

### Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute.

The annual meeting of the Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute was held in the City Hall, Brandon, on the evening of Wednesday, July 20th, the president, Mr. James Elder, of Virden, in the chair, Wm. Thompson, acting secretary. The following delegates presented credentials:—

Wm. McDonald and James Elder, Dennis No. 1; Geo. H. Greig, Cartier; Wm. Shannon, Killarney No. 2; John S. McKay, Minnedosa No. 2; Chas. A. Freeman, Dennis No. 2; Adam Dunlop, Killarney; R. S. Preston, Mountain; S. A. Bedford, T. M. Percival and R. E. A. Leech, Brandon; Rev. F. R. Hale, Minnedosa No. 1; James Downie, Wawanessa; J. S. Thomson, Melita; John Hunter, Lansdowne; Thos. Sissons and R. Waugh, Portage la Prairie and Lakeside; James Fleming, Whitewater; John Sharman, Souris, and Joseph Baril, Morris. A large number of others were in attendance. President Elder addressed the gathering, reviewing the actions of the Executive during the past year, and the work done by the organization. For the Executive Committee the following report was submitted:—

1st. At the request of the Central Institute, Professor Saunders, Director of the Dominion Experimental Farms, has inaugurated a series of experiments with superphosphate and other manures, with a view to hastening the ripening of grain. Tests along this line are now in progress, under the direction of Mr. S. A. Bedford, at the Experimental Farm, Brandon.

2nd. Representatives from this Institute were courteously received by the Winnipeg Grain Exchange, and shared in the work of adjusting the grain standards for the past year.

3rd. The Manitoba Government, at the last session of the Legislature, placed the sum of \$1,500 in the estimates for the promotion of Institute work. As the act now stands, 25 per cent of the appropriation may be used for the purposes of the Central Institute.

4th. Through the kindness of Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, his assistant, Mr. J. C. Chapais, addressed a series of institute meetings in the months of February and March last. A number of local institute meetings were also addressed by Mr. J. W. Bartlett, late Secy-Treas. of this Institute, and Chief Clerk in the Department of Agriculture, and by Mr. S. A. Bedford, Supt. of the Brandon Experimental Farm; Mr. Richard Waugh and Mr. Wm. Thompson, of Winnipeg. By consent of the local institute, Mr. Thomson, acting secretary, arranged the annual June meetings in five series, which, as a rule, proved very successful, the speakers furnished being, Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, his assistant, Mr. Robt. Cornett, Mr. Jas. Elder, President of the Central Institute, Mr. S. A. Bedford, Mr. Waugh, and the Secretary. These meetings closed with a general gathering at Portage la Prairie on June 29th, where a large number of addresses were delivered, and papers read, which with a report of the discussions, a copy of the Farmers' Institute Act, and a draft of by-laws for local institutes, etc., will shortly be issued by the Department of Agriculture as a bulletin to the entire membership of all the institutes throughout the province, which, it is hoped, will prove valuable for the practical information contained relating to agriculture and as a work of reference on Institute work.

5th. At the request of the Brandon City Institute, a resolution unanimously adopted by that body, asking the Dominion Government to remove the duty from binder twine, was brought before the attention of the other institutes. Similar resolutions were adopted by several, and in no case was any resolution of an adverse nature reported. The results were reported back to the Secretary of the Brandon City Institute, with the suggestion that the matter be brought before the Federal authorities through the local representatives at Ottawa.

6th. One series of institute meetings, arranged by the late Secretary for Southern Manitoba, was not carried out in consequence of snow blockades on the railways. This occurred also through bad roads in connection with annual meetings arranged for.

7th. There are at present 19 local institutes in regularly organized existence at the following places:—St. Jean Baptiste, Rapid City, Brandon, Elkhorn, Virden, Gladstone, Birtle, Killarney, Nings, Whitewater, Crystal City, Baldur, Melita, Souris, Wawanessa, Oak Point, Ninerville, Portage la Prairie and Bradwardine. Shoal Lake failed to reorganize a year ago. Stonewall and Carman institutes have ceased to exist, and this year Minnedosa reports "no quorum" at the annual meeting. The organization of a new institute at Glenboro is gazetted. Steps should be taken to revive dormant institutes.

8th. We regret to report the death of Mr. J. W. Bartlett, late Secretary of the Central Institute, who was most indefatigable in his efforts towards the organization and work of the Central Institute. Report adopted.

On motion of Mr. Bedford, seconded by Mr. Leech, the action of the President in appointing Mr. Thompson acting Secretary, was unanimously endorsed, and on motion of Messrs. Bedford and Percival he was tendered a hearty vote of thanks for his services, and that he be suitably remunerated therefor.

Rev. F. R. Hale, Auditor, submitted the financial statement, which was adopted.

Officers were elected as follows:— President, James Elder, Virden; Vice-President, S. A. Bedford, Brandon; Secretary-Treasurer, R. E. A. Leech, Brandon; Auditors, T. M. Percival, Brandon, and John Sharman, of Souris. Directors—C. A. Freeman, Elkhorn; Thos. Sissons, Portage la Prairie; Rev. F. R. Hale, Minnedosa; R. S. Preston, Pilot Mound; James Fleming, Whitewater; and Geo. H. Greig, Otterbourne.

Rev. Mr. Hale moved, seconded by Mr. Thomson, that three members of the Executive constitute a quorum. Carried.

Mr. Bedford reported little apparent benefit from the application of superphosphate, perhaps in consequence of the continued subsequent dry weather. Barnyard manure showed very marked effects in hastening the heading out, fresh manure showing slightly better results than rotted.

Mr. Leech reported that the Brandon Institute had taken vigorous steps to eradicate French weed which had made its appearance in the locality. Samples had been put up in cases at various points, and a warning circular posted up.

A resolution by Rev. Mr. Hale, handed in from the Executive Committee, asking the local government for an independent grant for Central institute purposes to be controlled directly by that body, was discussed, and a motion to that effect by Messrs. Fleming and Percival passed, the specific amount sought to be left with the Executive.

Mr. Dunlop moved that each delegate be furnished with a copy of the auditors' report. No seconder.

The following resolutions by Mr. Chas. Braithwait recommended for adoption by the Executive Committee, was discussed:

That whereas, the Dominion Government having wisely amended the Grain Standards Act, making the members appointees of His Honor the Governor-in-Council, instead of the Boards of Trade, therefore, be it resolved that some action be taken by the Institute with a view of having farmers placed on the Board.

On motion of Messrs. Bedford and Preston the motion was adopted.

Mr. Thomson, of Melita, and Mr. Donald, of Melita, were opposed to the grading system, it being against the farmers' interests.

On motion of Mr. Fleming that question will be brought before the attention of the local institutes.

Mr. Thomson moved, and Mr. McKay seconded, that the C. P. R. be asked to abolish the elevator monopoly. Carried.

Mr. Thomson also moved, seconded by Mr. McDonald, that the local government take into

consideration the desirability of manufacturing binder twine by prison labor. Carried.

Mr. Bedford and Percival, that the government be asked to change the date of holding the local institute annual meeting from June to December. Carried.

### ST. JEAN BAPTISTE.

Morris E. D. Farmers' Institute meeting, at St. Jean Baptiste, elected the following officers:— P. R. Pelletier (re-elected), President; Onesime Borcelean, Vice-President; Joseph Baril (re-elected), Secretary-Treasurer. Ant. Lavallie, E. Marion, J. B. Fillion, Oct. Baril, T. Ricard, Ig. Plamondon, Directors; Theo. Thebaud, Nap. Comeault, Auditors; Delegate to Central Institute, Joseph Baril.

### Freeman's Fertilizers.

Mr. W. A. Freeman, Hamilton, Ont., four years ago became interested in the manufacture of bone fertilizers. His attention was drawn to this industry by the large export business which has been carried on by several firms in Canada and the United States, which are now, and have been for many years, buying up and shipping to the United States all the bones and blood and animal matter they could induce Canadians to sell. So strong is the American demand for these commodities that money invested in bones or animal matter in Ontario is as safe and more remunerative than if invested in the best commercial stocks obtainable. Mr. Freeman reasoned that if these substances were profitable when used by American farmers, they were likewise useful and profitable to Canadians. He, therefore, determined to make a study of the subject. The more he investigated the more pronounced was his faith. Eventually he erected in Hamilton a splendid building which he equipped with the best machinery obtainable. The cost of the building and machinery when ready for work was \$30,000. The fertilizers manufactured by him are all of the higher grade, and are made entirely from the blood, bones and flesh of animals, in the conversion of which the greatest care is exercised so that there be no loss of the most valuable, because most soluble, constituents, but all is so treated that the largest possible amount of fertilizing material becomes at once available for plant food.

A few days ago one of our staff went carefully over Mr. Freeman's factory, and found it a most complete and well managed institution. Mr. Freeman is a man of very good business ability, and strictly honorable. Heretofore in Canada the fertilizer business has been injured by the careless business habits, or the downright dishonesty of the salesmen. Mr. Freeman is nothing of the fakir, nor is he over enthusiastic, but a careful, honorable man, and is entitled to the respect and confidence of the public. Even his letter files, his desks, the fittings of his office and factory proclaim on every hand progressiveness, exactness, and a determination to be content with nothing but the best results. The different brands manufactured here are Sure Growth (for fall wheat and grain), Bone and Potash (for fruits), Pure Bone Meal, Dissolved Bone, Farmer's Pride, Flower, Lawn and Park Dressing; also Granulated Bone, Ground Oyster Shells and Animal Meal for poultry; and for cattle and swine pure, clean Bone Meal, finely ground. In writing of his fertilizers, Mr. Freeman says:—"The majority of users of commercial fertilizers in Canada have but little knowledge of the state of solubility the materials they purchase are in when placed in their hands by some manufacturers, also the source from which the plant food is derived, viz., ammonia, phosphoric acid and potash.

Some would-be fertilizer manufacturers tell customers they use no acid or minerals; others say nothing about the above materials not being used, but in both instances will endeavor to show by analysis that they are selling a large percentage of ingredients that go to form plant food, yet omit very valuable and important information to the user:

1st. That no part of the phosphoric acid in their goods is soluble in water.

2nd. That they are not thoroughly and evenly mixed.