

Canadian Seed Growers' Association

The fifth annual convention of the C. S. G. A., held in Ottawa last week was well represented by delegates from the various provinces except the western ones. The report of Mr. L. H. Newman, secretary-treasurer of the association showed that the work of the last year had been a prosperous one. A number of meetings had been held in some of the provinces in connection with the winter fairs. It was recommended to make these meetings annual ones in their capacity, and to do business in connection with the association peculiar to their local conditions.

It was thought that some recognition should be given to grain produced from selected plants such as are derived from the work carried on at the experimental stations, and might be carried on even by any member. It was recommended that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture be again asked for sufficient funds to carry on the work another year and to print the annual report; that a resolution of thanks be tendered the railway authorities for their kindness in allowing cheap rates to the secretary-treasurer of the association; that the experimental

stations should try more experiments to determine whether or not garden and vegetable seeds could be grown in Canada profitably. These recommendations were taken up one by one and adopted except the one referring to grain from selected plants which was left over for further discussion at a later date in the meeting. In this discussion it was explained that a good plant with fixed characteristics was a sure way to get permanent improvement in crops than to select the best heads from plants as was the general practice of the association.

INCREASE IN YIELD AND WEIGHT

Senator Perley asked if it had been proved by the work of the association that crops had been increased in yield and weight, for he had noticed that in late years the percentage of No. 1 northern wheat had been growing less in the west instead of greater. It was pointed out that there were a number of causes which might contribute to that state of things, such as weeds, seeds, frost, etc.; but that the amount of good vital seed in the West was increasing steadily every year and was in such demand that the supplies were inadequate to meet that demand. Mr. Donald Innes, Tobique River, N. S., claimed that as a result of selection during the last six or seven years his oats, which formerly weighed 35 lbs. a bus. after cleaning, now weighed 42 lbs., as they came from the machine.

A summary of the season's work was given by the secretary-treasurer. During the last season there were 101 who had reported good work done, 71 of whom were old members and 30 were eligible for membership. The total number of crop applications were 688, but as some applicants operated with more than one kind of crop there were in all only 432 members and applicants. Of this number 71 returned satisfactory reports, 30 were quite satisfactory, 49 unsatisfactory and 10 had dropped out altogether. The remainder were still considered applicants; 74 new applications were received during

the year. The total number who asked that the inspectors visit them were 139. A summary of the work by provinces showed that wheat was still the most popular crop for the Dominion, while the oat crop was a close second. More had tried corn in Ontario than any other single crop.

Quite a large amount of registered seed had changed hands but this did not represent by any means the amount of good seed used from these various sources, as much of it was sold by members without getting the certificates.

THE BEST NONE TOO GOOD

Messrs. Raynor, Cote and Moore, inspectors for Ontario, Quebec and the Maritime Provinces, respectively gave short reports of their work. Mr. McKillop also sent a report from Alberta and British Columbia. The inspectors reported that a number of the members were getting a better grasp of the work and were enjoying larger and quite satisfactory markets. A member of the association remarked in the discussion that at one time in his locality, "Any kind of seed was good enough, but now the best seed was none too good." Some representatives from the large seed firms of Toronto were present as well as others nearer by and expressed themselves as being in sympathy with the association's work.

Thirty new applicants, eligible for membership were received. The various papers were then taken up. All the papers presented were of a high order and their publication in the next annual report would be worthy of perusal. An unfortunate feature was that there was very little time for discussion on any of the papers. The president's address on Thursday evening in the Council Chamber of the Senate, House of Commons, was a splendid synopsis of the work of the association, and its possibilities, while the Hon. Mr. Fisher's address on the "Agricultural Convention at Rome" and Mr. Peter H. McKenzie's address were of great interest to all who were privileged to attend.

The election of officers resulted in installing the same body for another year. Dr. Robertson, president; L. H. Newman, secretary-treasurer. Ten of the 20 directors who are appointed by the elected directors at the meeting, are to be selected at some future date. The convention marks another milestone in the cause of the promotion of good vital seed.—T. G. Raynor.

Huntington, Que., Dairymen Meet

Interesting and instructive addresses by well known experts and a large attendance of farmers from many parts of the district, reaching as high as 200 in the afternoon, marked the success of the 28th annual meeting of the Huntingdon Dairymen's Association, held in the city of Valleyfield, Que., on February 3rd.

The president, Robert Ness, of Howick, made a comparison between the conditions which prevailed when the Association was organized, 28 years ago, and now. He referred to the progress and extent of the dairy industry in the district during these years, thanks to the advent of the silo; silos are now to be seen on every hand. A superior class of stock was in evidence, and it was being given better care. He considered that improved transportation facilities had done much to better the condition of our dairymen. Canada was taking her own place in the world's production of food stuffs, and he looked forward to a bright future for our country, and especially for our farmers.

Sec. W. H. Walker, M.P.P., of Huntington, reported a balance on hand of \$99.55. Mr. Louis Simpson (formerly manager of the Montreal Cotton Mills, at

Valleyfield) spoke in enthusiastic terms of the new smelting process for iron, smelting by electricity, instead of the old blast furnace, by which process a finer and better product could be made, and also at a lesser cost. To the farmers this would mean cheaper and better implements and machinery. Also cheap sulphuric acid could be made, with which the iron phosphates could be treated. He stated that superphosphates could be made and sold to the farmer for about \$5 a ton. He believed the day was not far distant when the Canadian farmer would find it profitable to use a moderate amount of phosphates to ensure good crops.

AN INCREASE OF \$10 A COW

Mr. C. F. Whitley, of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, stated that work of cow testing had been introduced into Canada owing to the results obtained from it in other countries. He stated that the Dominion had taken up the test, and that they had some 6,000 h. cows. In some places they found a great difference between the amount, and also in the quality of the milk given by different cows. In many cases the fellow that sent the low-testing milk to the cheesery was being helped by the farmer that sent the high-testing milk.

He gave a number of figures illustrating the quality of the milk obtained by giving attention to feed and weeding out the poor cows. He emphasized the importance of weighing and testing the milk of each cow from the herd at least three days during the month at intervals of ten days, and taking composite samples, and testing for fat once each month. This work was one in which to interest the boys and girls of the farm. The work of cow-testing was important for another reason—that of making an accurate observation and comparison of milk yields. It was as much a part of up-to-date farming as potato spraying, or other methods now in vogue to get the best results from the land. He considered dairymen the highest type of farming, and was of the opinion, after several years' experience with this work, that the yield could be improved at least \$10 a cow by weeding out the poor cows and paying more attention to feeding those that were left.

The newly-appointed Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. B. Macdonald, of Hochelaga, said that his policy as Minister of Agriculture would be to extend facilities for farmers, remembering that the public wealth of the province lay largely in the farms. He wanted the farmers to be proud of their calling.

Professor Arkell, of Macdonald College, described the points of dairy cattle, looking to their selection with a view to higher milk production. The dairy cow had evolved from a long process of breeding and her conformation tends to a certain type. The true breeder knows there is something that distinguishes the good cow from the bad, and this is largely through conformation of type. The correct dairy type must be established and is in many points different from the true beef type. The latter uses her food to make flesh while the former has the capacity to elaborate milk from the blood. The thick neck, wedge shape, wide chest, with a marked evidence of sparseness of flesh, this together with a good heart girth, depth and spring of rib, breadth of loin, are points worthy of consideration. Also the shoulder should quality in handling, be a soft silky hair and mellowness of skin. The capacity of the digestive organs must be large, and last of all the udder must be long, broad, well attached behind and extending well forward, with the teats of medium size set well apart. The fleshy udder is to be avoided. Milk veins

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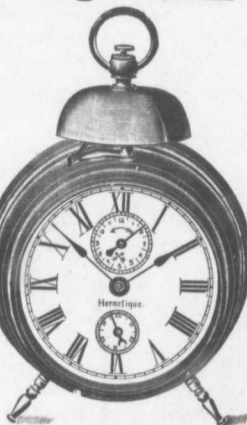
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