

Annual Meeting of the Agriculture and Arts Association.

The meeting of the Agriculture and Arts Association convened at the skating rink, Guelph, Dec. 6th, 1893. Members present: Jas. Rowand, M. P., Dunblane; Jas. Haggarty, West Huntingdon; J. C. Snell, Edmonton; Joshua Legg, Gananoque; Wm. Dawson, Vittoria; R. McEwen, Byron; J. Sissons, Barrie, and the Secretary. President Rowand in the chair.

A communication was read from the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, appointing Mr. William Dickie, of Oshawa, one of the auditors, as per statute. John I. Hobson, of Mosboro, was appointed on behalf of the council.

A letter was read from H. H. Wing, Prof. of Animal Industry, Cornell University, asking for sets of herd and stud books. The secretary was requested to send them.

Owing to the absence of three members of the Finance Committee, Messrs. Sissons, Haggarty and McEwen were added to that committee for this meeting.

The report for the ploughing match for districts Nos. 10, 11, 12 and 13 was read and handed in by R. McEwen, chairman. Report for districts 4, 5 and 6 was also read and handed in by W. J. Westington. The report from districts 7, 8 and 9 was verbally reported by the secretary, who had attended it on the Asylum Farm at Hamilton.

The meeting then adjourned to the City Hall to the Sheep Breeders' meeting, for want of other room, where the president, Jas. Rowand, M. P., gave his annual address, reviewing the work of the association for the past year. His address was followed by one from the Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, who gave a very interesting report of the victories obtained at the World's Fair.

DEC. 7th, 11 A.M., VICTORIA RINK.—Council meeting resumed business. In addition to yesterday's members Mr. D. McPherson, of Lancaster, was on hand.

Mr. Sissons read report of ploughing match for districts 10, 11, 12 and 13 also, which was held near Barrie.

The council granted the use of the room lately occupied by Prof. James to the secretary for the use of the clerks of this association.

D. McCrae, of Guelph, then, by request of the council, addressed them on the subject of holding sheep sales during the month of September; he thought the council might offer prizes or inducements to bring out these animals at this time, when parties could buy without looking all over the country.

EVENING SESSION, WELLINGTON HOTEL.—Same members present, with the exception of President Rowand and J. C. Snell. Wm. Dawson, vice-president, in the chair.

On resolution it was adopted that at the next meeting of the council they take into consideration the establishment of stock sales, and that the Finance Committee be instructed to put in the estimates the sum of \$1,000 for this purpose, with the view of establishing one to the east and one to the west of this province.

Resolved, that the president and Mr. Edwards be appointed as a delegation to wait upon the Ministers of Agriculture for the Dominion of Canada and Province of Ontario, along with delegations from other live stock associations, to press on them the necessity of negotiating with the Minister of Agriculture of the United States to allow our Canadian herd books to be accepted as authority to the Custom House Officers in passing live stock free across the lines, as was formerly the case.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held to look into the financial standing of the institution, at which the treasurer and secretary explained the different works carried on by the association, and the manner of keeping the accounts. Suggestions for improvement, especially in the matter of the item sundries, were made. After the interview the following resolution was passed at the evening session of the council:—

Moved by Mr. Jas. Haggarty, seconded by Mr. J. Sissons, that after having heard the explanations of Mr. H. Wade, our secretary, respecting the receipts and disbursements of our association, we feel that the thanks of this board are due to him for the interest he has taken in the advancement of our association, both financially and otherwise.

The report of the finance committee was then presented and adopted. It showed the following estimate required from the Government over and above the ordinary income of the association:—
Spring Horse Show, \$1,000; Fat Stock Show, \$1,500; Ploughing Matches, \$600; expenses of Board, \$500; printing herd books, ordinary, \$1,000; live stock sales, \$1,000; total, \$5,600.

The secretary was authorized to ask for tenders for printing the second volume of the Ayrshire herd book, and the eighth volume of the Clydesdale stud book.

The Patrons of Industry.

In answer to a number of inquiries regarding the objects and aims of the Patrons of Industry, we will devote a part of our space in this issue to this rapidly increasing organization. It will not be necessary to go into the history of the rise of this association, for it has been fully dealt with in former issues of the ADVOCATE, and especially in that of July 15, 1893.

We cannot do better than give the object of the association as set forth in the constitution of the Order, which opens with the following preamble:—

"Being impressed with the fact that all parties engaged in commerce, manufactures, and all other enterprises of importance, are organized and are using their combined influence for the promotion of their own special interests, while the farmers and employes upon whose labors depend the prospects of the nation are almost entirely unorganized: We, the farmers and employes of the Province of Ontario, believing that Almighty God, as the source of all power and the ruler of nations, should be acknowledged in all constitutions of societies, do hereby, with due reverence to Him, associate ourselves together under the following articles, and the articles of incorporation of the Order of the Patrons of Industry, in the Province of Ontario, and the amendments made thereto, and do solemnly pledge ourselves, one to another, to labor together for the promotion of the interests of farmers and employes, and the good of the nation, of which we are a part."

Then follow the articles, the first of which states that "this organization shall be called the Patrons of North America, and shall be an organization of farmers and others whose interests are identical with those of the farmers, and its objects shall be to advance the moral, intellectual, social, political and financial condition of the said classes in this country, and to generally develop a higher character of that great industrial class that performs so important a part in providing for the subsistence and advancing the prosperity of all nations, and while fearless in its advocacy of the right, shall be non-partizan and non-sectarian." This organization took root in Canada about three years ago, and since that time it has made a very rapid and vigorous growth.

In addition to their work in breaking up the salt combine and the establishment of a large independent Binder Twine concern, which has lately declared a dividend of 10 per cent., and at the same time has been the means of untold saving to the farmers of Canada, through the enormous reduction in the cost of this article, the Patrons have been very active of late in the political arena, and are hopeful of carrying their desires to a successful issue with the Government and Legislature, by means of pressure which will be brought to bear upon them by the election of Patrons as members of Parliament.

One of their first actions was to unite as far as possible with the workmen in the cities and towns, for they realized that the interests of the farmer and workman are the same, and that there should be no clashing between them. The farmer has to depend upon the great body of the workmen for his market, and anything which improves the condition of the workman increases the demand for farm products. There certainly can be no reason why the toilers in town and country should not work harmoniously together for each other's good. The first joint meeting of the two bodies was held last winter in Toronto, when a committee from the Dominion Labor Congress met a number of the Grand Board of the Patrons of Industry to consider points of agreement upon which the agriculturists and the urban workman could take common ground in resisting monopolies and the domination of wealth, and to advance the interests of the whole of our citizens by checking and abolishing the extortions and frauds in industrial operations permitted and largely sanctioned by our laws.

The Patrons have nominated candidates for both the Ontario and Dominion Houses of Parliament in many ridings in Ontario, and are very sanguine of electing a sufficient number of Patrons to hold the balance of power in Parliament next year.

The great victory in North Bruce, where the Patron candidate, Mr. McNaughton, was elected by a large majority, has greatly encouraged and inspired the Patrons all over the country.

The old line politicians are evidently becoming frightened, for each one in turn is trying to persuade the Patrons that the platform of their party is either identically the same or else that in the few instances in which they differ that it is immeasurably superior to the Patron platform.

The Patrons' platform, as sent us by Mr. L. A. Walsh, Strathroy, Ont., Grand Secretary-Treasurer, December 15th, 1893, is as follows:—

1. Maintenance of British connection.
2. The reservation of the public lands for the actual settler.
3. Purity of administration and absolute independence of Parliament.
4. Rigid economy in every department of the public service.
5. Simplification of the laws and a general reduction in the machinery of government.
6. The abolition of the Canadian Senate.
7. A system of civil service reform that will give each county power to appoint or elect all

county officials paid by them, except County Judges.

8. Tariff for revenue only, and so adjusted as to fall as far as possible upon the luxuries and not upon the necessities of life.

9. Reciprocal trade on fair and equitable terms between Canada and the world.

10. Effectual legislation that will protect labor, and the results of labor, from those combinations and monopolies which unduly enhance the price of the articles produced by such combinations or monopolies.

11. Prohibition of the bonusing of railways by Governments as contrary to the public interest.

12. Preparation of the Dominion and Provincial voters' lists by the municipal officers.

13. Conformity of electoral districts to county boundaries as constituted for municipal purposes, as far as the principle of representation by population will allow.

Every man in joining a lodge must pledge himself to support any member of the Order who may be nominated to represent them in Parliament, provided such nominee receives the majority of the delegates at the convention called for the selection of a candidate. The constitution provides that any person who is found wilfully and knowingly violating this obligation shall be liable to expulsion.

From the above it will be seen that the success of the Patrons at the polls will depend upon their remaining true and living up to their obligations on election day, not allowing themselves to be hoodwinked and whipped back into line by the old party managers. The Grand President, in referring to the above subject, has the following to say:—

"We have taken a position from which we cannot recede. Our people must either place in our legislatures a sufficient number of Patron representatives to be able to declare to the powers that be, 'Thus far and no further,' or the great industrial classes will be looked upon with contempt that will be justly their due.

"The test is upon us. Let all who love the land in which we live, declare by word and deed that Britons never will be slaves. We have been three years in forming and developing an organization whose object it is to obtain the greatest good for the greatest number, and we have succeeded beyond our most sanguine expectations. We were at first looked upon by others as having little influence and being of little importance, but we have steadily progressed until both political parties are dreading the effect of the toilers' united effort, and already party heelers are striving to drag our people from their allegiance."

From the Sun of December 12th we take the following synopsis of the aims of the Patrons as set forth by one of the members of the Grand Board, Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, of Alexandria, in answer to some questions which were propounded to him. Mr. Wilson said:—"I was a strong supporter of Mr. Meredith in Ontario politics and of Sir John Macdonald in Dominion affairs, but now I have no more sympathy with the Conservatives than the Reformers. I am simply a Patron of Industry. The Patrons are organized solely in the interests of the farmers and laboring men. It is not the intention of the Patrons of Industry to defeat the existing Government. They will support the Government of Sir Oliver Mowat in whatever appears to be for the interests of the people. They do not propose on a technical quibble to upset the Government. It will be a policy of give and take between them and the Government. They may yield one point to the Government if the Government yield another to them. We shall not indulge in any factious opposition to the party in power.

"We lay particular stress on the importance of mortgages, bank stocks, railway bonds and debentures being taxed just as any other property is, and we strongly favor the appointment of county officials by the municipalities. (And here we will explain that this does not mean the appointment of these officers by the county council, as some have erroneously supposed, but by the vote of the whole body of the electors.)

"Tariff reform is a very prominent plank in our platform, and we intend that the Dominion Government shall carry out our wishes in this respect. We want a tariff for revenue only, so arranged as to fall on the luxuries, not the necessities of life. We believe, also, in the abolition of the Canadian Senate."

He feels certain that the Patrons will stand firm in their allegiance to their cause, and that they will not revert to the old party ties at the next general election.

In regard to the departments of agriculture at Toronto and Ottawa Mr. Wilson has the following to say:—

"We consider Mr. Dryden one of the best men in Sir Oliver Mowat's Government. The farmers of Ontario take great pride in the fact that he occupies the position that he does. So far as that statement the other day of Mr. W. D. McPherson, the president of the Young Conservatives, in favor of abolishing the Minister of Agriculture, is concerned, the Patrons take it as a direct insult to the intelligence of the farmers of Ontario. We consider the interests of the farmers are of sufficient importance to warrant their being represented in the Cabinet."