MISCELLANEOUS.

British Columbia Central Farmers Institute.

The first meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute of British Columbia convened at the office of the Department of Agriculture, Victoria, on Friday, February 3rd. District Farmers' Institutes were represented by one delegate each, as follows: A. E. Reeves, Alberni District; Major J. M. Muttger, Cowichan; Rev. Mr. Taylor, Nanaimo; W. H. Hayward, Victoria; W. H. Ladner, Delta; C. D. Moggridge, Surrey-Victoria; W. H. Ladner, Delta; G. W. Beebee, Kent; W. J. Harris, Maple Ridge; A. Hawkins, Matsqui; D. Graham, Okanagan; C. B. Harris, Kamloops; Mr. J. R. Anderson, Deputy Minister of Agriculture; and Mr. R. M. Palmer, Fruit Pest Inspector, also attended and took part in the discussion. cussion.

Sessions were continued on Saturday, 4th, and Monday,

6th, inst.

A great range of subjects concerning the agricultural interests of the Province were dealt with, and the work of the meeting naturally divided itself into two divisions: (1) Matters to be dealt with by the Provincial Government; and (2) recommendations to local Institutes in regard to subjects recommended to be considered at local Institute meetings.

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Under the first heading, resolutions were passed and submitted to the Minister of Agriculture, suggesting important amendments to the Farmers' Institute and Co-operation Act, providing for the subdivision of the present Institute districts, some of which were considered to be too extensive for effective work. Also for the amalgamation of existing agricultural societies with local Institutes, without prejudice to the "existing rights, privileges and appropriations" enjoyed by such societies.

The compulsory teaching of elements.

ing rights, privileges and appropriations enjoyed by such societies.

The compulsory teaching of elementary agriculture in the rural schools, the publication of worthy papers presented at Institute meetings, the maintenance of annual grants to the Board of Horticulture and Fruit Growers' Association, the placing of a representative exhibit of B. C. production in the Imperial Institute, London: the placing of exhibits of botany and forestry in the Department of Agriculture, Victoria; the providing of facilities so that farmers and others could procure analyses of soils, foods and manures at Government expense, legislation to define the size of fruit packages, and to compel the stencilling of the same with the name of the grower of the fruit contained, were asked for, after the subjects had been thoroughly discussed, and by means of a delegation presented to the Hon. Mr. F. C. Cotton, Minister of Agriculture, who stated that he was desirous of doing all he could for the benefit of the farmers of the Province, that he would give the matters brought before him his serious consideration, and, as far as possible, put the recommendations made into effect.

A resolution was carried as follows: Recommended, "That

brought before him his serious consideration, and, as far as possible, put the recommendations made into effect.

A resolution was carried as follows: Recommended, "That the taxation on wild lands be increased so as to cause those who hold such lands for speculative purposes to either improve these lands or sell out to those who will do so."

A very lively debate followed on the evils of the present state of affairs in this connection in many districts. It was forcibly pointed out that the bona-fide settler, while carrying most of the burden of taxation, made the land of the speculator valuable, while the latter did nothing. In regard to the Provincial Department of Agriculture, after a very long discussion on its work and possibilities, the following resolution was carried: "That, as it is learned that the Agricultural Department may be reorganized, this meeting suggests that such organization is required, and that the Minister of Agriculture be requested to create a Board of Agriculture, of which three members should be elected by the Central Institute, two by the Government, and that the Minister of Agriculture and a permanent Secretary should be ex-officio members.

In regard to the Noxious Weeds Act, several amendments were suggested to increase its efficiency, especially in regard to Canada thistle, tumbling weed, and mustard, and to make the Act operative against crown lands as well as private owners.

Another very important question considered was that of cheap loans to farmers. The act passed for this purpose at the last session of the Provincial Legislature had proven unworkable. It was considered that loans should be made direct to the farmers under the decision of commissioners to be appointed who would act as valuators, the money advanced to be spent in actual improvements and a low rate of interest charged. The advantages of the New Zealand system of loaning was pointed out, and after a long discussion the following resolution was carried:

out, and after a long discussion the following resolution was carried:

"That the Provincial Government take into serious consideration the advisability of procuring money for farmers at a low rate of interest, the New Zealand plan being recommended as deserving of their earnest attention."

—The foregoing resolutions were also submitted to the Provincial Government and promised favorable consideration at their hands. A resolution recommending district Institutes to co-operate in the sale and purchase of stock and produce was carried unanimously after a good discussion on the benefits to be derived from this practice.

The question of fruit shipments from the Province to Manitoba and the Northwest Territories was dealt with, and the reasons for the failure of some of last season's operations in this line considered. Mr. B. Gordon, of Winnipeg, fruit broker, attended the session at which the subject was discussed and gave some practical advice of value in regard to packages, grading of fruit, methods of loading in cars, etc., and pointed out the reasons why so many of the shipments of plums arrived in bad condition at Winnipeg. He advised the greatest care in selecting fruit for shipment and the marketing of the fruit through the regular trade channels. California methods were recommended to be followed as closely as possible. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Gordon for his advice. In connection with the fruit shipping question the following resolution was presented and carried unanimously:

"That pressure be brought to bear upon the Dominion members of Parliament for B. C. to induce the

"That pressure be brought to bear upon the Dominion members of Parliament for B. C. to induce the Dominion Government to give the same assistance to B. C. farmers and fruit-growers as has been given to Eastern agriculturists and horticulturists, particularly in regard to cold storage accommodation."

dation."

A motion was put to the meeting and carried unanimously,—
"That in the opinion of the Central Institute transportation companies receiving land or cash bonuses should have their freight rates fixed by legislative enactment"; and in regard to passenger service the following resolution carried unanimously: "That in the opinion of the Central Institute the same treatment as regards return passenger fares should be granted by the C. P. R. in all parts of British Columbia, and that copies of this resolution be sent to each member of the Dominion House of Parliament and to the C. P. R. Superintendent."

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Other subjects which received considerable discussion were: "The dyking of the Fraser River lands," concerning which it was stated that much of the work hitherto done had been useless and thousands of dollars had been thrown away, as much of the dyke built at Matsqui had subsided into the river; "The sale of adulterated food products imported into the Province in competition with pure articles manufactured here;" and "The desirability of establishing canning factories and fruit evaporators to make profitable use of surplus fruit." The desirability of establishing small experimental stations in different parts of the Province was affirmed by resolution and shown to be very necessary in view of the great diversity of soil and climate of the various sections. The Game Act was discussed at length and the enforcement of its regulations asked for. On the evening of the last day of the sessions a number of the members of the Provincial Legislature attended the meeting, when explanations were given as to the various suggestions which had been made to the Government, and assistance to have these made operative was promised. Mr. A. E. Reeves acted as secretary throughout the meeting, and at its close was accorded a hearty vote of thanks. Votes of thanks were also given to the chairman, Mr. W. H. Hayward; to Mr. J. R. Anderson, and to Mr. R. M. Palmer, for valuable services rendered, concluding a most successful meeting, which is likely to have a very important effect upon the agricultural future of the Province.

Maritime Notes.

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There is a very general complaint among the farmers here that the hay is not feeding out well, and not withstanding the large crop which was harvested, and are afraid they will be large crop which was harvested without having resolvents of the property of the complete the co

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10 Shorthorn Bulls of good breeding and quality, from good milking strains, at from \$50 to \$75 each.

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Store by (mp.) Flashlight. Also, Berkshire bears and sows, all of which will be sold at moderate prices. Farm half mile from Burlington Junction, G. T. R.