

sons for which they and numerous girl friends were not satisfied with rural life. Chief of these was the monotony, the lack of a supply of money, lack of social life, the insignificance of the work, the lack of conveniences which help to render the city woman's life more bearable, the difficulty of developing talent in the country, and the absence of opportunity for an ambitious girl to make her own living independently. The conclusion of all the women speakers was that something had to be done to arrest the decline of rural population, and to make the life more attractive to girls as well as to their brothers. But the problem, as Dr. Creelman expressed it, is, "What are you going to do about it?"

The resolutions read and adopted were briefly:

That:—Education on practical rural credit and systems of co-operation be given to adults in rural districts.

Attention of the Government be drawn to matter of taxation of land values, and reduced tariff on agricultural implements.

Business course at O. A. C. is advisable.

A convention be called of delegates from farmers' and women's societies, departmental workers and every society and organization working for betterment of life in rural districts.

Readjustment of course of studies followed in rural schools.

Organization of country or township high schools, and scheme of consolidation.

Consolidation of rural schools is a remedy for inefficient education due to rural depopulation.

Organization of departments for rural work by Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A.

The convention favors church union.

A new class of ministers for rural work and leadership alone should be developed by Universities, choosing preferably men who have been born and bred in the country.

Establishment of summer school at Ontario Agricultural College for rural pastors and social workers.

J. W.

Nova Scotia Farmers Discuss Production.

The annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Farmers' Association was held this year at Antigonish, the birthplace of the Association nineteen years ago, with President O'Brien in the chair. His opening address was optimistic in spite of war conditions. He reviewed the work of the year, showing that with the exception of the Halifax Exhibition, which had been called off on account of war conditions, making it almost impossible to hold such a show in a military centre like Halifax, that the various shows and agricultural activities had been carried on as before. The extension work of the Agricultural College in holding short courses in various districts of the Province had proved of great value. The Women's Institute work had made great progress under the leadership of Miss Jennie Fraser. The meetings had been well attended through the Province, and the second annual convention at Truro was full of encouragement and profit to those present.

The Mayor of Antigonish, in his address of welcome, distinguished himself by trying to make the audience believe that the farmer was the most important person on earth, that parliament and politicians only lived to do his bidding. Farmers are getting so they smile indulgently at this sort of piffle, and look for a chance to get it back on the politician.

Prof. Cumming took up the question of "Patriotism and Production," by showing the immense debt under which Canada labored, and the necessity of aiding in its reduction. Canada is paying every year an immense amount of interest. The debt has grown rapidly because of her extraordinary policy of expansion. Her credit in the past has been good, and she has strained it to the limit. Her imports in the last decade have exceeded her exports. This is a state of affairs that should not exist, and it is the duty of the producers to change the condition of affairs so that the exports should be greater than the imports. It is the farmer's opportunity to put Canada on her feet financially. Sentimentally, in the past, the farmer has been praised and magnified because of his importance, and very few believed or realized it. Now, everyone in Canada realizes fully just what the farmer means to the country, and how dependent the country is upon his activities. The speaker deplored the fact that the farmers of the Maritime Provinces were buying so much feed from the West instead of raising it on their own farms.

W. A. MacKay, Supt. of Dairying, gave an address on co-operation.

Mr. MacKay's address was followed by a discussion looking to the reorganization of County Associations, by uniting them with the Agricultural Societies and giving them powers to form co-operative associations. A committee was appointed to consider the best means of carrying out the project to report later.

J. A. Sinclair, V.S., gave an address on horse breeding, laying great stress on the necessity of using pure-bred sires. It is necessary that the breeder aim for the best, and even then the process of improvement is very slow on account of the many disappointments. We aim for better stock and often get poorer than what we have. The only way to improve is to weed out the disappointments and take the best of care in developing the excellent specimens, breeding only from these. There is such a thing as feeding too well and bringing on indigestion and similar troubles, especially when the animal is young.

In the case of foals, the dam's food should not be changed too suddenly after foaling. She should not be fed too liberal for the first week, but after that while the foal ran with her she should be fed well, and especially well if she was worked and became pregnant again, since she would then have three drains upon her. If the mare is worked she should not be made to do so until four or six weeks after foaling, and at first should not be away from foal more than three hours at a time. The foal should be allowed to eat with the mother after two or three months of age, and should not be weaned until five months old. After this it should be fed very carefully and also liberally.

Always breed to a pure-bred sire, even if the choice of sires should be between a poor specimen of a pure-bred and a good specimen of a grade.

One of the most important acts in connection with the young foal was the treatment of the navel at birth. The speaker had learned not to use carbolic acid and creolin, but rather a solution of corrosive sublimate, 1 to 1,000.

Prof. Trueman gave two splendid addresses on the influence of blood in breeding. He used the blackboard to show the influence of good and poor blood on the offspring, showing very conclusively the wisdom of using pure-bred sires which have been bred along some particular line for generations. The calf should never stop growing until mature, and should be fed well, beginning about two months after birth, very carefully after weaning for a short time when, if ever, he should be underfed. Change from whole milk to skim-milk and meal should be very gradual. Here is where many feeders make the mistake of being too liberal.

The slogan of the Convention was "Patriotism and Production." This was shouted at the farmer so successfully that he went away feeling that he was the greatest man, scarcely realizing that he had received no real aid or recognition, and that he was expected to produce more with fewer facilities, for a people who were only tolerant of his existence with the view and purpose of holding him a little closer to the ground. Several helpful talks were given from the production end by Prof. A. C. Harlow, of Truro; H. C. Burchell, of Windsor, and B. L. Emslie, of Ottawa. These spoke chiefly of the use of commercial fertilizers and lime in increasing crops. The influence of limestone and lime-bearing fertilizers in freeing and making available the potash in the soil was fully dealt with. An encouraging factor was the presence of limestone and more deposits in different parts of the Province. Mills for grinding these limestones are being established at different points.

A feature of the Convention was the formal opening of the live-stock pavilion, which had been recently built in the town for the judging of live stock in connection with the Short Courses held during the winter in different parts of the Province. These buildings are built partly by the Government and partly by the people of the section interested.

The officers for the ensuing year are: President, A. S. McMillan, Antigonish; First Vice-President, R. J. Messenger, Lawrencetown; Second Vice-President, William Murray, Pictou; Sec.-Treas., C. R. B. Bryan, Truro.

RESOLUTIONS.

That steps be taken to so change the text and reading books used in the public schools as to give the study of agriculture more prominence.

That the Government be asked to pass a law prohibiting the use of barrel wine in the making of fine wines.

That an enquiry be made into grain raising conditions with a view to the encouragement of building flour mills.

That legislation be asked for to put an end to the compulsory use of water as a means of killing capable of carrying on a business.

That the Government be asked to consider the running of farms at a loss.

Dr. MacPherson and J. S. J. MacKay, in a practical talk on the selection of seed and the work of the Seed Hygiene and Marketing Board, Supt. of Women's Institute, and J. S. J. MacKay, Supt. of Women's Institute, gave some interesting men as to their part in the selection of seed and treatment of seed.

N. S.

Current Comment.

By Peter McArthur.

"The Farmer's Advocate" of January 28th, published a letter in the Ingle Nook, with a comment by Junia that has grieved me deeply. The letter said: "I would like if Peter McArthur would give his opinion on women in Canada learning to shoot. I think it is just what we need; we would not feel so helpless. I for one would like to learn how to use a rifle; I believe I could take some fur off a rabbit."

On this Junia made the amazing comment, "Now it is up to Peter, isn't it? I am sure he will accept your suggestion. What he will say heaven only knows!"

I think Junia should know by this time that anything I would say would be a logical and well-reasoned comment on the facts presented. Now let us consider the facts of the case. A woman who believes in learning to shoot with a rifle fires a question at me and hits Junia in the Ingle Nook. Is my comment necessary? Canada would be no place for innocent bystanders if the women organized rifle clubs.

But the question has a serious side. It may be all right for women to learn how to shoot as an accomplishment, but if war should cause Canada to be overrun they must not put their skill to use. The usages of modern warfare make it imperative that the non-combatant be absolutely patient and long-suffering. Anyone who attacks soldiers even when they are slaughtering and pillaging simply gives them the excuse they need to kill everyone and destroy all property. On the other hand, if even the most peaceful non-combatant is killed or injured there is no possibility of redress. In this war the soldier is supreme, and anyone who takes part must take part as a soldier. Soldiers can surrender and receive quarter, but a non-combatant who attacks a soldier will ask for quarter in vain. Of course, that is unjust, but justice has no place in this war. So it is just as well for the women to leave rifle practice alone. We hope there will be no call for them to face a maddened soldiery, but if the misfortune should occur they would gain nothing by attempting to defend themselves with rifles. They must leave the matter of defence to the properly organized and trained soldiers.

I am glad to see that "The Farmer's Advocate" is giving its readers an opportunity to help the soldiers and the stricken Belgians by contributing to the "Dollar Chain." I shall forward my dollar herewith and I trust that every reader of this column will join me in helping to swell the fund. We are all proud of "The Farmer's Advocate" and of the good work it does for the farming community, and if we set our minds to it and open our purses just a little we can make its fund the most helpful of any in the country. Besides sending your own dollar drop a hint to the people who borrow your "Advocate" every week. I know of cases where copies of the "Advocate" pass through as many as five families every week, and in this cause every reader should send his dollar—especially if he gets out of paying for a subscription. No cause could be worthier. We cannot do too much for the comfort of the soldiers who are fighting for our freedom while we are enjoying peace and plenty at home, and the Belgians deserve all we can give to relieve their wretchedness. While fighting their own battle, as they were also fighting ours, and now that they are being ground under the heel of the oppressor we should hasten to their relief. But even though we may not be moved on the score of gratitude we should still give in the name of humanity. If all the people of Canada were suddenly rendered homeless and starving the misery would be no greater than now exists in Belgium and parts of France. Let us do what we can and do it at once. There is no limit to the amount that you may give, either small or great, but if every reader gives a dollar in response to the call of the "Advocate" we shall have reason to be proud of the result.

Parliament is assembling in Ottawa as this is being written. I am hopeful that this will be a business session, though there are a few things that should be given full discussion. If there is any foundation for the reports that men who have been supplying shoes and other equipment to the soldiers have furnished inferior goods they should be exposed and severely punished. Apparently there are business men in the country who, to use a homely country expression, are "mean enough to steal acorns from a blind sow." Any man who would try to profit by cheating the Government in this crisis is a traitor, and merits the punishment due to a traitor. I hope that this traitor will be thoroughly cleared up at this session of parliament. It is also becoming apparent that the Government must take some action towards stopping speculation in foodstuffs and other necessities. Some staples are now approaching famine prices although there is no shortage in the country. This speculation is an-