



Farmers' Institutes of the Eastern Central Division.

PAPER II.

In our last paper we were ready to leave Peterboro'. Next day being Sunday we stayed there until Monday. On Monday morning to our great surprise and delight we were joined by Prof. Fletcher, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa, he having been invited to attend the next two meetings to be held in Norwood and Keene.

Taking the C. P. R. at Peterboro' we reached Norwood about noon in the midst of a terrible wind storm, which did considerable damage in some parts of Ontario. This, with the unfavorable condition of the roads, caused the afternoon meeting to be rather thinly attended. We had a profitable session, however, and here we met Mr. W. Birdsall, an O. A. C. boy, who read a very interesting paper on "The Leakages of the Farm." He rather surprised the people. In the evening the attendance was considerably increased, and among other addresses delivered, Prof. Fletcher gave a very interesting one on "Window Gardening."

Accepting an invitation from friend Birdsall, a ten mile drive brought us to his home about midnight. Next morning we reconnoitred the situation and found that we had travelled along a range of hills nearly all the way. The country here is quite rolling and Norwood is a thriving inland village.

Mr. Birdsall has a promising outlook and is pleasantly situated. About noon we arrived at Keene, a small village near Rice Lake, examining on our way his uncle's silo, which is giving good satisfaction. Here we met our party, which had gone through a rather annoying experience. The "big man" and the "old man" took, as they supposed, a rig to carry them to the station of Norwood, about two miles distant. After riding some time they enquired about the bearings and found to their astonishment that they were in a stage going to Hastings, a distance of 10 miles, and this before breakfast. The "big man" enjoyed the joke; but the "old man" felt a little crusty as Keene was to be his last meeting.

Here we were greeted with a good turnout in the afternoon and a packed hall at night. The meeting passed off pleasantly. Mr. Blizzard, M.P.P., taking an active part. The evening meeting was enlivened with music and a loyalty speech from a learned M. D. of the village. An amusing little incident occurred at the close of the meeting. While one of our party was talking with some of the citizens, he chanced to remark how sleepy he had felt during the afternoon, which was innocently met by the prompt rejoinder from one of the company, "Why I had a good sleep while you were speaking to-night."

That night we parted company with Mr. Croil who went home, and next morning with Prof. Fletcher, who returned to Ottawa. However, on boarding the train we were partly compensated by meeting Mr. Wolverton, of Grimsby, "the little man," who was to accompany us the remainder of our journey. Arriving at Hastings, a bustling little town on the River Trent, we were met by a Mr. Honey, who drove us to Warkworth, ten miles distant. The

road lay through a very rolling country, but a good fall wheat section.

At Warkworth ensconced behind a high hill we met a large gathering of enterprising farmers, among whom were Mr. Carlaw and son, the latter an O. A. C. boy, and Mr. Boyce, a member of the Advisory Board. There were some enthusiastic dairymen present who held that it paid to feed the dairy cow. An orchardist gave us considerable information on evaporating whole apples instead of slicing them, the usual practice. The apples best adapted for this were the Golden Russet and Pomme Grise. The former gave 10-11 lbs. of dried fruit per bushel and sold at 11 cents per lb.

Mr. Boyce paid the College and farm a high compliment in stating that his few visits to the College had been of great service to him; as, previous to seeing how things were managed there, he said he had thrown away hundreds of dollars almost in useless or extra feed to stock. At the evening meeting the large hall was literally packed, but it soon became apparent that they all didn't come to hear us speak. It was a combination affair, a troupe was playing during the week. We didn't detain them long and had the advantage of a free show. On invitation we spent an evening at Mr. Carlaw's and saw his silo. His ensilage was very good, and this being his second year, he expressed himself as greatly pleased with it.

Next morning we started for Baltimore, a small village five miles north of Cobourg, and about twenty-six from Warkworth. The day being fine we greatly enjoyed the drive through the rolling country. The farmers turned out well and were quite ready to discuss the different topics. Both the afternoon and evening sessions passed off pleasantly and every one seemed well pleased. We drove into Cobourg the same night and here Mr. Hobson left us to our fate, he being compelled to go home.

The "little man" and I fired away at not very large gatherings, but quite interesting ones. As I had prepared myself on the scientific side of Mr. Hobson's subjects, we were able to carry out the program, but not so effectively as if the "big man" had been there in person.

We spent Sunday in Cobourg and had a very pleasant time with friend Field, of the O. A. C.

Monday morning we started for Bowmanville. We found quite a number of farmers gathered, and the "little man" and I set out to entertain them as at Cobourg. We managed to satisfy them fairly well, I think, and to our great satisfaction found that Mr. Hobson had arrived for the next meeting.

Next morning we prepared for a fifteen miles drive north to Blackstock. We held a morning and afternoon session with a comfortably filled hall. The discussions were good and some thirty became members of the Institute. Returning that night to Bowmanville we stayed all night and next morning took the train for Oshawa where our last meeting was to be held.

We were greeted by a large gathering at Oshawa, especially in the afternoon, among those present were Mr. Dryden, M.P.P., who read an interesting paper on sheep husbandry, and Mr. E. Lick, A. O. A. C., who lives near the town, and is prospering in his calling.

We had no evening session at Oshawa, and the next morning our deputation bade one another good-bye, feeling that we had had a pleasant and profitable time together.

In conclusion I will make a few observations:

1st. That a good live chairman goes a long way in making a successful meeting.