

The minutes of the last annual meeting and the intervening meeting of the directors were read by Secretary Brown.

On motion of Mr. W. McNeil, seconded by Mr. T. Burn, they were adopted as read.

Secretary Brown in rising to read his report said :

It is not my intention to occupy the time of this meeting with any lengthy report. At the same time I do not purpose allowing this opportunity to pass without expressing first my delight in having the members of our Association meet in London, and trust this visit may be enjoyed by all, and also to thank you all for the interest you have shown at all times in the prosperity and exceeding usefulness of these annual meetings and exhibitions. They are indeed a very important part of the educational branch of the Department of Agriculture for the Province.

In looking over past records I find that the essays are greatly in advance of former years.

As regards the success of this year's exhibition we must thank the gentlemen of the London Poultry and Pet Stock Association for their untiring efforts towards the pleasing result. Everything within their power has been done with this object in view, and I am sure you are all pleased with the way in which they have succeeded. At no time within my recollection has anything so attractive been presented to this Association as the magnificent array of special prizes secured by the London Association.

With regard to the advance of the exhibition I may say that the entries this year total 1809 as compared with 1602 last year. I think the first year that we held the show at Hamilton there were some 1200 entries, so that we have steadily advanced. The local Association made such great efforts this year to have an extra large list that they were somewhat disappointed at finding an increase of only 200 over last year, but I, for one, am not dissatisfied, because we can have as many as can be handled properly at nearly all the places the show may be held, except perhaps London, and Toronto, where they have their fair coops and buildings specially adapted to showing poultry.

Since the opening of the show there have been two or three things brought to my notice which I wish to mention. The first is the meeting which should have been held yesterday. There were only some five or six persons here and consequently we were obliged to

adjourn. I may say the only reason we decided to hold these special meetings, if you will remember, was because some of the essays prepared for the meeting held at Port Hope, were not read, and it was then decided to have a separate meeting to receive and discuss essays, but I have since found out that it is impossible to carry this arrangement out. A great many of the members did not come here until Thursday, and those that were here yesterday could not be induced to attend because they were anxious to see the birds and see the result of the judging. This is the annual meeting and I would suggest that we take this question up and pass a resolution to return to the old method—one day for the annual meeting and essays, business to be taken up first, with a proviso that the Executive have power to call a special meeting during the day if they think it wise, at which the papers that have been prepared can be read and discussed.

With reference to the entry papers, I may say that only one did not arrive here in time, but I have one case in which a great many more birds were sent than were entered. They are being fed at the expense of the Association, but they are not in competition at all. We must adhere to the rules, but in endeavoring to comply with them I receive more or less letters which infer that I am to blame. Please bear in mind that the rules are given to me and I must carry them out. If the Association says to accept up to the last minute, I will do so, but until I get such instructions nothing will be accepted after the date fixed for receiving entries.

I think we should take the matter of securing or appointing the judges' clerks into our own hands. Under the present arrangement this Association makes a grant to each local association which is supposed to cover all expenses, but this amount will not we know, allow of them paying these clerks, and while I have not a word to say against the work done here, the trouble with gratuitous clerking is that they do not feel their responsibility, they do their work, but you never know when you are going to get them and when you do get them, how long they are going to stay, and I think for the little extra cost we ought to pay clerks to do the work and then we can dictate to and control them. It is not pleasant to call on one of the members to assist the judges, nor is it at all times satisfactory.