

have been sold from "Thistle Ha"—\$5 of which were Cotswolds, the remainder Shropshires. At the present time the flock consists of ninety yearling ewes, ten aged ewes, and ten rams; all of the ewes are believed to be in lamb to the imported ram Director, or the grand lamb Spearman, which has been shown six times in England, and ten times in Canada, and has never been beaten. The Shropshires here are a grand lot.

Hog breeding has also received much attention in the past, and a great many very valuable animals have been imported and bred. At the present time a lot of good Berkshires may be seen, but for some years past they have not been recorded, though their breeding and quality is good. In this short sketch we have only mentioned a few of the many animals in each class that Mr. Miller has owned; to go fully into details would occupy a whole volume. Those who wish to know more must pay "Thistle Ha" a personal visit, and will be well repaid for their trouble.

The integrity and good judgment possessed by Mr. Miller is well known to the stock-raising public. The fact that an animal is descended from importations made by this gentleman, always proves much in its favor when it comes to be sold, thus testifying to the confidence which both the American and Canadian repose in Ontario's veteran importer and breeder, who is ably seconded by his son, Mr. Robert Miller, jr., who is fast becoming, and deservedly so, one of the most popular and respected importers and breeders.

Agricultural and Arts Association.

PRIZE ESSAYS—FARM PRIZES.

A meeting of the council of the above association was held on Thursday, Dec. 27th, at two o'clock, in the Board Room of the Agricultural Hall, corner of Yonge and Queen streets, Toronto. After the reading of the minutes, the Secretary presented the statement of the finances in connection with the Provincial Exhibition, held at Kingston last September, and a shortage of \$3,674.24 was shown to exist. Mr. J. J. Habron, of Mossborough, was appointed auditor. Messrs. Rykert, Rowand, Morgan and the Secretary were appointed a committee to wait upon the Dominion Minister of Agriculture to request him to give the Dominion grant in aid of the Provincial Exhibition to be held at London in 1889.

A motion was unanimously passed, repudiating all knowledge of or connection with any violation of the law by the sale of liquor on the fair grounds at Kingston during the late show.

It was resolved, in view of the scarcity of feed and cattle in many sections of the province, to hold no fat stock show this year.

The Finance Committee's report was received and passed. It recommended that the Legislature be requested to provide for the following sums for the association for the ensuing year: Prize farms, \$450; council expenses, \$750; essays, \$350; salaries, \$1,500; postage expenses, \$400; printing, \$1,000; educational scheme, \$600; fat stock show, \$800; veterinary college, \$150; exhibition, \$4,000; total, \$10,000.

The Committee on Herd Books recommended that the third volume of the Clydesdale Stud book be issued at once; and as soon after its issue as possible the first volume of the Shire and Draught Horse Stud book be also printed.

The recommendation was received and adopted.

Prizes will be awarded for the best essays on the following subjects: 1st. The cultivation of green crops for soiling and ensilage, and their value in farm operations, first prize, \$30.00; second prize, \$20.00. 2nd. The advantages of rotation of crops as compared with the evil of over-cropping, first prize, \$30.00; second prize, \$20.00.

Prizes will be awarded for the best managed farms in group No. 3, comprising the following Electoral District Societies: Huron's, 3; Dufferin, 1; Bruce's, 2; Wellington's, 3; Grey's, 3; Perth's, 2. Any farmer working one hundred acres may compete, and must make his application in writing to the Secretary of the agricultural society of his district on or before the first day of May in each year.

Full particulars will be furnished on application to Mr. Henry Wade, Secretary of the Agricultural and Arts Association, Toronto.

Farmers' Clubs.

Dominion Farmers' Council.

[The Dominion Farmers' Council meets in the city of London, Ont., on the third Thursday of every month, at 1 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, F. W. HODSON, LONDON, ONT. This Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, objects, etc.; Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, and notes on how to organize a club. These will, on application to the Secretary, be sent free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

The Council met at 1.30 p. m. President Anderson in the chair.

After routine it was decided to comply with the request of Mr. McGregor, of Appin, to send a delegate to give an address on the occasion of their organization of a Farmers' Club.

Mr. W. L. Brown, of London, then read the following paper:

THE FARMER'S GARDEN.

It is a matter of surprise that farmers in this country pay so little attention to the cultivation of a vegetable garden.

In travelling through different parts of Ontario, and by careful observation, I have found that not one farmer in a hundred has anything approaching a rotation of vegetables—say from the early part of May through the successive months of summer and fall. The average farmer's garden consists of only two or three varieties, instead of fifteen or twenty, and these few kinds generally come in a month or six weeks later than market gardeners around towns and cities. At a very small outlay every farmer could have a succession of vegetables from May until May again. In the first place, an acre or so of ground should be devoted to vegetables; this plot of land should be thoroughly manured, drained, and kept in first class trim, with regard to cultivation and the eradication of weeds. This spot should receive from eight to ten cords of well rotted manure each year, with all the hard wood ashes that could be obtained. Never change your garden plot. The land should be manured in the fall if possible, and the dung plowed in. This will give a chance for the nutritive elements to be thoroughly incorporated with the soil, and plant food be made available. When this land has been got into proper tilth, the whole succession of garden vegetables may be put in with the same ease as is a field of roots or corn. Lettuce, early peas, spinach, parsnips, early carrots, onions, early turnips, radishes, beets, etc., may be put in with the same drill that puts in the mangel crop. Then early peas and beans, by taking out every other tube in a grain drill can be planted with no more trouble than putting in acres of grain. Early corn and squashes may be as expeditiously sown by taking out two tubes in the drill. One man and a team of horses with the proper implements mentioned could easily plant the vegetables in a day. But

we have to go further in this acre plot. Every farmer should have cabbages and tomatoes, and these can be put in with a plow; let furrows be struck out three feet apart and drop the tomato plants every four feet, and cabbages every two feet—say angling at 45 degrees—then throw the furrow back on the plants, and this is all the covering they need. A tomato plant grows better by being placed at an angle in transplanting. In England, acres of cabbages are grown for cow feed by plowing down the plants, as I have previously stated. Little attention has been paid to this branch of farming, and, mainly through the mistaken idea that raising vegetables cost too much labor—too much hoeing—when in reality, all the work could be done by horses and machinery. With one horse and a cultivator, a few hours in the evening, would keep the patch clean.

If this acre of land were measured in its productiveness, it would exceed in profit more than any ten acres devoted to anything else. An acre of ground, with seasonable vegetables, would be the mainstay of a farmer's living, and the other ninety-nine acres could be applied to profitable grain, stock and fruit-raising. The quantity that can be raised on an acre of fertile land is something prodigious, and, not only could the farmer feed a large family from this source, but he might make profitable sales of the surplus in our central market. Especially where near a canning and pickling establishment, he would have ready sale for his green corn, tomatoes, green beans, peas, cauliflowers, cucumbers, etc.

In the different New England States, at the present time, but for their canning factories the farmers there could not live, as the majority of their farms have ceased to yield a profitable return in grain and stock. And now, they are buying Canadian ashes and superphosphates—keeping up the fertility of their soil at our expense, and making productive farms out of impoverished soil by going into "truck farming" as they call it—raising vegetables and fruit, selling in local markets and to canning factories. This latter phase of the subject is merely showing the possibilities of this branch of rural industry as a profitable investment, rather than that a good vegetable garden is a necessity in itself to every family.

In a hygienic point of view the different courses or rotations of vegetables, that may be raised at such a small outlay of capital and labor by every farmer, contain the medicinal virtues of the whole vegetable pharmacopœia. With a proper vegetable diet with animal food, our Canadian farmers should be the perfection of health, and of manly and womanly vigor. But there is no country under the sun where a rural population take more quack nostrums, in the shape of pills and bitters, than farmers and their families right here in this London district. And why? Because too much white bread and fat pork is eaten, too many sweet cakes and pies, and not enough vegetables, brown bread, fresh meat and fish. If a man leading a sedentary life, as in our towns and cities, lived on as few vegetables as farmers they would not live out half their days. In the whole garden vegetables you may find they contain some medicinal principle which has a special action on some organ of the body—that is, besides being a wholesome food. Carrots and parsnips have a powerful influence on the kidneys, so has spinach and lettuce, besides being tonic and laxative. Celery is a powerful nerve, whilst onions act similarly, also producing good effects on the pulmonary organs. Tomatoes act mechanically on the bowels, and their acid chemically on the liver. If ladies would take a liberal diet of carrots and parsnips two or three times a week, they would have a complexion like a rose and as clear as marble. There is a strong sentiment setting in in scientific circles in favor of a more liberal vegetable diet, and I am fully persuaded that if farmers would confine their diet to seasonable vegetables, with more fresh meat, a great number of years would be added to their lives—not only farmers, but all other classes of society. There is no reason why Ontario farmers should not live on the fat of the land, and have everything that heart can desire, by a little effort in cultivating vegetables and fruit. But how often is it the case that we find men with one hundred and two