

Nova Scotia Farmers' Association.

The eighth annual convention of the Nova Scotia Farmers' Association was held in Truro on February 2nd, 3rd and 4th, 1904. President S. J. Moore, of Shubenacadie, occupied the chair, and an interesting and instructive programme was carried out. In former years too many papers have been put on, and not sufficient time given for discussion, thus losing one of the most valuable parts of such a convention as this. In this year's programme fewer papers have been put on, not more than one or two in each session, and the lively manner in which the members availed themselves of the privilege to ask questions or take part in discussion demonstrated the wisdom of the change.

In his opening address, President Moore called attention to the great increase in the number and membership of our agricultural societies, the organization of county farmers' associations, and stated that Nova Scotia is now properly organized for the carrying on of Farmers' Institute work, the establishment of an agricultural college in Nova Scotia, the short courses in agriculture and animal husbandry, and the good work done during the past season by the travelling dairy.

A resolution of sympathy with our pioneer agricultural worker, Col. Wm. M. Blair, who is confined to his bed by injuries received by being thrown from his sleigh, was passed unanimously.

Prof. Sears' paper on "How to make the farm home attractive," was both interesting and instructive. He believed Nova Scotia had more really beautiful farm homes than any other country he had ever been in, and recommended having an open lawn in front of the house. Do not have any trees on the lawn, but around the lawn set out hard maples, elms and some shrubs of different varieties. Do not overdo the planting of trees; plant the largest and strongest at the back.

The discussion on Prof. Sears' paper brought out many valuable hints, such as having constant supply of water in the kitchen, painting or whitewashing the outbuildings, the providing of sufficient and suitable reading matter, music and means of recreation. One member said that if we can make the farm home attractive to the boys, so as to keep a larger percentage of the boys on the farm, we will have solved one of the hardest problems in farm life. We should use the boys right; give them an interest in things; give the boy a calf, and don't let it be the boy's calf and the father's cow, but deal honestly with the boy. The man who is the most successful is not the man who makes the most money, but the one who gets the most happiness out of life.

The afternoon sessions of the convention were held in the live-stock pavilion at the Provincial Farm, where the short course in animal husbandry is being conducted under Dr. J. H. Reed and Prof. M. Cumming, of the O.A.C. On Tuesday afternoon Dr. Reed spoke on draft horses, using three Clydesdale brood mares as illustration. The students and members of the convention were asked to examine and judge the mares, and give reasons for placing one ahead of another; after that Dr. Reed placed the mares and gave his reasons for doing so, and criticised the placing and opinions of the students. The course in animal husbandry seems to us to be a splendid training for any young farmer, giving him in two or three weeks what would take him years to learn at home.

On Tuesday evening Mayor Lawrence, in a few well-chosen words, welcomed the association to Truro, and Vice-Pres. Col. S. Spurr responded.

Professor Cumming gave an address upon beef cattle, which, together with the discussion which followed, was very instructive, and many valuable hints were given regarding certain kinds of feeds, and points in caring for and attending to beef cattle. In answer to an inquiry, Prof. Cumming said that the special "stock foods" that are put upon the market are all good, but they are largely composed of flaxseed meal, and are too expensive.

Most of the Wednesday morning session was taken up with discussing the directors' report and the financial statement, and the report of the exhibition commissioners.

Wednesday afternoon and evening were spent at the pavilion. Dr. Reed gave a lecture on Hackney or carriage horses, emphasizing the fact that style and action count for more in a carriage horse than in any other horse. We can sacrifice style for action to some extent, but we want both. One of the horses shown as an illustration of this lecture was a beautiful, stylish little bay mare, driven by her owner, a lady.

Prof. Cumming gave a lecture on the current type of beef and dairy animals, showing some good and fair representations of each, emphasizing the fact that the valuable part of a dairy cow is the milk and butter she will produce, hence we want a dairy cow well developed in the udder and in the region of the udder.

The evening session was devoted to a lecture on soundness and unsoundness in horses by Dr. Reed. After this lecture the association was en-

tertained at supper by the Town of Truro, in a royal good manner, after which wit and humor and some good sound common sense flowed glibly for an hour or two.

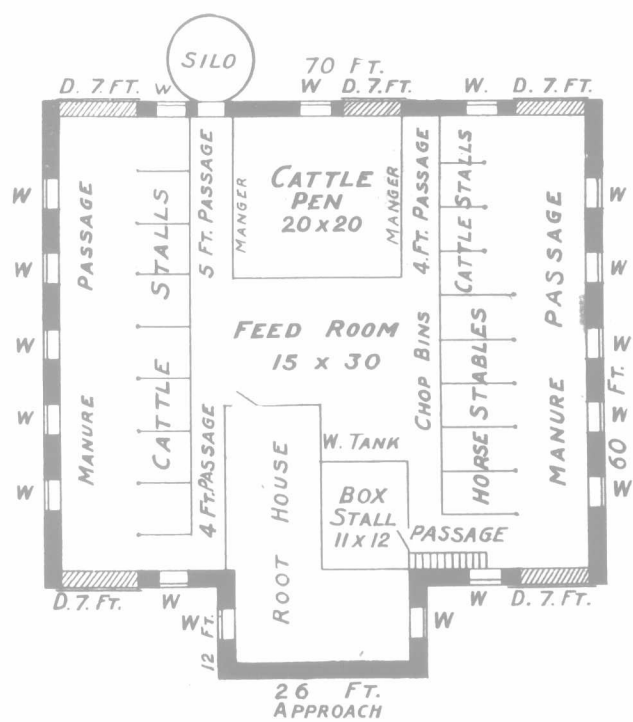
The following officers were elected: President, Colonel S. Spurr, Melvern Square; 1st Vice-pres., P. C. Black, Falmouth; 2nd Vice-pres., C. A. Hill, Truro. Directors—Edward Harris, Pictou; John Donaldson, Port Williams; D. R. Nicolson, Cape Breton; F. Miles Chipman, Nicteau, and Hugh Frazer, Elmsdale. Secretary, C. R. B. Bryan, Durham. Auditors—C. O. Allen and M. G. DeWolf. Exhibition Commissioners—J. R. Wyman and David Logan.

Plan of Square Barn.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—Below is a plan of stables which I have used on a modified scale for the past two years, and found very convenient.

The almost square form has several advantages—more floor space for length of wall, greater height of roof—but most important of all, it lends itself more readily to the central feed-room idea, which a glance at the plan will show is economy of labor in feeding. In addition to the 17 windows marked on plan, one can be placed above each door, and one cannot have too much light. The manure can be taken out daily and spread on fields, as life is too short and manure too valuable to handle in the old way.



A fairly good system of ventilation can be obtained by placing two rows of four-inch tile beneath the floor in front of the mangers, with pipes at intervals to conduct it above the floor, and a wooden pipe one foot square running from the ceiling of the stable to the roof. The 20x20 cattle pen can be used as one pen, or divided into two, three or four pens by gates hung to the central post and fastened at manger. For the upper structure the wall posts should be 24 feet in length, to give a barn of this width a proper appearance. A handy contrivance for the doors is to hang them to open inward, which can be done by using another crosspiece at bottom, cutting off about 18 inches and hinging it on with four small hinges to open over the sloping floor above root-house. Doors can be handled with ease in this way on the windiest day.

Huron Co.

J. M. K.

A Simple Farm Account.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—If you judge it would be of value, you can give the accompanying explanation of keeping farm accounts a place in your valuable paper. I have used it for years, and find it very satisfactory. It is a very simple mode of keeping track of a small business—just keeping a column for receipts and expenditures.

Time.	Rec.	Exp.
1904.		
Jan. 1 For mending stove	\$1 00	
14 A pair clippers		\$1 75
27 Logs		5 53
28 Cow, \$34 rec. to be paid for Feb. 26th.		
30 Sow, \$18 exp. to be paid for March 9th.		

Unsettled business is only booked, and not carried into the column to which it belongs. When settled, then the date of settling is marked down, and it is entered. Have also kept a diary as well of what is doing and where I am, so it works well in conjunction with the other—the diary in front and the account in the back. Reverse the book, and write from the back in toward the middle, finishing without waste, T.C.

DAIRY.

Creamery Temperature.

Mr. F. A. Knowlton, travelling inspector, who made numerous tests during the past season of the temperature of butter at the creameries and as delivered to the refrigerator cars, reports that the lowest temperature he found was 33 degrees on two occasions, one lot being from the West Sheffield creamery and the other from the Compton Model Farm creamery. The highest temperature was 64 degrees, and the average of fifty lots was nearly 49 degrees. Is it any wonder that our butter lacks uniformity? Mr. M. B. Longeway, who is refrigerator car inspector at Montreal, examined 400 cars and contents, as they were opened in railway yards. He reports the temperature of butter as varying from 46 up to 58, and in a few cases as high as 60. On the whole the refrigerator cars prevented the temperature from rising to any extent. In fact, in testing some boxes it was found that the butter was colder at the outside than it was at the center of the package, showing that the temperature was even being lowered. The refrigerator car service is capable of being improved, but it is better now than what the creameries provide for themselves. To prove that it is possible for creameries to maintain a lower temperature, I need only quote the record made at the Sherbrooke creamery from July 20th to 28th, when a thermograph placed in the refrigerator showed a temperature varying from 32 to 36 degrees.

Let every creamery owner give this matter his earnest attention during the coming season. If he finds that with proper management the temperature of his refrigerator cannot be kept down to 36-38 degrees, or lower, the insulation should be improved until it can be.

W. A. CLEMONS.

[Note.—Will creamery men who have succeeded in controlling the temperature as suggested, write us, describing concisely how it can be done as economically as is consistent with efficiency?—Editor.]

West India Market.

Reports received by the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, indicate that Canadian cheese and butter are growing in favor in the British West India Islands—Trinidad, Jamaica, St. Kitts, Nevis and Virgin. The trade can be largely increased if exporters will but comply with the necessary conditions, which are fully set forth in weekly report No. 1, copies of which can be obtained from the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, on application. The dairy products of the United States, Denmark and France are in the field as competitors, but the agents say that Canada has a splendid chance to develop business there.

APIARY.

Beekeeping a Business.

By Morley Pettit.

This is the Apiary Department. An apiary is a place where bees are kept. Why are bees kept? For the honey they produce from the nectar of flowers. The writer has undertaken to give the readers of the "Farmer's Advocate" something helpful every week on the production or sale of honey. We often hear that bees are an interesting study. They certainly are, and the more we study the more interesting they become—and the more profitable. There's the point. While few succeed in a distasteful occupation, not many are in business for reasons other than the desire for board, clothes and extras.

The difficulty with beekeeping is that it is not taken seriously enough. The idea is held and taught by all except the few who know differently, that bees are no trouble at all, and everyone should have a few in the garden. What is the result? The honey market is in the condition in which the butter market was a few years ago—crowded with inferior goods put up in miserable shape. Those who see honey at our leading exhibitions, and then contrast it with what is taken in "trade" and sold by dealers generally, will appreciate.

Progressive beekeepers welcome others to their ranks, if these new men give promise of being equally progressive. Those entering upon any new undertaking must carefully count the cost, else they fail. The financial expense in this case is practically nothing, and after the first cost the bees should, of course, pay their way or get out. Then there is the pasture. Twenty-five colonies to the square mile is probably the outside limit for average localities in Ontario in average years. Now, consider carefully that the heavy work in beekeeping comes at precisely the same time of year and day as in general farming. If the farmer or his son can spare time to produce a number one grade of honey he will be well repaid; if not, he had better let bees alone.