

Mr. Fisher reported on the interview which the Committee had with the Commissioner of Agriculture regarding farmers' clubs. He said: The Committee interviewed the Commissioner after the meeting at Quebec last winter, and suggested that either the Council of Agriculture or the Department of Agriculture—we did not quite understand under whose authority the matter would come—should arrange that every farmers' club in the province should be required to become, by one of its officers, connected with this society, so as to secure, as far as possible, the distribution of the information obtained at our meetings among the people. Our reports would then go into the libraries of the various farmers' clubs, and we should attain a large membership all over the province, thereby extending interest in our work, as well as information connected with it. The Commissioner seemed favorably disposed towards the idea; but, on consultation with the Deputy Commissioner, they seemed to think that it was impossible to bring it about, as farmers' clubs were already required to do certain things, and if further requirements were demanded of them, only trouble and difficulty would be created. The result has been that nothing has been done. I still think, however, that our views were not only in the interests of the people, but that they were practical, and I believe that they could be carried out if the matter was gone about in a determined way. The Deputy Commissioner especially seemed averse to the project, and to think that it was impossible. So far as I am concerned, I have heard nothing further in the matter.

The President—I have had no further communication, except conversation with the Deputy Commissioner, who does not see a way clear to legally arrive at the result we desire.

Mr. Barnard—I think there is a way. We found some difficulty respecting syndicates. We formed a farmers' syndicate. It was important for the clubs that they should be in communication with the syndicates, whose organization was purely a benefit to the clubs. We had some difficulty in making an organization by which they would be bound to become members of syndicates, so, instead of forcing them to do so, we offered that, if they would subscribe ten cents per head of membership, they should receive all the advantages of the syndicate. With this society the difficulty would be to give every member a copy of the report, if it had to pay for the printing of them itself; but since the Government pays for it, we might offer the clubs all the advantages of our society, except that of direct membership, provided that each member, through his club, paid ten cents a year. It worked well for the syndicates, and a larger membership was obtained than would otherwise have been the case.

The President—I will now nominate committees, viz.:—

Nominating Committee for the Election of Officers—Messrs. E. A. Barnard, J. M. Fisk and R. Brodie.

Committee on Resolutions—Messrs. J. C. Chapais, C. P. Newman and S. A. Fisher.

Committee for Examination of Seedlings—Professor Craig, and Messrs. R. Brodie and J. M. Fisk.

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