

There should be township clubs, county clubs, and provincial clubs. Members of the county clubs should be elected by township clubs; county clubs should elect members for the provincial clubs, and the provincial clubs should elect members for the Dominion Club. A fee of \$1 per annum should be paid for membership, or \$10 for a life membership. No member should hold the same office more than four consecutive years, except the Secretary. The Secretary should be the only officer who receives pay. These clubs should have the management of all Government moneys that may be granted for the purpose of aiding agriculture in any way. Rules, regulations and by-laws should guide the management of these clubs. Five members should form a quorum. To encourage this project we now offer \$50 to be distributed as premiums in the following manner: \$10 to the first township club which may be organized in either of our provinces, namely, Ontario, Quebec, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island. The clubs in each township must have their five life members, who have paid \$10 each.

If any of our readers can suggest a better plan, or if they object to this, we have a space in this journal for them to express their views, as a change in the present system assuredly must be made. The repeal of the old Agricultural Act was only a blind to keep the same men in power. Let us have light on this subject. Have you not some useful suggestions to make? Do you approve of the above? Either condemn it openly and fearlessly, or support it; or suggest a better plan. If you think the present Board are right in attempting to check private enterprise by law, as suggested, and as they have done; if you think they have been right in attempting to spread the foot and mouth disease, pleuro-pneumonia, and hog cholera among our Canadian stock, *which they have done*; if you consider that the funds of this Association have been honorably and honestly accounted for, *which they have not been*; if you are a free and independent person either condemn these vile assertions which this journal has fearlessly and unhesitatingly thrown out, or else let us hear from you in approval. Let your voice be heard at home and abroad. Do not attempt to excuse yourself before any person you may address by saying that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will publish only its own tenets. We ask for fair, open discussion. The mere assertion that a person makes a false statement, or is in error, is no honest man's argument. Any one having objections or suggestions should let their views about our agricultural affairs be publicly known either through the medium of the ADVOCATE, or the Journal of Agriculture, published in Montreal. If you desire to be heard, and are not chained to party politics of either side, we may see your writings there, and will be ready to reply. We have not the time to wade through, nor even open one fourth of the political papers that come to our office. Agricultural interests should not be made subservient to the political interests of either party, but should be calmly viewed on their own merits.

In arranging for in-door plants, select, if possible, an east or south window. Winter days are short, and plants need light. It is important to give them brightness and warmth if we would have them thrive. If an east or south window cannot be had, then a west window is better than one opening to the north.

Experience has demonstrated that good, well-rotted cow manure is, in all cases, the best for house plants. Water can be placed on the manure and the liquid thus obtained can be used to good advantage in watering plants.

#### Don't Spare the Feed.

Now is the time to make money and enrich your farm. The prices of all kinds of farm stock are good. The best yield the most profit. Do not sell your coarse grain, but use it to fatten the old stock and keep the young growing. You can make more profit by feeding a pig in 12 months than by taking 24 months to fit it for market. You can make more money by feeding a beast for 30 months than keeping it double the time. By using grain, and keeping stock warm and comfortable, you can enrich your farm. The effects of feeding corn or grain to your cows and young stock enhances the value of your manure pile far more than you have any idea of. The following extract may appear astonishing and almost incredible to you, still we deem it worth perusal, especially as we quote it from the agricultural department of the New York Times, which is conducted by men of noted ability in treating on agricultural subjects:—

The books have generally taught us that horse manure is richer than that of cows. The fact is that feed makes the manure, and because horses are usually fed in large part with grain their manure is richer than that of animals not so well fed. But if we feed cows as well as horses, the difference in the value of the manure is reversed, and remains in favor of the former. This is reasonable, because the more an animal exerts the muscles violently the more it uses up the nitrogenous portion of the food to repair the waste. Horses which work constantly thus exhaust the food of its nutriment to a greater extent than cows, which lie peacefully and ruminate, and, turning their food chiefly into milk, are given every opportunity to do their best at this, their special business. So that when a cow gets a daily allowance of three quarts of feed, consisting largely of bran, rich in phosphoric acid, and two quarts of corn-meal, rich in nitrogen, or perhaps nearly double this allowance, besides clover and other nutritious green food, the manure cannot fail to be very rich, nor to tell its story when used in the field. For light soils there can be nothing better than the manure from well-fed cows, and there can be no better method of improving land than that of carrying on a dairy under a system of feeding by green crops cut and carried to the stable and yards. At the market rates for manure the cost of the feed is fully returned in the value of the manure, so that an actual proof is afforded of the truth of the chemist's estimate that a ton of bran or meal worth \$12 returns in the manure a value actually in excess of its cost price.

A NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.—The beneficial results from the operations of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, have instigated Americans to organize a similar Association. A call has been issued throughout the United States for a meeting of all those who may be interested in the formation of a National Agricultural Society. The circular states that "an association is designed that will embrace every agricultural interest, and represent every section of the country. The object is the advancement and protection of American agriculture by practical methods; principal among those contemplated are the promotion of immigration, the holding of periodical national fairs in different parts of the country, meetings for discussion and the dissemination of thought and experience on matters pertaining to agriculture. It is believed that there is a wide field of usefulness for such an association. England's greatest and best institution is her Royal Agricultural Society, which contains over 7,000 members."

POTATO ROT is quite prevalent in Rhode Island and some parts of Connecticut. Reports are numerous of fields and portions of fields hardly worth the digging, and of large quantities of tubers rapidly spoiling in bins and barrels after having been gathered in apparently good condition. The disease seems to be confined almost entirely to the later varieties, the early ones having evidently matured soon enough to get out of the way of the trouble. Former expectations of a very large local crop are now, by these reports, much modified, and the markets in New London, New Haven, &c., have stiffened in consequence.—[Conn. Farmer.]

#### Improvement of Dairy Stock.

Of the many improvements urged incessantly by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, the improvement of dairy stock was not the least, and we have the pleasure of seeing an advance in that direction. Better stock and productive cows are now more sought for; farmers and dairymen find that twenty good cows well cared for will bring to the owner a greater profit than twice the number of inferior animals. The dairy may be made to be profitable. The following article, which we abridge from the New York Times, on the Improvement of Dairy Stock, is plain and to the point:—

A new beginning needs to be made. Stock must be closely examined. No more slipshod work in the dairy can be done. Every man must know the good from the bad cows, and get rid of the latter at any sacrifice. Hereafter none but good and profitable cows can be kept. The best calves can no more be sold. The common idea that it cost too much to raise a calf from an extra good cow, when a full-grown cow (a four-quart-a-day cow) can be bought for less money, will have to be abandoned. A clear record of each cow in the dairy must be kept. The income from each cow must be known, so that the best may be retained and their calves raised to take their places. The character of the herd must be raised by the introduction of selected bulls from well-known herds of whatever breed the fancy may desire. It cannot be justly thought that this is a needless trouble and expense. On the contrary, it is business, and the true business method. There is much dead work to be done, work that does not pay to-day or this year, but is preparatory to profitable work hereafter, and without which business would soon cease. And in the dairy the rearing of young stock is dead work of the most needful character. A herd of cows that will yield 2,500 pounds of milk a year will cost as much to keep as one that will produce 5,000 or 7,500 pounds, and the latter yield is quite a possible one. Thousands of dairies in the country do not average more than 8 pounds a day, 2,500 pounds in the year, which, at the low prices current for some time past, does not pay for the feeding. Herds, on the other hand, could be pointed out which reach the latter figures. A well-known Ayrshire herd shows by its record 10 cows that average 5,000 pounds each in the year, 17 that average nearly 7,000 pounds in the year, and some that go over that. A prominent Dutch herd averages from 8,000 to 11,000 pounds in the year. A well-known short-horn herd of pure breed averages over 5,000 pounds yearly. Several butter dairies reach a product of 300 pounds per head yearly, and what these do others may. Heretofore, high-bred herds, from which we have been led to expect extraordinary performances, have been damaged or ruined by too much attention to color, form, and pedigree, and other useless attributes of herd-books. Hereafter, the good sense of breeders of dairy stock will lead them to look at performances as of greater value than any other points, and a great improvement, if not in actual daily yield, still in persistence of yield for a lengthened period, may reasonably be expected from the important innovation. So that, while dairymen may even now greatly improve their stock by the introduction of choice bulls and the careful rearing of the progeny of these with the best native cows they can select, in the future they may look for still better material to work with than they can now procure.

The cost of the improvement is within the reach of every dairyman. A herd of 40 cows can be served at a cost of \$5 per head the first year, or perhaps less than that—as this will pay the purchase money of an excellent bull—and after the first year the cost will be about \$1 per cow, the mere expense of feeding the bull being the whole of it. A calf can be brought to cow's estate at an expense of \$30 for feed and attendance. A good cow cannot be procured for so little money as this, and a poor one, it is to be hoped, will be considered hereafter as not worth having as a gift. The fact is, each dairyman has in his own hands a remedy against future loss from possible low prices, and the means of doubling his profits in the good time now apparently at hand.

A great flight of grasshoppers was observed at Dallas, Texas, Oct. 16th and 17th. They passed over the city from a northerly direction. Reports from various points in Northern Texas say grasshoppers have appeared, but so far no damage has been done.