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ELMA AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Elma Agricultural Society was held last Tuesday in the agricultural hall, Atwood, for the purpose of receiving the Auditors' and Secretary's reports, electing officers and transacting general business. A goodly number of members were present who took an active interest in the management of the Society. After disposing of the preliminaries the Auditors' report was read and unanimously adopted on motion of E. Hill and John Gray. The Secretary presented the meeting with a somewhat lengthy report which was ordered to be published in THE BEE on motion of J. W. Mc Bain and Wm. Dickson. A vote of thanks was tendered the Directors for their services in the past. The election of officers next took place which resulted as follows:—President, J. B. Hamilton, re-elected; Vice President, Wm. Dickson; Directors, Messrs. R. Morrison, J. Coulter, J. W. Boyd, Wm. Forrest, James Irwin, C. Heller, H. Smith, Geo. Richmond, Robt. Ford; Auditors, Messrs. Thos. Fullerton and J. W. Mc Bain. At a subsequent meeting of the newly elected board Jno. Morrison was re-appointed Secretary-Treasurer on motion of Wm. Dickson and Henry Smith. Following is Secretary Morrison's report:

To the Members of the Elma Agricultural Society.

GENTLEMEN:—I herewith present to you the following report of proceedings of the Society for the past year: The total expenditure amounted to the sum of \$1,520.06, and the amount received was \$1,461.01, which leaves a balance due the Treasurer of \$59.05. The total amount of liabilities against the Society is \$174.55. Our assets are principally the new ground with the building erected thereon and a paid membership of 39 for the present year. Our membership will be largely increased when the balance of the prizes, which were awarded during the past year, are settled. Taking into consideration the value of the newly acquired property the Society is in a better standing, financially, than it has been heretofore, and all that is required to continue its success is for the members to elect from among themselves a board of management, composed of active and intelligent men, who will study and act for the best interests of the Society. The present Board is composed of such men as their work will show. The year just closed has been a red letter in the history of the Society as more business has been transacted, and more profitably, than has been done in any one year since the Society was inaugurated. The old building having become completely dilapidated, it was compulsory to provide a new one, and it was considered necessary to select a new site as the public feeling rather demanded that a change of place should be made, and the Directors thinking that more interest would be taken in the welfare of the Society concurred with the public opinion. The result of this scheme was the placing upon the board a considerable amount of extra work and anxiety. It was a question in the minds of some whether it would be a profitable proceeding. The old show grounds and wild lot belonging to the Society were sold and a new exhibition ground was purchased and a commodious hall built thereon, which will comfortably supply the wants of exhibitors. The outlay in fencing and fitting up the grounds was somewhat large and had it not been for the undoubted courage of the management the whole scheme might have proved a failure. The success of the Society during the past year is due in a great measure to the very favorable state of the weather on show day, and the Directors are deeply indebted to the public for their generous support by attending the fall fair and manifesting such a deep interest in the prosperity of the Society. The Society is also indebted to the generosity of the municipal Council by making a grant of \$100 towards defraying the expense of building. Now that the ground is put in good order and the building well fitted up we see no reason why the Elma Agricultural Society should not prosper and become a leading township exhibition. While the Society has always borne the proud reputation of being one of the best of local shows, we cannot afford (while we held such an enviable position under disadvantages) to allow our fame to retrograde now since we enjoy more favorable circum-

stances. If the public in general would subscribe liberally to the membership list it would be the means of greatly assisting and encouraging those who are placed in the management of the Society. It has been suggested that a trial of a two days' show be made which might prove very satisfactory; as if it is at present one day is not sufficient for the successful carrying out of the show, as by the time all of the entries are made there is not time enough for the judges to do justice in making their awards and the public have little time after the doors of the hall are opened to inspect the exhibits or criticize the judges' decisions. At all of the larger exhibitions there is a growing tendency for more attractions, as it appears the public look for something else besides the products of the farm to draw their attention. While we do not endorse the hippodrome business, yet in a harmless way we see no reason why the people in the country should not be permitted some recreation so long as it is not of a demoralising nature. If some attractions of an interesting though harmless kind could be obtained there is no doubt but that it would greatly increase the gate receipts, which is required to promote the success of any enterprise. Another feature which would greatly increase the competition would be the offering of more and larger premiums, and this again would induce people to turn out more numerous to the local show. Would it not be a good idea to settle upon the date of the fall show at this meeting, and let other neighboring societies know of the time fixed upon, as it often occurs that it is difficult to get a day at the proper season, without conflicting with the dates of some of our neighboring shows.

Perth County Notes.

John Merryfield, brother to Charles and William, of Monkton, has been elected a member of the town council in Palmerston.

Knox church, Stratford, has issued a call to Rev. Nixon, of Smith's Falls. His salary will be \$2,000 a year, with four weeks holidays.

Alexander Findall, Monkton, has been engaged as cheese maker at Dundalk for this year. Mr. Findall is a first-class cheese maker, and no doubt will do well.

James Norris, Hibbert, formerly assistant teacher in Mitchell High School, started for Kingston on Monday of last week to prosecute his studies in Queen's College.

Mr. Berlet, of Hamburg, will open a boot and shoe shop in the west end of C. H. Merryfield's building, Monkton, in a few days. He is a good shoemaker and will do well here, sure.

John Goelter, jr., Fullerton, has disposed of his frame dwelling at Fullerton Corners, to Robt. Cahoon, for the sum of \$440. Mr. Goelter has purchased a saw mill near Belmore, Huron county, and will remove there at once.

The school section, Harmony, has been very fortunate in securing Miss Kate Stewart, daughter of Duncan Stewart, Stratford, to teach the school this year. Miss Stewart has been attending the Toronto Normal, where she secured a second-class professional certificate.

The election of a new trustee took place in the school house, Monkton, on Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1890, Joseph Near was elected in the place of C. H. Merryfield, who had served three years. The Board is as follows: Charles McKenzie, Erskine and Near. All good men and will run the business of the section well.

The other morning John Russell, of Avonton, espied a pair of owls on his barn, and A. Rae and his trusty rifle being within range, the birds were speedily made to bite the dust. They were beauties, very large, and their plumage was not damaged in the slightest by the rifle ball. The taxidermist is now manipulating the birds.

The Farmers' Institute held a large meeting in St. Marys Opera Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday of last week. On Tuesday evening splendid addresses were given by the Hon. John Dryden, Mr. Hobson, of Guelph, and others. Wednesday evening was devoted to singing and speeches by local parties. On the whole the meetings have been very successful.

A Buffalo paper thus refers to an old Stratford citizen who will be readily recognized by our readers from the picture: One of the interesting men of Canada is Dr. Oroulgatekka, of Toronto. He is an Indian, who in his Prince of Wales urged him to go to England to be educated at the royal expense, and he has subsequently graduated from Oxford and from a London medical school. He is a good-looking, broad-shouldered six-footer. The six-footer is our old friend, Dr. Oronhyatekka.

The annual meeting of Honey Grove cheese factory was held at the factory on Wednesday the 24th ult. There was a very large attendance of patrons. The report of the season's business was read by J. W. Chalmers, stating the amount of milk received, the amount of cheese made, and the amount of money paid out during the season. There were over 80 tons of cheese made and over \$12,000 paid the patrons during the season, over \$4,000 being disbursed that day. All seemed well pleased with the season's business, but thought the proprietor could run the factory for less than 2c. per pound for making the cheese, and hauling the milk. The proprietor agreed to reduce the price 1/2 of a cent upon certain conditions which he explained in full to the patrons—telling them among other things, that he did it more as an inducement for them to keep more cows, and consequently increase the quantity of cheese made, than that he could afford to do it, for so long as the hauling of the milk cost 3/4c. per pound of cheese, the manufacturer should have 2c. per pound for manufacturing.

Elma.
 Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Inghis spent last week visiting relatives in Blyth and report having had a good time.

Willie Barton, who has been suffering from a severe attack of diphtheria, is recovering under the care of Dr. Hamilton we are glad to state.

James Stewart, con. 4, Elma, who lost his barn by fire, has been awarded \$1,018 by the Elma Farmers, Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Joseph Porter arrived home from Manitoba the other day after an absence of four or five years. The West appears to have agreed with him.

Wm. F. Forrest purchased a fine thoroughbred Durham bull last Saturday from a party in Waterloo Co. W. F. evidently believes that it pays to raise good stock.

The coming North Perth contest appears to be all the gossip among the farmers at present, and the general feeling is that we are on the eve of a hard political struggle.

Robt. Forrest, 8th con., received word last Monday that his little grandson, Herbert Edgar, of Wroxeter, got his left leg broken above the ankle. The little fellow was watching his father load dressed hogs for the Brussels market when one of the hogs accidentally fell on his leg with the above result.

A quiet ceremony took place at the residence of P. C. Ceran, North Easthope, the other day, the occasion being the joining in wedlock of his daughter, Annie, and Peter Cameron, of Elma. The young couple left shortly afterward for their new home near Monkton, where we wish them abundant success and happiness.

The Poole correspondent of the Beacon has the following to say of one of Elma's young ladies, well known to THE BEE readers:—Miss Richmond has returned to her work, having spent her Xmas holidays under the parental roof. She has her usual smile and pleasant word for her girls and boys. Her schooling seemed much pleased to see her return. She sent up five pupils to write for entrance to the high school; two to Stratford and three to Listowel, four of whom passed. Miss Addie Large passing second highest at Listowel.

The annual meeting of the Directors and patrons of Silver Corners cheese factory was held in the factory on Saturday, Jan. 10th, 1891. The day being fine there was a large attendance of patrons. Minutes of last meeting were read and confirmed, and the auditors' report adopted. The committee's report showed the season's work to have been very satisfactory. Total amount of milk received, 1,208,059 lbs.; cheese manufactured, 113,505 lbs.; average amount of milk for one pound of cheese, 10.64; average price per pound for season, 9.20c.; average cost per pound for manufacturing, ship ing, etc., 1.26c.; average cost per cwt. for hauling milk, 4.7c.; total amount of money received, \$10,452.02; number of patrons in 1889, 28; number of patrons in 1890, 62. The following officers were elected: John Little, salesman, re-elected; Geo. Richmond, Sec.-Treas., re-elected; Committee, C. Bowen, John Whitfield and John K. Baker; Auditors, Chas. Bowen and Jacob Krauter.

WEDDING BELLS.—On Tuesday evening of this week Mr. and Mrs. John B. Hamilton entertained a company of about seventy friends and relatives at their residence, "Elabank," con. 8, Elma, on the occasion of the marriage of their eldest daughter, Mary Alice, to John Clark, of St. Paul, Minn. At seven o'clock the ceremony was duly solemnized by the Rev. A. Henderson, M. A. The bride was assisted by her sister, Miss Joan Hamilton, and the groom was supported by Robert Hamilton, of Duluth, Minn. After receiving the congratulations of their host of friends, the young couple, the officiating minister and the large company sat down to tea. After all had partaken heartily of the rich repast, an intellectual feast was gotten up by Oliver Turnbull and Miss Joan Hamilton, which, for diversity of character, suitability and entertainment, is rarely equalled in gatherings of this kind. The impromptu addresses by F. G. Ratcliffe, and the chairman, Mr. Turnbull, were instructive and interesting; the vocal selections by Miss Morrison, Mrs. Rogers, Miss McDougall, Mrs. Boyd, Miss Stevenson, and Messrs. Geo. Hamilton and Mr. Wilson were well received and reflected much credit on the contributors, while the Scotch songs by Miss Morrison and Geo. Hamilton delighted the company. Thos. Smith gave a humorous Scotch reading which elicited hearty applause from those who understood the dialect. Mr. Clark recited two excellent selections, as did also Messrs. Turnbull and Vipond. A Scotch song by the Hamilton family was one of the captivating features of the program. Meanwhile, a large portion of the assembly were tripping the light fantastic in an adjoining room to the sweet strains of the violin, and thus the evening, the night, and the early morn were whiled away. Too much cannot be said of the kindness and whole-souled hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton in making everything subservient to the entertainment of their guests. At day-break the company separated for their homes, wishing the happy couple about to enter upon the common place duties of life every good wish and the blessing of Him who had joined them together and who will guide them safely through the shadowy scenes of life. It is scarcely necessary to add that Mr. Clark takes with him to his far off western home one of Elma's most estimable young ladies, whose kindly disposition has won for her many friends. Mr. Clark is in charge of a large and lucrative business in St. Paul, and this together with his other good qualities of head and heart bespeak for the twain a bright and prosperous future. May it be so is the wish of their friends whom they leave behind. Mr. and Mrs. Clark, and the Misses Clark, sisters of the groom, left on the early train Wednesday morning for the West, the latter accompanying them as far as Detroit.

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Atwood, Jan. 1, 1891.

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