

Farmers' Clubs.

Dominion Farmers' Council.

[This Council meets on the third Thursday of every month at 2 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, W. A. Macdonald, London, Ont. The Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, also pamphlets containing a form of Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, which will, on application to the Secretary, be distributed free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

The regular monthly meeting of this Council was held on the 15th ult., President Leitch in the chair. This being also the annual meeting, officers were elected, and as various important matters relating to the future of the Council had to be discussed, there was no regular programme. All the officers were re-elected, -viz., President, D. Leitch; Vice-President, Henry Anderson; Treasurer, John Kennedy; Secretary, W. A. Macdonald.

AN AMALGAMATED CLUB ORGANIZED.

The Secretary read a communication from Mr. W. J. Biggins, secretary of the newly organized Granton Farmers' Club, stating that this club, consisting of 19 farmers in that locality, had been organized, and desired to be amalgamated with the Dominion Farmers' Council.

W. Weld stated that he was pleased to see that the first club was organized in one of the finest agricultural sections in the Province—the county of Huron. He was well acquainted with that section, and knew the farmers to be an intelligent, progressive and enthusiastic class of people. Mr. Biggins had one of the finest herds of Short-horns in the country, and was one of the oldest and most respected members of the agricultural society. In that section they had also a grand agricultural society. He wished the club success, and hoped that they and the Council would work harmoniously together for the interests of the farmers of the Dominion.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

D. Leitch, in thanking the Council for his unanimous re-election as their president, said he was satisfied with the progress of the Council, but regretted that his arduous duties prevented him from giving as much attention to the proceedings as he should, but he expected he would be able to devote more time to the Council in the future. Farmers must be convinced that more science or accurate knowledge was necessary in their profession in order to make it a success. If it was necessary to set aside one day in the week for rest and religious duties, surely no farmer ought to begrudge one day in the month for the discussion of such questions as would elevate him mentally, morally and professionally, especially when he had a grand opportunity for edifying and elevating his fellow farmers at the same time. We must place more reliance on our brain and less on our muscle; hence the necessity for organized effort for the purpose of gathering all the agricultural truths that were in command. Thanks to the liberality of Mr. Weld, the Council had the use of the best agricultural library in the Dominion, as well as the best agricultural journals in the world, and they should firmly grasp this opportunity for doing good to their fellow farmers and to themselves. With all these sources of knowledge at their command, and with members comprising the most practical and scientific talent which the country can afford, nothing was failing in the elements of success. He had recently attended Farmers' Institutes, and was surprised to

see the extent of the Council's popularity. He was introduced as President of the Dominion Farmers' Council, and in discussing the questions, he felt it his duty to do honor to the Council. These flattering marks of respect impelled him to greater earnestness and sincerity in the discharge of his duties as President of the Council, and he hoped for brighter prospects than ever.

THE VICE-PRESIDENT'S SPIRIT OF SELF-RELIANCE.

Henry Anderson, in thanking the Council for his re-election as Vice-President, said the Council had made a satisfactory beginning under the disadvantageous circumstances under which they had been working. The time for the discussions had been too limited, and no effort had been made to push matters. The growth had been slow but sure, and he believed slow and natural growth to be the basis of true prosperity. The farmers of our Dominion were sadly lacking in public spirit; they should be at the head of their country and their profession instead of at the tail. They possessed the necessary talent, but it lay dormant and needed waking up. If we, as a Council, did nothing but infuse some public spirit into them, we would accomplish a great deal; but in order to do so we must exhibit our own enthusiasm in the discharge of our duties. The spirit of self-reliance amongst farmers was too weak, and they should strengthen it by concentrating their energies. He felt that this Council, with the co-operation of amalgamated farmers' clubs, would yet become a power for good in the land.

DATE OF MEETING CHANGED.

Henry Anderson, having given notice at the previous meeting that he would move to change the date of meeting, made his motion to this effect. He said Saturday was not a convenient day for him to attend, having so many municipal matters to attend to. He was willing to spend a day specially for the meetings of the Council, and come to the city exclusively for that purpose. He felt that the time allotted to the discussions was too short, and that there was too great an irregularity in the attendance on account of members having so much private business to attend to on Saturday.

President Leitch said he would also rather spend a day exclusively for forwarding the interests of the Council. The work was getting heavier and required a longer time and more careful attention. During the summer months Saturday was also his busy day, as he had to attend the cheese markets, and could not therefore attend the meetings of the Council punctually.

After some discussion it was unanimously resolved that the date of meeting be changed to the third Thursday of each month.

REMARKS BY A NEW MEMBER.

Mr. John O'Brien, who had been proposed and seconded as a new member, said he was pleased at the proceedings of the Council, but he would never again join any secret organization where there was much time wasted in ceremony. He once joined the Grange, and did not like it for the reasons stated. Mr. Weld having explained that there was neither secrecy nor ceremony in connection with the Council, Mr. O'Brien expressed his pleasure in joining.

TESTING COWS BY FARMERS' CLUBS.

W. A. Macdonald drew the attention of the Council to the fact that no instructions or conditions had been prepared with reference to the lactoscopes to which amalga-

mated clubs were entitled. The money with which these instruments were purchased came out of the funds which were to be spent in the interests of agriculture, and this object could not be attained if the lactoscopes went into the hands of the clubs without the condition attached that reports of the tests be forwarded to the Council for publication. The question was discussed, but was postponed for further consideration.

GAS-LIME AS AN INSECTICIDE AND A FERTILIZER.

John O'Brien stated that he observed in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE under the reports of the proceedings of the Council that Jas. Fletcher, Government Entomologist, had made inquiries through the Council if any of the members had any experience with gas-lime as an insecticide or a fertilizer. He had made a number of experiments with gas-lime for both these purposes, and would like to give the results at the next meeting of the Council. The President thanked Mr. O'Brien for his kind offer, and said the Council would be delighted with a report of his experiments.

AGRICULTURAL EXPENDITURES.

In choosing a programme for next meeting, the above question was decided upon, and Henry Anderson was chosen to prepare a paper. It was held that this was a vital question at the present time, as several influential bodies were preparing to lobby the government for increased expenditures for agricultural purposes.

PASTURES IN THEIR RELATION TO DAIRYING.

At this juncture in the Council's proceedings several members left, there being nothing more on the programme. A few members remained, and a desultory discussion arose with reference to pasture in connection with dairying. President Leitch was asked to give his experience and present his views, to which he assented, and made the following remarks, taking for his text the following string of aphorisms: "All flesh is grass; grass is king, and he who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a benefactor to his country." He said farmers paid less attention to grasses and clovers than to any other crop. He would like to know why this should be so. When we looked upon the beautiful carpet of green which covered our fields and meadows and roadsides, and thought of its vast importance for those animals that administered to our wants, the great source of wealth it was to the country, and the barrenness and desolation that would ensue were it wholly or partially destroyed, as was sometimes the case in Australia and other semi-tropical countries, thousands of cattle perishing from famine and thirst, we would then begin to appreciate the importance of the question. It was, therefore, no wonder that some thoughtful people occasionally paid attention to these humble and lowly plants. It was only in recent times during which these plants began to be appreciated, and as yet only by the few. Look over the fence in the heat of summer and mark the bare fields where the cattle, horses and sheep graze; mark how gaunt they appear; how restless the cows were while the milk was being relentlessly drawn from their shrunken udders; and how mournful the matron looked while deploring the loss of the product with which she was to supply her household wants. These pictures were familiar to all, but how were we to paint them brighter? In order to commence at the right place, it was necessary to know what the plants fed on, how to supply their needs, and all their other peculiarities; how to prepare the soil for the reception of the seed, and how the varieties should be grouped together in order to have a succession of growths during the entire season. For a permanent pasture the preparation must be ample and complete in order to realize an abundant return for the labor expended. For most grasses, the best soil was a clay loam, but the soil should be thoroughly

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