration. The system should not be condemned without getting a fair trial. It is unfair to advocate the introduction of heavy, beefy grades into the creamery until it can be proved that such a class of cows produce milk at more profitable prices than other cows. The cost of production is as important as the annual receipts. Too much reliance should not be placed on the dairy tests conducted at our leading exhibitions.

At the next meeting of the Council, Mr. Waters' paper on "Commercial Union" will be discussed.

Mr. George Young, of Ekfrid township, near Appin, sowed wheat on the 12th of September; on the 13th of October the whole top was red, having been destroyed by the Hessian fly. He sowed one barrel of salt on one and a quarter acres, the size of the field. In a week it began to look green, the salt had killed the insect and the result was the wheat yielded 40 bushels to the field, one and a quarter acres of fine plump grain—the best in the neighborhood.

RULES FOR KILLING WEEDS.—Weeds are of three kinds, namely:—1. Annuals, which depend entirely on seeds for increase and growth; 2. Biennials, which bear seed the second year and then die; 3. Perennials, which continue indefinitely, and increase by seeds and by spreading and running roots. To clear the land of annuals and biennials, the seed must not be allowed to ripen, and the soil must be stirred over and overtill all the hidden seeds are started and the plants destroyed. Among annual and biennial weeds are rag-weed, pig-weed, chess or cheat, wild mustard and many more. Among perennials are ox-eye daisy, plantain, johnswort, and others which do not spread by creeping roots, and Canada thistles, quack-grass, milk-weed, and others, which have creeping roots and spread by them indefinitely. The easiest way to kill these and all perennial weeds is to smother them, either by continued clean cultivation, by summer-fallow, or by choking them by means of luxuriant shading crops.—[Country Gentleman.]