

Poultry Association of Ontario.

[NOTE.—While I recognize the fact that FARMING is "an illustrated monthly magazine devoted to farming in all its branches," there are times when one department, or one subject, must, of necessity, receive a little more attention than another, especially when matters transpire which are of importance to the country at large. It seems to me, therefore, that no apology is necessary for taking up so much space this month with a report of the annual meeting of the Poultry Association of Ontario, especially when none of the space allotted to the poultry department has been transgressed upon. Perhaps at this time, however, a few facts in connection with this association, and our reasons for deeming the report of such importance, would not be amiss. This association is the oldest organization of the kind in America; it has held twenty-two consecutive annual exhibitions, each one more successful than its predecessor; it has as one of its oldest members the greatest and most successful poultryman in the world—Mr. William McNeil, of London; and, in addition to this gentleman, there are others who do not breed or exhibit as many varieties of fowl, but who, in comparison to the number of varieties bred, have been quite as successful as he in the keenest competition this continent could produce. These, too, are men who are looked up to and honored by the entire poultry fraternity. Furthermore (and I say it without the slightest fear of contradiction), there is not an exhibition in America which can pick from its entire display the same number of birds as is annually exhibited here, and win over us. In fact, I doubt if a better exhibit could be produced in America. Birds that win here, and birds that are beaten here, almost invariably win at the Madison Square Gardens' Exhibition, held in New York city. Another reason for giving this report the prominence we do is because (with the exception of the Eastern Ontario Poultry Association) it is the only exhibition in America recognized by government, and annually aided by a grant of government money. In return for this grant, the association is expected to give information and advice to the country at large. Upon the subject of how far this is carried out I shall have something to say in the next issue of this paper. In order to pave the way for this, and to give all an insight into the doings of the association, I deemed it of sufficient importance to take a verbatim report of the annual meeting, and, with a few unimportant omissions, the same is presented to you. The manner in which the annual grant of \$900 (together with the \$500 voted for coops) is used by this association, and what value is given in return, is of the utmost importance to every one in Ontario, and also to every one in the Dominion, whether interested in poultry or not.—ED. POULTRY DEPT.]

The twenty-second annual meeting of the above association was held in the council chamber at Port Hope, on January 9th, 1896. The president, Henry White, occupied the chair. The following directors were present: William McNeil, London; Allan Bogue, London; D. C. Trew, Lindsay; Thomas Rice, Whitby; Charles Massie, Port Hope; Thomas J. Senior, Hamilton; G. S. Oldrieve, Kingston; Thomas A. Duff, Toronto; and Secretary Thomas A. Browne, and Treasurer George G. McCormick, London. There was a fair attendance of members.

The secretary read the minutes of the last annual meeting, and the minutes of the two meetings of directors. On the motion of Mr. Allan Bogue, seconded by Mr. W. J. Bell, these were confirmed.

The president then addressed the meeting as follows: As one of the members of the Port Hope Poultry Association, as well as president of this association, I take the greatest pleasure in welcoming you to this town. I feel that this exhibition coming here this year will have done a good deal of good, not only to the local association, but also to this particular section of the country, where there have been, I am sorry to say, but very few poultry exhibitions, and those not very successful ones. So far as this exhibition is concerned, I am sure you will agree with me as to its success.

There are three factors which have gone to make it such a success outside of the work of the local association. The first and most important one is the new coops. I think you will agree with me that no such single improvement has ever occurred in the history of the association as the purchase of the coops. They have added to the beauty of the show and the efficiency thereof, and have done away with the discomfort to exhibitors under the old system. Now, I would like to impress upon this meeting the obligation we are under towards the Hon. Mr. Dryden and the government, who voted a sufficient sum for the purchase of these wire coops. I think nothing they could have done in the shape of aiding this association could have been done with a better grace than was done. I trust, therefore, that before this meeting adjourns, something tangible will be placed on the records showing how much this association appreciates the kindness of the Ontario Government in this respect.

The next feature which I might point out as one of the great things which led to the success of this exhibition is the thorough work of the secretary of this association. No one knows better than one who has occupied the president's position, as I have done during the past year, how much this association is indebted to the energetic services of its secretary. I have never known of an institution that had a more efficient secretarial management than the Ontario Poultry Association of to-day. I would like very much, in this connection, for the association to consider whether, if the funds will allow of such a thing being done, it would not be advisable to increase Mr. Browne's salary. He has certainly done his work nobly, and I am satisfied that the remuneration which Mr. Browne is receiving from this association is in no way commensurate with the amount of work he has done and assumed.

I wish also to call attention to the efficiency of the superintendency work of this show, because I think that every exhibitor will allow that, so far as the superintendent's work has been done, it has been done willingly and lovingly by a man who has the interests of poultry at heart, and who has done everything to carry out the secretary's orders.