

## How Shall the Work of the Farmers' Institutes be Rendered More Effective?

The work of the Farmers' Institutes is two-fold, viz.: to *educate* and to *protect*. The former is more properly the work of the individual Institutes, and the latter that of the Central Institute through representatives sent by the District Institutes.

The work of education will be efficient in proportion as the meetings are frequent, large and well managed, and as the papers and addresses are direct, practical and interesting. The frequency of the meetings may be greatly increased in an indirect way, that is, by organizing local Institutes as has already been done in some instances, which may or may not be affiliated with the larger Institutes. Few meetings well attended are of course more effective than more thinly attended. The size of a meeting as things are at present is mainly in the hands of the Secretary, and is dependent on his ability, earnestness, and methods of advertising. The meetings should be much more advertised than they are by means of fly-sheets distributed through the post-office direct, and through the country schools. After a time it will probably be found necessary to appoint an overseer or director of Institutes to manage for mammoth meetings in each county, in conjunction with the Secretaries and have these meetings addressed by talent of the first order.

A Secretary who is not efficient should not be retained for a single day beyond the expiration of his term of office, and good Secretaries should get some remuneration for their work.

The management of the meeting will depend much on the chairman, who has power to throw life into the meeting or to chill it, as he is capable, entertaining and possessed of life and good business tact, or the opposite of these. Slow coaches whose methods are conformed to the wants of the last century should never be appointed to the duties of the chair. *Fossils* should never be requested to address the meetings. The age has outlived the want of the help of fossils, hence they in all time to come should be retained as curiosities. It is not enough that a man say good things, but that he should say them with the life and animation of a young man fresh from an agricultural college, and brimful of knowledge of the exact kind, adapted to the present needs of the farmer. A taste of science at these meetings may be used as a relish, but a meal should never be made of it there.

The day is not far distant when the work of instructing in the Institutes will be largely relegated to the graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College. They are doing a good deal in this line already, and while the exercise is helpful to them, it is more helpful to the Institutes.

The Central Institute may do a magnificent work if wisely and temperately handled. The disposition is at present to discuss too many questions without having sufficient regard to conclusions. When the findings of this Institute are sent to the powers that be, and are not heeded, they should be again reminded, until what has been fairly shown to be the will of the farmers of this Province is granted as a matter of equity rather than of favor, as these things are sometimes represented.



J. Neilson writes us from Lyn, Ont. He was a member of '82 Class.

John Leask, of '81 Class, died at Melbourne, Australia, in September, '88.

J. B. Muir, 1st Silver Medalist of '83, is farming at North Bruce, Ont.

F. C. Warner, of '87 Class, is farming on the old homestead at Decewsville, Ont.

E. Luton, of '82 Class, is engaged in mixed husbandry near St. Thomas. "It is not good that man should be alone."—EARN.

W. W. Hubbard, of the Special Class of '87, sends words of encouragement. He is farming at Burton, N. B., and regrets being unable to attend our Experimental Union meeting.

We learn that T. H. Tinny, of '87 Class, is conducting a large business in the cutting and shipping of cedar posts to different parts of Ontario and the United States.

W. J. Palmer, A. O. A. C., of '88, writes us from his home near Charlottetown, P. E. I., where he is engaged at farming. Joe thinks times are looking up when the O. A. C. Literary Society can run a paper.

A number of the delegates of the Central Farmers' Institute meeting at Toronto, stopped off to attend our Union meeting, on their way home, and without exception, expressed themselves as well pleased with the papers read and their discussion.

Mr. F. J. Sleightholm, Humber, Gold Medalist of '87, was married Feb. 27th, inst., to a young lady of Norwich, Ont. The REVIEW staff wish Mr. and Mrs. Sleightholm a long and happy life; and after them we fling our oldest slipper. All the medalists of '87 are now married and have set a good example for others.

We regret to learn of the death of W. J. Gilbert, at Sackville, N. B. He was an Associate of '87, being also cartoonist and artist of that year. At the time of his death he was editor of the *Maritime Agriculturist*, which position he had held for a short time. His friends and relatives have the heartfelt sympathy of the REVIEW staff.

There was a larger number of ex-students in attendance at the Experimental Union meeting, held at the college on the sixth and seventh inst., than has been for several years past. The following is a summary of their names:—Byron Robinson, of '79, Wheatly; W. W. Ballantyne, '81, Stratford; Jas. Fotheringham, '81, Grenfell, Ass.; G. A. Charlton, '81, St. George; J. R. Job, '81, Waterford; J. B. Bowes, '82, Pinkerton; W. A. Jameson, '83, Thornton; T. T. Morden, '83, Walkerton; P. S. Idington, '86, Stratford; G. F. Marsh, '86, Thornbury; J. S. Howes, '87, Harrison; W. R. Bishop, '88, Brussels; J. J. Fee, B. S. A., '88, Toronto; E. M. Jarvis, '88, Clarkson; J. J. Wilkinson, '89, Winterbourne; C. J. Brodie, '85, Bethesda; J. J. Sinclair, '88, Ridgeway. Among the visitors were a number of leading