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Agriculturists Spent Very Busy Day Yesterday Dealing With Many Important Matters

Expert from Ottawa Gives Much Valuable Information Regarding the Use of Fertilizers—Potato Culture Also Dealt With, as Was Breeding and Feeding of Dairy Cattle.

A delegation from Carleton County composed of C. Smith, N. T. Phillips, C. Gordon Sharp and Thomas Colwell appeared before the Farmers and Dairyman's Association yesterday afternoon and urged the delegates to join the New Brunswick United Farmers' Association, which has lately been formed in that county.

Charles L. Smith, of Woodstock, spoke on the benefits of organization among the farmers of the Maritime Provinces and urged a stronger bond for business and social advantages. He stated that a movement to start a united farmers association had been launched in Carleton.

Mr. N. T. Phillips, of Carleton County pointed out that the movement would not clash with the Farmers' and Dairyman's Association. He referred to the fact that the manufacturing and commercial interests were united and it was time that the farmers would do the same. The new organization launched in Carleton County was to be known as the N. B. Farmers' Union. He thought that life membership in the Senate should be abolished and that branch of parliament should be an elective body. The farmers, by uniting, could, he said, bring this and other reforms about. He hoped the farmers would line up together like those of Alberta and other provinces in western Canada.

C. Gordon Sharp explained the constitution of the proposed united organization which, he said, would be affiliated with all similar organizations in New Brunswick. Branches of the organization may be started in every school district where ten farmers can be got together, then there was a central organization. Later, there might be established in connection with the association, a farmers co-operative grange company, for handling the production of the farm and bringing the farmer more into direct contact with the consumer. He suggested that the delegates, from the different counties would start an organization.

The delegation from Carleton County received a vote of thanks in appreciation of the information supplied by them.

Professor Emale, of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, spoke on "Fertilizers and Facts for Fertilizers." His address was of a technical nature and he gave much valuable information regarding the different kinds and uses of chemical fertilizers and how to use them. Fertilizer should not, he said, be looked upon as a labor saving device, as it was necessary to cultivate the land thoroughly as well as using it. It could not take the place of manure, which should also be used. The climate of New Brunswick, he stated, was much more favorable for growing potatoes than Ontario. While fertilizer costs more here than in Ottawa, it would give much better results. He spoke favorably of wood ashes, which he said, in itself produces such good potatoes as was generally supposed. He stated that potash, 60 pounds to the acre, gave good results, but different results had been produced in different localities and it would have to be worked out as applied to these localities.

Mr. Emale said that an acid soil was supposed to be more or less immune from scab and that lime compound might encourage scab. The soil, but wood ashes could be successfully used in many cases. It was claimed, he said, by some authorities that the use of lime increased the size of potatoes, but it was not always a safe thing to use. The ground lime was the safest form to use. The use of gypsum was found to prevent the scab, although some authorities claimed otherwise. Sulfur was also claimed by many to be beneficial. He advocated the use of super-phosphate for potatoes.

The earlier varieties of potatoes will, according to Emale, respond to a heavier application of fertilizer than the later varieties. The growth in the early stages of a plant might well be encouraged by fertilizer. At the conclusion of his address, Prof. Emale answered several questions put to him by the delegates.

J. R. Brownlee, Dominion Plant Inspector, reported on test plots for potatoes, which had been set out in Fredericton, and at other places in New Brunswick during the past year. His report was very interesting. He said as follows:

"During the last two years we have conducted Strain Test Plots in different parts of the province. The varieties of potatoes used in these tests were Green Mountains and Irish Cobbiers. The object of these strain test plots has been to determine as far as possible the difference in the yielding qualities of the different strains of the same variety of potato.

Last season we conducted 9 strain test plots in the province. At these tests were 225 different strains of Green Mountains and Cobbiers were tested under the same conditions as near as possible at each plot. Some 200 different strains of Green Mountains and Cobbiers were also planted at the Experimental Farm at Fredericton. Notes were taken on the test plots during the season, to determine the percentage of disease present and also to determine the percentage of foreign varieties. Some of the strains showed a very large percentage of diseased plants, a large percentage of weak and stunted plants and also a large percentage of foreign varieties, while other strains were comparatively healthy, vigorous, pure stock. In each of the different strains were dug and weighed separately. The result of this test showed a very marked difference in the yield of different strains of some varieties. The strains that were the freest from disease and the most vigorous when growing, yielded the best results.

The report shows the results obtained from potatoes grown in different sections as follows:

Fredericton Leads.

The highest yield obtained from Cobbiers at the Experimental Farm, Fredericton, was 225 bushels per acre and the lowest 148 bushels of Green Mountains, largest yield 291 bushels, smallest 113 bushels. From Farmers' Union highest 427 bushels to the acre, lowest 302 bushels; Green Mountains, highest 291 bushels to the acre, lowest 182 bushels to the acre. Other results showed:

Harvard Highest Yield. Cobbiers 474 bushels; lowest 271 bushels. Green Mountains, highest 350 bushels, lowest 209 bushels.

Florenceville—Green Mountains. Highest 285 bushels; lowest 187 bushels. Green Mountains, highest 256 bushels, lowest 230 bushels.

Scott Lake—Delawares. Highest 269 bushels; lowest 254 bushels.

St. Hubert—Green Mountains. Highest 258 bushels, lowest 157 bushels. Green Mountains, highest 258 bushels; lowest 71 bushels.

Chatham—Cobbiers. Highest yield 258 bushels per acre; lowest 215 bushels.

St. Hubert—Green Mountains. Highest 258 bushels per acre; lowest 113 bushels.

Fredericton Junction—Green Mountains. Highest 318 bushels per acre; lowest 143 bushels.

Control of Diseases.

One of the most important problems that we have to deal with in the potato industry today is the control of diseases. There are two or three diseases that are controlled to a very great extent by spraying Bordeaux mixture, such as late blight, early blight and tip burn. The most prevalent of these is late blight or rot. This disease can be controlled to a very great extent by spraying with Bordeaux. But there are other diseases which reduce the yield a great deal, such as mosaic, leaf roll and black leg.

These diseases cannot be controlled by spraying but can be controlled to a very great extent by hill selection. What I mean by hill selection is select a number of healthy hills from your field or part of your field for the planting of a seed pit each year.

Seed Selection.

Stake out 1,000 of the largest and most vigorous plants in your fields. The number of hills to be selected should be about the time the blossom is going off the plants. By this time any disease that is likely to occur will have developed and be easily distinguished, thereby enabling you to select perfectly healthy plants.

Demand for N. B. Seed Potatoes.

"At the present time there is a big demand for New Brunswick seed potatoes in Ontario and the price that can be realized for the right kind of seed stock is from 10 per cent. to 25 per cent. more than for commercial stock. The seed stock that is in demand in Ontario today is stock from fields which have been inspected when growing and were found comparatively free from disease and have no foreign varieties. The stock from such fields inspected after it is dug and stored, and if found free from scab and rot, and of good quality our department at Fredericton will issue a certificate to this effect to the grower, thus enabling him to dispose of his stock for seed purposes. The New Brunswick Potato Growers' Association will also furnish growers with labels to attach to each bag or container certifying that the stock has been inspected and by whom it has been grown. Some of the farmers in the province are taking advantage of this and are being amply repaid for any additional labor expended in this direction. I am glad to say that a number of farmers in the province today are doing seed selection and aiming at growing a quality of seed potatoes that they deserve to be proud of. Yet the percentage of farmers that are doing this is very small in comparison to what it should be. Before you dig your field of potatoes go through and dig out this 1,000 hills that you have selected by hand, taking only the largest yielding hills say hills that give you 7 or more merchantable potatoes. We will say, for instance, that you take 600 of the largest yielding hills out of the 1,000. This 600 hills should give you at least 15 bushels. Now this 15 bushels of potatoes will be stored separate and used to plant your seed pit next year. When planting time comes pick this 15 bushels over and select say 7 bushels of the best for your seed pit. Select only the tubers that are clean, smooth, free from cuts and bruises, of medium size and true to type. This seven bushels should plant a seed pit of 1/2 an acre. Now the seed for this pit has been selected from healthy

TODAY'S PROGRAMME.

Thursday, March 14th.

9.30 a. m.—General Discussion.
 "Greater Production," W. R. Reek, Secretary for Agriculture for N. B.
 Report of Resolutions Committee.
 Provincial Seed Fair in Normal School Gymnasium.
 1.30 p. m.—Visit to Dominion Experimental Station.
 8 p. m.—Addresses by J. H. Grisdale, Director Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa; W. W. Hubbard, Supt. Dominion Experimental Station, Fredericton.

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