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THE FARMERS MET AS A CONVENTION

ELOQUENT LECTURER ADDRESSES FARMERS

Hon. C. L. Smith at the Farmers' Institute Meeting—Resolution Passed —To-day's Proceedings.

(From Tuesday's Daily.)

The Central Farmers' Institute resumed its sittings at eight o'clock last evening with Major Mutter in the chair and a large attendance of delegates present. A. W. Neill, M. P. P., Thos. Kidd, M. P. P., Chas. Munro, M. P. P., and W. H. Hayward, M. P. P., were also in attendance.

L. W. Paisley, of Chilliwack, discussed "A Short Course in Stock and Grain Judging." He suggested that the government get such a man as Prof. Day to come here and give a short course in how to judge stock by points. He thought the tuition fees would meet the expenses of getting such a man as Prof. Day.

At this juncture Major Mutter cordially welcomed the members of the legislature present.

Mr. Paisley moved, and Mr. Munroe Miller seconded: "That the government of British Columbia is hereby respectfully requested to take some steps to secure a proper official to give a short course in stock and grain judging, similar to that introduced by the Agricultural College at Guelph."

The resolution was carried unanimously.

"Noxious Weeds" was the next subject considered. Several delegates referred to the alarming spread of Canadian thistles and other noxious weeds.

Mr. Cade, of Mission, complained that the government neglected to cut noxious weeds on government lands.

Mr. Anderson stated that the government had cut noxious weeds in every instance to which attention had been called.

Mr. Paisley said that the pathmasters in municipalities should have authority to prosecute under the Noxious Weeds Acts.

W. H. Ladner said in the Delta municipality if men didn't cut their thistles the council had them cut and the expense charged against the owners of the land affected as taxes. There was plenty of machinery in the act to keep thistles down, if only enforced.

Mr. Churchland, of Surrey, said that in his municipality the thistles were well kept under. He thought that Mr. Paisley's suggestion regarding pathmasters was impracticable.

Mr. McPhee said that thistles were getting a strong hold in Comox. This district was unorganized, and an inspector was appointed but without salary. To encourage him, the Agricultural Society paid a small salary, but it was inadequate.

Mr. Cade moved, and Mr. Harris seconded: "That we ask the government to put in force the Noxious Weeds Act."

A. P. Venables, of Vernon, then took his seat as a member of the Institute.

Mr. Paisley moved an amendment to Mr. Cade's motion to the effect that the Municipal Clauses Act be amended so as to make it compulsory for pathmasters to enforce the provisions of the Noxious Weeds and Thistle Acts. The original motion was withdrawn, and Mr. Paisley's amendment became the main motion. After some discussion, the motion was altered to include other municipal officers as well as pathmasters, and that these officers be fined unless they enforce the law. The resolution was then carried.

J. C. Metcalfe, of Maple Ridge, at this juncture took his seat in the Institute.

For unorganized districts, the Institute asked that the provincial police be empowered to enforce the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act.

W. H. Ladner moved, and Edward Moore seconded, to the effect that the present Contagious Act is unnecessary, injurious and unreliable, and that they urge the discontinuance of the compulsory use of tuberculine. At the suggestion of Mr. Ladner the discussion was adjourned until to-day.

Major Mutter, in discussing the appointment of an advisory board, said that as there was an agricultural committee of the legislature an advisory board would scarcely be required.

Mr. Miller said if the number of lawyers and other professional men kept on increasing in the House an advisory board will be necessary.

A. W. Neill, M. P. P., said the idea of the legislation introduced to appoint an advisory board was that a minister who might not be an agriculturist should have the benefit of the advice of practical farmers on the board. He suggested that the Institute recommend to the government that such a board be appointed. The further consideration was deferred until to-day.

The Institute then adjourned until ten o'clock to-day.

TO-DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Central Farmers' Institute resumed its sitting at ten o'clock this morning.

W. H. Ladner, in speaking to his resolution dealing with contagious diseases, made a strong attack upon the present system of testing cattle for tuberculosis. He said that the tuberculine test was unnecessary and often injurious and should be abolished. He also attacked the department for its action regarding the enforcement of the Contagious Diseases Act.

Major Mutter resented the attack on Mr. Anderson, and stated that at every meeting of the Institute Mr. Ladner took the same course, without result.

Mr. Miller said that if meat were examined, instead of testing milch cows, the public would be far better protected.

Mr. Paisley endorsed the position taken by Mr. Ladner, and the Institute should seriously consider whether Mr. Ladner was fairly treated or not.

Major Mutter said that if Mr. Ladner has a grievance against an official he should complain to the government and not to the Institute.

Dr. S. F. Tolmie said that no cattle were quarantined unless there was strong suspicion of tuberculosis, and the test was made when the owner of the suspected animal desired it. This was done at the expense of the government.

Dr. Tolmie was asked some questions by Mr. Ladner and answered by him.

Mr. Ladner's resolution was then lost.

Mr. Miller moved, and Mr. Paisley seconded: "That this Central Institute urge upon the government—in behalf of the health of the country—the necessity of inspection of all carcases in slaughter houses and certifying to fitness for food of all carcases to be so offered, by the duly appointed officers of the crown."

Mr. Noble said if inspectors were appointed butchers would not kill meat unfit for food.

Mr. McPhee pointed out that the resolution did not go far enough, as often meat consumed was not slaughtered in local slaughter houses.

Several delegates pointed out how unpractical the resolution was, as health officers could not examine every carcase. The resolution was, however, carried.

After considerable discussion it was decided that the Institute should recommend from among their number six men to act as the advisory board.

J. F. Collins, of Salt Spring, moved, and W. F. Stewart seconded, "That more literature relating to agriculture and horticulture be distributed to members of the Farmers' Institute."

Mr. Collins, Capt. Stewart, Mr. Perry and others pointed out the importance of getting plenty of literature.

Mr. Paisley, on behalf of the Chilliwack Institute, highly complimented Mr. Anderson for his excellent report and for the good work done by him. He had a hard office to fill, and did his work admirably. (Applause.)

Mr. Metcalfe also praised the department for the excellent literature sent out.

Mr. Venables endorsed the views already expressed.

Mr. Collins's resolution was altered to express the Institute's appreciation of the literature sent out by the department and a hope that the good work would be continued.

It was passed in this amended form.

It was then decided to meet Hon. J. D. Prentice, minister of agriculture, at this evening's session.

Capt. Stewart moved, and W. J. Brandrith seconded, "That the government extend and continue to distribute travelling libraries to farming communities, remove some of the older books, replacing them with newer and more up-to-date books which will be instructive to farmers, and that a sufficient appropriation for this purpose be continued.

The different speakers referred to the value of these travelling libraries, and Mr. Scholefield, the librarian, was praised for his energetic labors in getting up these libraries. Mr. Palmer was also thanked for his choice of technical works on farming and horticulture.

The resolution then carried.

A. Noble moved, and H. W. Raymer seconded, "That the government be respectfully asked to make an appropriation for the purpose of ascertaining the available quantity of water for irrigation, the area of land available and the probable cost."

Price Ellison, M. P. P., was asked to address the meeting, and he expressed his gratification at being present. He pointed out the importance of the subject matter of Mr. Noble's resolution, and hoped a thoroughly expert man could be secured to report on the water available and other matters relating to irrigation. He urged that the resolution be passed.

The motion then carried.

Another resolution was passed urging the Dominion government to assist in the investigation proposed.

A. P. Venables moved, and Isaac Heard seconded, "That the government take such steps as will facilitate the supply of blasting powder among the farmers in the following way: By guaranteeing the payment for the powder, placing same in the hands of the government agent or provincial constable in each store, and sell such powder in quantities required for strict cash."

Munro Miller read a letter from the Hamilton Powder Company showing that powder could be purchased cheaper from the company than under the arrangements made by the government, as in the latter instance the charge of hauling powder from the magazines increased the cost to the consumer very considerably.

Mr. Perry pointed out that powder could be purchased at the factory for $7 per 100 lbs., while the government was charged $5 for 50 lbs. bought in carload lots.

The further consideration of the resolution was deferred until two o'clock, and the meeting then adjourned.

(From Wednesday's Daily.)

Hon. C. L. Smith delivered an interesting, humorous and instructive lecture to the Central Farmers' Institute last night. It was full of practical suggestions to the farmers, told in such an entertaining way that it was after eleven o'clock before those present allowed him to resume his seat.

When the Institute resumed its sitting at two o'clock yesterday afternoon, H. J. Scott, resident manager of the Hamilton Powder Company, was present, and said the prices of powder were as quoted to the government some time ago, and these could not be changed without consulting the head office.

Mr. Perry pointed out that powder suitable for stumping could be purchased at the factory for 7 cents per pound in small lots, and he was satisfied that it could be sold for less than 10c. Why, then, should this powder cost as high as 18 cents per pound when delivered to the farmers?

Mr. Scott could assure the meeting that not one pound of stumping powder was sold for less than 10 cents per pound in carload lots, and 12 cents in retail. What Mr. Perry surely referred to was ordinary blasting powder, which looked like stumping powder.

Mr. Harris said that if powder were cheaper more would be used. At the present price farmers could not afford to use powder.

Mr. Scott said further, if Mr. Perry's statements were true, he regretted to say it would be a matter of investigation at their Northfield establishment.

Mr. McPhee suggested that an arrangement be made between the government and the Hamilton Powder Company to establish small magazines near farming centres, so that the farmers could get powder more conveniently and more cheaply than at present.

Mr. Scott said that powder deteriorates considerably, and if left long in storage would lose its strength. Mr. Scott then retired, and Messrs. Perry, McPhee and Palmer were appointed a committee to further investigate the matter.

The report of the committee on transportation appointed by the Institute last year was read by Mr. Metcalfe and adopted by the meeting. It reads as follows:

To the Members of the Central Farmers' Institute:

Gentlemen:—We, your committee appointed by the Central Farmers' Institute of last year on transportation, beg herewith to submit a short report of our work.

The committee waited upon Mr. Peters, of the Canadian Pacific railway freight department, with the view of ascertaining how far they were prepared to concede lower rates on their line to and from different points in the province of British Columbia and the Northwest, on all kinds of produce and fruit. Mr. Peters, of the freight department, who had just been appointed to his present position, did not wish to concede anything until certain information was collected respecting areas and quantities of various products grown and the possible increase of the same, and further as to any hardships or grievances growers and shippers might have in the way of excessive rates and lack of accommodation as to train and car service, etc.

Your committee then issued a printed circular to all the local institutions, boards of trade, and some private growers and shippers, calling for this information.

The responses were few. The secretary of the committee then wrote all the organizations, growers and shippers again, urging upon them the necessity of collecting this data, and further, when they considered they were discriminated against in the way of freight rates, etc., to present their cases with all the evidence they could possibly collect bearing upon the matters.

The efforts of your committee did not meet with the response it desired at that time. If they had any hardships or grievances to adjust they were slow in taking advantage of the opportunity presented them.

The secretary of your committee wrote many of them three and four letters again urging and setting forth the necessity of doing so and the advantages to be gained by it. In the end a good deal of data was gathered, but all lacking (with some exceptions) mainly in proof or evidence bearing on the particular cases advanced.

About this time the Canadian Pacific railway and the government appointed a special commissioner to travel the province and elsewhere with the intention of calling upon institutes, boards of trade, manufacturers and growers and shippers of all kinds of produce and fruit, personally, with the view to collect data similar in part to that of your committee.

Your committee deemed it inadvisable to proceed further in their work, but endorsed the appointment as a wise one and necessary in the collecting of reliable data and more particularly from the difficulty your committee experienced in collecting it by correspondence.

We further endorsed it by handing over all data we had collected to the special commissioner, Mr. R. M. Palmer.

Now, although your committee immediately and directly did not see many benefits accruing from their labors, they have since to some extent, through their efforts between growers and shippers and the transportation companies, and further in stimulating our growers and shippers to collect the necessary data and in preparing them for the call of the special commissioner, Mr. Palmer.

Your committee obtained some concessions from the express company in the way of reductions in the billing weights of small fruit packages from 30 pounds to 25 pounds, and further, on lower rates to Winnipeg and intermediate points on fruit, and, in some cases, local concessions.

F. J. DUANE, Chairman.
J. C. METCALFE, Sec.

R. M. Palmer then addressed the Institute on the transportation question. He said a report on the subject had been presented to government. It would be printed and distributed throughout the province. Mr. Palmer described the work done by him as a commissioner to inquire into freight rates. His appointment began in March last year, and he received every assistance in the work from the C. P. R. authorities. He read extracts from his official report to the government to show what had been done in making it more profitable to ship farm products from one point in the province to another. He gave the members of the Institute many valuable suggestions regarding the proper preparation of products for markets so as to compete with American products.

Munroe Miller moved, and Mr. Churchland seconded: "That this Central Institute wishes to convey to the government its appreciation of the services of Mr. R. M. Palmer in the arrangement and manipulation of freight rates, as well as the intelligent manner in which his reports are so made, that all may readily understand what he wishes to convey; and, further, that we tender him our sincere thanks for his very excellent, entertaining and instructive report." This was carried unanimously.

A. B. Cade moved, and A. P. Venables seconded, "That this Institute desires to impress on the government and the C. P. R. the necessity for continuing the special tariff commissioner, R. M. Palmer, in the work so ably conducted by him during the past season." Carried.

Jno. Oliver, M. P. P., was welcomed by the meeting, and he made a brief address. He regretted that owing to the crisis in the House no agricultural committee was appointed. He would try to arrange a meeting between the Institute and last year's agricultural committee. Such a meeting would be necessary if the suggestions of the Institute were to be crystallized into legislation.

D. R. Ker, of Brackman & Ker Company, also addressed the meeting. He highly complimented Mr. Palmer on his excellent report. Mr. Ker said that his firm's branches in the Kootenay were forced to buy American goods because of the better quality. If British Columbia farmers would improve the quality they could capture every pound of the interior market. The same held true of the Dawson market. He also believed there was an unlimited market for fruit in the Northwest as the immigration was increasing more rapidly than the supply of fruit could be increased.

Mr. Oliver then explained the amendments that he proposed introducing to the "Wide Tire Act."

Mr. Collins moved, and Mr. Brandrith seconded, "That the government be asked to pass an act for the better preservation of beneficial birds. Carried.

Munroe Miller moved, and John Perry seconded, "That some easier and cheaper way should be devised for recovering damages for loss of animals through neglect on the part of railway companies to keep their fences in repair, and to urge upon the government the importance of having all railway fences at once put in good repair." Carried.

Capt. Stewart moved, and Mr. Collins seconded, "That the work carried on during the past year by the British Columbia Fruit Growers' Association has been of great value to growers and shippers of fruit, and could be continued with great advantage to the fruit growers of the province." Carried.

Wm. Arden moved, and Mr. Collins seconded, "That the Central Farmers' Institute would most respectfully impress upon the provincial government the necessity of amending the Trespass Act so as to make it more stringent." Carried.

The convention then adjourned until eight o'clock.

Last Night's Session.

The Institute met again at eight o'clock in the evening with a full attendance of members. Messrs. Trotter, Johnston, Thos. Cunningham and Glover, Patrick and James Duff, two gentlemen from Scotland, who are spying the land, were also interested listeners to the proceedings.

Hon. Mr. Smith, of Minnesota, then addressed the Institute. He said he was new to conditions here and new to the methods in the province, and consequently knew not as much about the work of the farm as those present. He was, however, engaged in institute work for many years, and there were some methods which they found to their advantage, and perhaps something along these lines would be of more benefit to those present than any other subject which he could take up. Conditions were so varied that it would be folly for him to attempt to advise them on methods of farming. Institute work had for its purpose the calling of attention to farmers of knowledge that would be of benefit to them in their work. There were many improvements in methods in conducting Institutes. He believed the right system was in vogue in this province. He could appreciate the obstacles in the way of education in this province, but these obstacles were not as serious as in Minnesota. Here, the people were English speaking and a reading people, this removed two obstacles they found very serious in their work in Minnesota. He gave some of his experiences. As a boy he lived in the woods and had not the advantages of a common school education. His mother taught him to read and he received some schooling at a school taught by a Baptist minister. He worked for a farmer, who worked him when it was fine, and rested him when it rained by sawing wood in the woodshed. (Laughter.) When he left, his employer said he never knew of a boy who was satisfactory that could read, and he gave the advice that if he ever expected to succeed he must stop reading. This man was fairly representative of the people where he was brought up. Other interesting reminiscences were given, including his career as a soldier. He came home from the war hungry for knowledge, and decided to spend the money saved while a soldier in education. His parents advised him that the more knowledge he acquired, the less value he would be. He was persuaded by his parents' advice and did not go to school. For years after this the newspapers slurred at book farming. Rheumatism so crippled him that he couldn't farm and he took to reading. He then appreciated the value of the knowledge of those who had gone before, and he found that the farmer with knowledge was more successful than the one who applied no knowledge. It was not a question of luck. The varying success was due to the varying methods. It took something beside hard work to get success out of farming. It took the sensible application of knowledge. The whole success of Institute work was learning from one another. He described how the dairy business grew in Minnesota from the time when they made greased boots for the men would buy until Minnesota became famous for its dairy products. Institutes were organized in the different counties, and these were the means of educating the farmers to diversified and intelligent farming. He urged the farmers to look after little things. The farmers who went bankrupt were horseback farmers, who couldn't get down to set a hen. (Laughter.)

Mr. Smith answered several questions asked by the members in reference to raising calves and kindred subjects. In a humorous and original way Mr. Smith dwelt upon the right methods of doing things. In regard to feed for dairy cows, he said the poorest feed he saw there was timothy. He advised growing more roots, more peas and oats, and more clover than timothy hay.

Mr. Brandrith moved, and Mr. Cade seconded, "That this Institute, having heard Hon. C. L. Smith with the greatest pleasure, tender that gentleman a hearty vote of thanks for the very interesting address to which we have just listened." Carried.

This was carried by a unanimous standing vote, and the Institute then adjourned until nine o'clock this morning.

TO-DAY'S PROCEEDINGS.

The Central Farmers' Institute resumed its sittings at nine o'clock this morning. The first business was the nomination of an advisory board, to be recommended to the government for appointment. Those recommended were as follows: Messrs. Heard and Raymur, representing the interior; Metcalfe and Ladner, the Lower Mainland; and Major Mutter and Munroe Miller, Vancouver Island.

Munroe Miller moved, and Isaac Heard seconded, "Whereas there has been regularly passed by the legislative assembly of British Columbia an act entitled 'The Farmers' Institutes and Co-operative Act,' the objects of which act are set forth in section 4 thereof;

"And whereas the legislative assembly did at its last session vote $24,910 in favor of agriculture and its branches, of which gross sum $4,250 was set aside for Farmers' Institutes;

"And whereas the act particularly sets forth how all such sums of money for Institute purposes shall be expended;

"Therefore be it resolved, That the interests of the members of the farming community of this province would be much better served by amending the present act so that the amount voted for Farmers' Institutes shall become a guaranteed sum of $4,250 per annum for a period of 20 years, in order that it may the more readily be used as security for a loan of $50,000 for a period of 20 years; and

"Be it further resolved, That said capital sum of $50,000 shall only be raised for the purpose of erecting warehouses in different parts of this province for the use of members of Farmers' Institutes, to be managed through a proper board of officers elected by the Institutes, and representatives on said board appointed by the government; and

"Be it further resolved, That all title to property thus acquired shall be and remain vested in the crown, yet continue to be managed through a board as hereinbefore set forth;

"Resolved, That the Attorney-General be requested to devise such legislation as may be proper to carry this resolution into effect or to couple it with the proposition of establishing abattoirs and cold storage, as foreshadowed in the speech from the throne, together with such other and further assistance as may be deemed necessary."

Many of the delegates considered the time not ripe for such a scheme as suggested in the resolution, and the resolution was defeated.

Mr. Noble moved, and Mr. Metcalfe seconded, that, "Whereas it is known that for the development of export trade in agricultural products of a perishable nature, the establishment of cold storage stations in rural districts where fruits, dairy products, fowls, meats, etc., can be kept until it is advisable to ship is necessary, therefore be it resolved, that in the opinion of the members of this Institute it is important and necessary that the legislature of the province should introduce a measure to provide for the incorporation of co-operative cold storage associations, and to further provide and assist by paying in part the cost of construction and equipment of any building erected for cold storage purposes incorporated under the act in rural districts." This resolution passed unanimously.

Capt. Stewart moved, and Joseph Whelpton seconded, "That we most respectfully but earnestly request the government to pass an act at this session of the legislature to give the farmers of this province or any part thereof power to form themselves into a mutual fire insurance association, similar to that which is now in force in the province of Ontario or Quebec, and that a special committee of three be appointed from this body to interview the government for the purpose of pressing this matter on their attention."

Capt. Stewart also read the report of the committee appointed last year to inquire into this question, in which it was stated that the committee had thoroughly examined various reports of similar insurance companies doing business in Ontario and Quebec and several states of the Union. The principle is a thoroughly sound one, and means insurance at cost price.

Capt. Stewart's resolution was then carried, and the committee's report was accepted.

Mr. Miller moved, and Mr. McPhee seconded, "That the government be requested to pass an act compelling reparian proprietors to keep open water courses." Carried.

Mr. Paisley moved, and Mr. Venables seconded, "That the Central Institute respectfully ask the government to request Mr. Palmer to make it a part of his duty to endeavor to secure cheaper binder twine for the farmers of British Columbia." Carried.

Mr. Ladner moved, and Mr. Moore seconded, "That in selecting speakers to address Institute meetings it is advisable that speakers who are accustomed to Western farmers be chosen as well as Eastern." Carried.

Mr. Collins moved, and Capt. Stewart seconded, "That we request the government to make the subject of agriculture a compulsory subject, particularly nature studies." Carried.

The Institute then considered the dates of fall shows. Mr. Ladner complained the department fixing dates to suit the judges. It was a great mistake to have the same judges at all the exhibitions. The directors of the New Westminster exhibition have fully decided not to change the date already fixed by them.

Mr. Hayward agreed with Mr. Ladner, and pointed out how people refused to exhibit at subsequent fairs, because the same judges would give the same awards at all prizes.

Mr. Anderson said that in no instance were dates changed unless associations wished to do so. At the solicitation of the Dominion government an attempt was made to secure good judges at all fairs. The department wished to meet the views of all associations as far as possible.

Before adjourning it was decided to meet the Minister of Agriculture and all the members connected with agriculture at four o'clock this afternoon. Mr. Paisley wished to know if these members included Joseph Martin, if so, they would be kept all night. (Laughter.)

An adjournment was then taken to two o'clock.

(From Thursday's Daily.)

The Central Farmers' Institute resumed its sittings at two o'clock yesterday afternoon. The committee appointed to inquire into the price of powder for stumping reported as follows:

Your committee beg to report that they have had an interview with Mr. Scott, the manager of the Hamilton Powder Company, and requested that he would endeavor to arrange for the sale of stumping powder for clearing land at the lowest possible price; and also for the storage of same in convenient points throughout the farming districts. This proposition is meeting with favorable consideration, but at least two weeks will elapse before arrangements can be made, and we beg to recommend that a permanent committee be appointed to continue negotiations with the Hamilton Powder Company, and the Hamilton Powder Company, having the above object in view.

JOHN PERRY,
JOSEPH M'PHEE,
R. M. PALMER.

The report was accepted, and Messrs Palmer, Munroe Miller and Perry were appointed a standing committee to deal with this question.

Mr. Anderson's circular letter to Institutes pointing out that Mr. Hodson, of Ontario, had stated that many of the resolutions passed by the Central Farmers' Institute if crystallized into legislation would often be of no value, and sometimes pernicious, was discussed.

Mr. Paisley said it would be folly for the delegates to come here if their deliberations were to be considered of no value.

Mr. Anderson said that the circular letter was written after a conference between Mr. Turner and Mr. Hodson. The true object of Institutes was to avoid mistakes. Mr. Turner requested him to inform Institutes of the decision arrived at by Mr. Hodson, and this was the only reason why the circular letter was issued.

Mr. Paisley said that the course suggested was making the Central Institute subservient to Mr. Hodson.

Major Mutter said Mr. Anderson's explanation was not satisfactory. There is no reason why many matters asked by the Institute should not have been carried out. There was no use in delegates coming here if their recommendations were to be considered as so much waste paper.

The further consideration of the matter was deferred until the Minister of Agriculture could be present.

The following were then selected as provincial directors of the proposed fire insurance company: A. C. Wells, L. R. Authier, John Oliver, M. P. P., J. C. Metcalfe, Geo. Beebe, J. T. Collins, Thos. Kidd, M. P. P., Capt. Stewart, John Perry and Alex. Philip.

Mr. Metcalfe moved, and Capt. Stewart seconded, that "Whereas the last census of Canada has been very disappointing to the government and people of Canada, and whereas the Dominion government have started upon an energetic propaganda respecting emigration from the British Isles and elsewhere to Canada, and whereas the crying need of this province is early settlement with more people; therefore be it resolved by the delegates of the Central Farmers' Institute assembled that the government of this province use every endeavor and method possible to induce immigration of a desirable character to this province." Carried.

Mr. Paisley moved, and Mr. Churchland seconded, "That the copy of the amendment to the Municipal Act, as presented by Mr. Oliver, be accepted by this Institute."

Mr. Venables moved, and Mr. Churchland seconded, "That the Central Farmers' Institute impress on members the desirability of stall feeding of the stock, and of finishing off their beef animals instead of selling as at present." Carried.

Capt. Stewart moved, and Munroe Miller seconded, "That, in view of the great need of lime to apply to a great portion of the agricultural lands of this province, it is the opinion of this Central Institute that the government should immediately devise some plan whereby the limestone deposits of this province should be prevented from falling into the hands of speculators and combinations, and further, that an effort be made to have the price of lime for agricultural purposes reduced so as to make it possible for agriculturists and orchidists to use it freely as a fertilizer and insecticide."

Thos. Cunningham, who was present, addressed the Institute, pointing out the value of lime as a fertilizer and the importance of having the lime measures kept out of the hands of speculators.

Other speakers agreed with Mr. Cunningham, and the resolution carried.

Jno. F. Collins moved, and J. C. Metcalfe seconded, "That the act relating to fruit pests and the marking of fruit boxes should be strictly enforced." Carried.

At this juncture the following members of the House arrived and were welcomed by Major Mutter on behalf of the Institute: Richard McBride, L. Mounce, A. W. Neill, W. E. Hayward, Jno. Oliver, F. J. Fulton, Thos. Kidd, Price Ellison, C. W. Munro, H. D. Helmcken, Capt. Tatlow and Hon. J. D. Prentice, minister of agriculture.

Hon. J. D. Prentice briefly addressed the Institute, apologizing for his inability, on account of work in the House, to be present at the meetings. He took a keen interest in agricultural matters, and while minister of agriculture he would take great pleasure in doing everything in his power to promote the interests of the industry.

Major Mutter then briefly epitomized the work done by the Institute, so that the minister could intelligently discuss all matters upon which action had been taken.

Mr. Prentice said, in reference to the circular letter sent out by Mr. Anderson, he doubted whether it was always wise to follow Mr. Hodson's advice. He felt that Mr. Anderson has no wish to discredit the work of the Institute. As far as he could consider the resolutions they appeared to be in the right direction, and he felt sure that their time would not be thrown away. He thought a competent man to teach how to judge stock could be secured with little expense to the government. The inspection of carcases was, to his mind, impractical and too expensive. The government did not intend to curtail the distribution of literature on travelling libraries. Irrigation was a large subject. He felt satisfied that there were large tracts of land that could be made valuable with irrigation. He was alive to the importance of irrigation. It deserves the serious attention of the government. He was quite prepared to consider any suggestion of the Institute in reference to blasting powder. He gave a good deal of thought to the cold storage question. An act was printed that provided for what the Institute asked for. It provided for a large abattoir at Kamloops or some other point. It would save a large amount in freight and feed for cattle. This was one of the important things contained in the act. The chief commissioner was in hopes to bring a bill to encourage irrigation. It provides for cutting up public lands for settlement and taking over tax lands so as to be available for settlement. The Wild Tree Act was in force the very good and capable hands of Mr. Oliver. He believed that the lime should not fall into the hands of speculators. He asked them to believe that the government was at all times anxious to receive their suggestions and act upon them, if at all possible. (Applause.)

Capt. Stewart moved, and W. H. Ladner seconded, a hearty vote of thanks to the ministers, who replied, and added, with regard to the question of mutual insurance for farmers, that he saw no reason why an act should not be introduced this session.

W. E. Hayward thought an advisory board a good thing and should be appointed. The literature sent out was of a good kind. He discussed the powder question, and said that the government should have bought powder in carload lots. Teachers would have to be educated in nature study in the normal school before the subject could be made compulsory in the schools.

A. W. Neill said that as they were farmers themselves, it was unnecessary for the members present to urge upon them what do everything to promote agriculture. He thought this could best be done by criticizing the work of the Institute, so that members would not be asked to support legislation that would be impractical. He showed that the resolutions regarding securing a professor to judge grain and stock and cattle by points, the inspection of carcases, fining pathmasters if they do not enforce the provisions of the Noxious Weeds Act, and others passed by the Institute might be correct in theory, but would not work out in practice. The members of the Institute should be careful to see that resolutions were not considered by the legislature. He agreed with Mr. Hayward regarding powder. The government's course was unbusinesslike—a perfect farce. If the province bought a carload of powder and it was not all taken off its hands a few of them would subscribe to take the rest to prevent the province from going broke. (Applause.)

Capt. Tatlow said any government that was going to rule this province must have a strong agricultural policy. He would do his share in advancing the interests of the farmers.

Mr. McBride said the solution of settlement of the high lands was the powder question. It was necessary to have cheap powder to get the land cleared. This was particularly true in his own constituency. He was anxious to assist the industry in every way.

C. W. Munro congratulated the Institute that while they were in session for three or four days no chairs nor desks were stolen. (Laughter.) He was pleased to see attended too much and did not press strongly enough those matters in which they were really interested. He also criticised the government's old method of distributing powder, and hoped some practical scheme of securing cheap powder would be put in force.

Mr. Ladner agreed with Mr. Munro. Toward that the clearing of bush lands should be made government work, like irrigation or dykes. None of the dyking constructed by the government had been successful.

Mr. Helmcken suggested that the government go into the manufacture of powder, as they knew the importance of powder in clearing farm lands.

The members present were accorded a vote of thanks. A resolution of confidence in the horticultural board was carried. Major Mutter, the chairman, J. T. Collins, secretary, and J. R. Anderson, superintendent, were tendered votes of thanks, and the fourth annual meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute was declared closed.

TOURIST ASSOCIATION.

Meeting of the Executive Held in City Hall Last Evening.

A meeting of the executive of the Victoria Tourist Association was held in the city hall last evening. Mayor Hayward presided, and Secretary Clark, L. G. McQuade, D. R. Ker, W. Fraser, Stephen Jones, James Forman, E. E. Blackwood and W. G. Cameron were present.

G. S. Bennet representing the Press Publishing Company, Toronto, was a member of the executive of the Detroit Tourist Association, and he gave many practical suggestions regarding the work. Mr. Bennett was accorded a vote of thanks for his suggestions.

It was decided to publish a folder and a brochure for distribution outside the province.

The Mitchell Advocate was badly burned yesterday by the explosion of a gasolene tank, the loss being placed at $2,000. The pressroom was completely burned out.

LOCAL OPINION IS STRONG in favor of Perry Balsam. It cures coughs and colds with absolute certainty. Pleasant to take and sure to cure. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

In certain conditions of the atmosphere electricity is so abundant on the top of the volcano Mauna Loa, in Hawaii, that an English geologist found that he could trace electric letters with his fingers on his blanket.

THE DEMON OF ALL DISEASE.—Kidney diseases are rightly so-called—they're inexplainable, unaccountable and insidious. It is the function of the kidneys to filter out all impurities. If they're clogged Doan's American Kidney Cure will put them to rights and defy the ravages of so grim a visitant as diabetes or other kidney complications. It relieves in six hours. Sold by Jackson & Co. and Hall & Co.—118.

RT. HON. SIR WILFRID LAURIER, P.C., K.C. M.G.,
Prime Minister and President of the Council.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was born in the village of St. Lin, of L'Assomption, Que., on November 20th, 1841, his father being Carolus Laurier, P. L. S., a descendant of an old French family. He was educated at L'Assomption College and McGill University, where, in 1864, he took the degree of B. C. L. He was called to the bar the same year, and in 1880 was made a Q. C. He was elected to the Quebec Assembly in 1871 for the counties of Drummond and Arthabaska. He sat till 1874, when he resigned, and was elected to the Commons. In 1871 he entered Hon. Mr. Mackenzie's administration as Minister of Inland Revenue. He retained his portfolio till the defeat of the government in 1878. He was returned again in 1878, 1882, 1887, 1891, 1896 and 1900. On the retirement of Hon. Edward Blake, in 1888, from the leadership of the Liberal party he was unanimously selected as his successor. On the resignation of the Tupper ministry in 1896 he was called on to form a ministry. Sir Wilfrid has had journalistic experience as editor of Le Defricheur. On the occasion of the Diamond Jubilee Her Majesty created him K. C. M. G., and was honored by cities in the British Isles and by the President of the French Republic. He was married in 1868 to Miss Lafontaine, who shares with him the esteem of the whole Canadian people.

TO GRAPPLE WITH DOG POISONING

LOCAL S.P.C.A. BRANCH TO TAKE MATTER UP

Society Will Offer Reward for Evidence Leading to Conviction of Perpetrators of Cruelty.

The local S. P. C. A. has determined to grapple with the poisoning of dogs, which is so greatly on the increase, and which has caused grief to many dog fanciers during the past year. They have, therefore, issued the appended notice which will be conspicuously displayed at points of vantage, and every effort will be put forth to trace and punish the unfeeling individuals who unfortunately have been too successful in their fell work of late. Once in the hands of the society the vicious perpetrators will be severely dealt with and it is extremely gratifying that this energetic organization has decided to take drastic measures.

Whereas it is alleged that persons in this neighborhood have cruelly and maliciously poisoned many dogs, this is to give notice that the act of parliament relating to such criminal offences will be put into operation by the undersigned upon the production of evidence satisfactory to justice of such persons.

Section 501, Revised Criminal Code: "Everyone is guilty of an offence and liable, on summary conviction, to a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars over and above the amount of injury done, or to three months' imprisonment, with or without hard labor, who wilfully kills, maims, wounds, poisons or injures any dog, bird, beast or other animal."

A reward of $10 is offered to any person who shall furnish evidence to the undersigned effecting the conviction of any person or persons offending against this act.

F. B. Kitto, hon. secretary, telephone No. 297. A. J. Dallain, president, telephone No. 1164, or 666.

The names of persons and letters supplying information are kept strictly private and confidential when secrecy is enjoined.

Another matter to which the attention of the society has been directed is the placing of blinkers on horses' bridles. A paper has just been received dealing with this subject, which will receive more weighty consideration than hitherto accorded it. It is claimed that the horse, being the most sensitive of animals, should not be deprived of the proper use of its eyesight, and that although at first difficulty might be encountered in accustoming the animals used to blinkers to do without them, eventually they would be taught not to require them.

Advocates of the abolishment of blinkers claim that the more a horse can see and is trusted the less likely it will run into danger.

The paper above mentioned contains the following extracts from letters:

The Great Northern Railway.—"We have now 1,000 horses running without blinkers, bridles as they wear out are not re-used. I find the use of plain bridles satisfactory."

London & Northwestern Railway.—"We are in favor of open bridles."

Great Central Railway.—"I have to inform you the company have not put into use any bridles with blinkers for 12 years." (Some thousands of horses for this company are now working with their full sight).

Great Western Railway.—"Our stock of