

what need for argument or illustration; the very fact that with a grant from government sufficient to make a respectable prize list and have enough left to pay a goodly portion of the expenses of an ordinary fair, the old Provincial is virtually bankrupt.

Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario.

The combined annual and winter meetings of this association, was held according to announcement, in the Court House, Hamilton, on Tuesday evening, Wednesday and Thursday, Feb. 19th, 20th and 21st, and was one of the most successful and interesting meetings ever held by the association. A short address of welcome was given by the Mayor, in which he referred in a happy manner to the fact that agriculture was one of the highest sciences, and he thought such associations as the horticultural tended to increase the love for the farm, and farming as a calling.

The following officers were elected:—President, A. Mc. D. Allan, of Goderich (re-elected); Vice-President, A. M. Smith, St Catharines. Directors—Mr. Croil, P. Bucke, Ottawa; Dr. Bell, Kingston; P. C. Dempsey, Trenton, P. E. County; Thos. Beal, Lindsay; Mr. Wellington, Toronto; Murray Pettit, Winona; A. H. Pettit, Grimsby; J. K. McMichael, Waterford; Mr. Morton, Wingham; J. M. Denton, London; Judge McKenzie, Sarnia; C. G. Caston, Craighurst. Auditors—Mr. Goldie, Guelph, and N. Awry, M. P. P., of Wentworth.

We select the following from the President's annual address:—* * * Buyers must know what is wanted in the market to which they purpose shipping, and must buy such fruit of that description as will carry well, and pay according to the value of the fruit. He regretted that the practice of paying so much per bbl. for a man's fall apples, and so much for his winter apples, prevailed to such an extent, as the grower was not thus educated to know which variety to plant, as each brought the same price to him. He would like to see a price on each variety, that could be honestly paid for it with a reasonable profit. He recommended that the best variety that is hardy enough for a district be the chief variety planted. He thought the present low prices for apples in England, not an unmixed evil, as many who had not felt able to use apples before were being educated to use them, and would find them almost a necessity in the future. He recommended trying different sized packages. The half barrel package had given him greater satisfaction than barrels; they should be made of the shape of a cheese box, with a hoop on each end for the package to rest on, thus taking the strain off the middle of the package. Referring to shipping facilities, he said the Americans get better rates from their steamship and railway companies, by shipping in large quantities, than we can from ours; and that freight was too slow for shipping tomatoes and small fruits to the North-west, while express rates were too high to admit shipping in that way. Through this, the Americans can sell at Winnipeg and Portage la Prairie cheaper than we can. He deplored the carelessness of many packers in packing apples, as very often they were improperly marked, both as to name and quality. Personally he paid growers more, by ten to twenty-five cents per bbl., when they took care of their trees, and gave their orchards attention; and that it paid to do so, as the fruit was invariably much finer. He condemned the present method of judging at

fairs, and hoped soon to see a scale of points adopted. Referring to the codling moth, he thought Paris green the best remedy yet adopted; he claimed that it had driven the curculio from some sections. He regretted that attention to draining, promised when the orchard was located at the Agricultural College Experimental Farm, had not been given, and the orchard was entirely useless for experimental work. He very much regretted the continued exportation of hardwood ashes, as we need them very much for our orchards. He had found the Northern Spy, Ben Davis and Golden Russett doing well at Sault St. Marie and Bruce Mines; also the finest flavored crabs he had ever tasted. He thought, through the ameliorating influence of forestry, fruit could be grown in Manitoba and the North-west; and that forestry will be an absolute necessity in the future, not only on the prairies, but in Ontario. He recommended placing orchards on the north side of shelter belts, as it is the freezing and thawing that destroys the trees.

Mr. Thos. Beal, of Lindsay, read a paper on the varieties of apples suited for central Ontario. A lengthy discussion followed. Mr. Beal recommending that a list of suitable varieties for planting in Ontario be made out that would be a guide for parties ordering trees; but the opinions were so diversified as to varieties, by the representatives of different localities, that it was not considered advisable to do so, the president remarking that it would almost require a list for each county. One member thought apples could be successfully grown wherever the sugar maple or basswood would grow. Several members were in favor of growing seedlings and topgrafting. Mr. Morris, a practical nurseryman, said most seedlings were too tender to make a good stock, and it was necessary to graft at the root. Mr. Caston, referred to the Red Pound apple as one of great merit, both for its quality and hardiness, as well as beauty and productiveness. (He presented one to the ADVOCATE representative measuring eleven and one-half inches in circumference.) And, while not quite equal in flavor to some of the finer sorts, is fine grained, and much superior in everything, unless it be keeping qualities, to the Ben Davis. We very much regret that, on account of the meeting being held late in the month, near the time of going to press, we cannot devote more space to the meeting this month; but we will in succeeding issues give several of the papers, and probably a good part of the discussions.

Score Card for Swine.

At the late meeting of the National Association of expert judges on swine, a new score card, for use on all breeds, was adopted, and committees were appointed to draft definitions, detailed descriptions, and disqualifications for each breed. And we find in the American Agricultural Journals a rehash of the arguments used against the score card by poultry judges, when it was adopted in Canada some seven years ago; and it is quite probable that in half a decade, these objections will look as childish to the swine breeders, as they now do to the Canadian poultrymen. One of the greatest conveniences of the score card is, it enables the breeder to give enquirers and prospective buyers a much better idea of the specimens he offers, than he could do by any other means. Thus, a specimen scoring ninety points, is much less likely to give dissatisfaction when it reaches the buyer, than one represented choice or excellent. This has certainly been the case in poultry.

Farmers' Clubs.

Dominion Farmers' Council.

[The Dominion Farmers' Council meets in the city of London, Ont., on the third Thursday of every month, at 1 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, F. W. HOBSON, LONDON, ONT. This Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, objects, etc.; Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, and notes on how to organize a club. These will, on application to the Secretary, be sent free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

On Thursday the 21st ult. the Dominion Farmers' Council assembled, John O'Brien, President, in the chair.

After routine business, Mr. John S. Pearce gave an address on the question

IS DAIRYING MORE PROFITABLE THAN GRAIN GROWING.

In dealing with the subject of my paper, I shall not attempt to go into the details of the profits of one or the losses of the other, but rather show by comparison the advantage of the one over the other, and point out a few of the advantages of dairying, and wherein lies the road to success in that industry. That the dairying business in Canada has been paying, there is no doubt, or it would not have stayed so long with us, nor would it have developed so fast, or to such an extent. In other words, had it not been profitable, it would have gone out of fashion long ago. The fact that Canada, in 1865, was an importer of cheese to the extent of several thousand dollars, while to-day, she is exporting to the amount of some seven or eight million dollars is a pretty good indication of how the dairy business must be paying. Then we have only to look around and view those sections, where this industry has been well established, to see the effect on the farming community of these sections, and then compare them with those who are devoted exclusively to grain growing. Compare these dairy sections with those who are still content to plod along in the old way by selling the fertility off their farms, a little at a time, with each load of grain hauled away to market. We may go a step farther, and compare the prices of land in the old well established dairy sections with that of the grain growing sections, and we will find that the result will be very much in favor of the dairy section. It is estimated that if the annual returns from this extra earning power of the dairy sections, the result of this large increase in the dairy industry within the last twenty years, was capitalized at six per cent, it would represent some thirty million of dollars. Notwithstanding this large development of the dairy industry in some sections, we don't think there is one bushel less grain grown in these sections than there was before the dairy industry was established. But it must be borne in mind, that the dairy business has largely developed a market for coarse grains and feeding stuffs, and these are kept at home and fed on the farms, and thereby no exhaustion of the soil, as would be caused by their direct exportation.

From the report of the Bureau of Industries for 1887, I find that the cost of growing grain was far from profitable. I might say that this estimate was made from the reports of 197 correspondents. The result is as follows:—The crop of fall wheat was grown at a loss of \$2.35 per acre, of spring wheat at a loss of \$1.89, and of peas at \$1.60. On the other hand, the crop of barley was grown at a profit of \$3.80 per acre, of oats at \$1.81, of hay and clover at \$4.93, of corn \$4.10, of potatoes at \$19.17, and of turnips at \$7.86. The cost of producing hay and clover is incomplete, no entries having been made of the proportion of cultivation to be charged against it, or of the manure, or of the price of the seed and labor of seeding. These items would reduce the profit possibly \$1.50 per acre. This is not very flattering for the grain grower. Now it is estimated that the average yield per cow of the best patrons of our cheese factories is \$36.00 per cow for the season of cheese making, to say nothing about the extra returns from butter making

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