

### Nova Scotia Farmers' Association Fourth Annual Meeting.

The fourth annual meeting of the Nova Scotia Farmers' Association was held in the old historic town of Annapolis, on the 22nd, 23rd and 24th of February. It was by far the largest and most representative meeting that has yet been held.

The president, J. Rufus Starr, opened the proceedings with an excellent address, in which he referred with satisfaction to the increasing interest manifested by the farmers of the Province in improved stock, dairying, and fruit-growing, but said there was yet much room for improvement in all these lines; that large areas of land was not producing nearly what it might if properly cultivated and fertilized by means easily within the reach of the owners, and which could be profitably utilized. The need of greater attention to education on practical lines, and especially of agricultural education, was urged, and the advantages of co-operation pointed out if we are to successfully compete with other countries in the markets of the world.

The report of the Secretary, Mr. Paul C. Black, was mainly a review of the work done by the Association during the past year.

Prof. Shutt, of the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, gave an interesting address upon fertilizers. Barnyard manure and its preservation was referred to as a subject lying at the foundation of profitable farming. Of all the elements which crops take from the soil, it is only necessary to supply three—nitrogen, phosphoric acid, and potash—and these constituents of fertility are all found in barnyard manure. The liquid part of the manure of the horse or cow is three times as valuable, ton for ton, as the solids, and is in a more available form, hence the great importance of saving it. It is often asked whether it is better to rot manure or to apply it fresh? Experiments conducted at the Central Experimental Farm show that it is best to apply the manure to the land as soon after it is made as possible.

When plaster was mixed with manure at the rate of 50 pounds to the ton it was found that there was just as much loss as when none was used. The proper place and time to use plaster is in the stable before fermentation begins.

The conclusions arrived at from these experiments are: There can be no fermentation without loss. Protecting manure preserves from loss of plant food. The loss of nitrogen is twice as great in exposed as in protected manure. There is no loss of potash or phosphoric acid from fermentation, but there is a large loss in exposed manure from leaching. There is no benefit in fermenting manure more than three months.

Questioned as to the best means of saving liquid manure, Prof. Shutt recommended the liberal use of absorbents, of which he thought dried peat or black muck was the best, but straw, dry earth or sawdust were all good.

At the evening session, which was held in the Academy of Music, Mayor De Blois tendered the welcome of the citizens of Annapolis to the members of the Association, and to Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion. He thought the town was honored in being chosen as the place of meeting, and the Association had the best wishes of the citizens for success in its work.

Col. Blair replied on behalf of the Association. He thanked the Mayor and citizens for their good wishes, and thought that from the hearty welcome the Association had received, and the large audience which was present, no mistake had been made in choosing Annapolis as the place of meeting. The present large assembly was in striking contrast with farmers' meetings fifteen years ago. Much more interest was now being taken in agriculture, and all available means were being used to impart information. Agricultural education was much needed. The establishment of the Agricultural School and Farm at Truro was but the entering wedge. The time had now come to make the school more efficient. In order to help the spread of agricultural knowledge, the Dairymen's Association had merged themselves in this Association when it was started. Much excellent work had been done, but he wanted to see more done. County associations should be organized, and many more special meetings held.

Hon. Mr. Fisher thanked the Mayor for the kindly welcome he had received. He had anticipated much pleasure in visiting the Valley and the old historic town of Annapolis Royal, and it was increased when he knew he was to meet the farmers. He was pleased to meet personally those for whom he was performing the work of his office. The word "minister" meant servant, and he was the servant of the farmers. In order to serve them he must know their wants, and being a practical farmer and having visited the various Provinces and mingled with the farmers and talked with them, he hoped to serve them acceptably. Economy in farming is founded upon a scientific knowledge of the business. In order to secure this knowledge for our young men, a good agricultural and horticultural school should be established in Nova Scotia. It should be thoroughly equipped and the very best men should be secured for teachers. Scientific farming is generally thought to be impracticable, but it simply means farming with knowledge. There are in Canada large institutions for the investigation of agricultural subjects. These investigations are carried on by experts, and their results are at the use of every farmer for the asking. Without reading, a farmer can only know

what he learns upon his own farm, and a man cannot afford to work with his hands from daylight till dark. He must take time to read, think and plan. He thought it strange that Halifax butchers went to Ontario to buy beef, when just as good beef could be raised in Nova Scotia. The market in Halifax must be a good one when it allowed of the Halifax butchers outbidding those of Ontario. That they wanted good beef was shown by the fact that the prize animals of the Brantford Fat Stock Show were bought for the Halifax market. With all the advantages for stock-raising which this Province possessed, he could not see why the farmers did not keep this trade in their own hands. There was an abundance of fine pasture, and it was a superb sheep country, but he had never heard of any sheep being exported. Large quantities of pork were also imported, which could just as well be raised at home. He thought we had been neglecting our opportunities, and was glad to hear that a pork-packing establishment was to be erected at Middleton. A share of Canada's increasing bacon trade could only be secured through the factory. It would not do for every farmer to do his own killing and curing. It was more expensive, and a uniform quality could not be secured. The pig required to-day is a very different animal from that which was wanted a few years ago. Then the object was to raise a large and fat pig as possible, which, while it satisfied the lumberman, was altogether unsuitable for the English market. The pig now wanted was just its opposite. It should weigh but little over 200 pounds at the outside. It should be narrow on the back, long and deep, with light shoulders. There should not be more than one and one-half inches of fat upon the back, and the same thickness should be carried the whole length of the side. The aim in raising the pigs should be to make them grow while young, and not allow them to fatten too quickly. In order to do this they should be given lots of exercise, which would develop the muscles and keep them strong and vigorous. They should not be forced too quickly, as lean meat was wanted, and the pig should not weigh 200 pounds till seven months old. The cheapest feed was clover pasture, or oats, peas and tares sown together. A good average crop of clover should feed from 20 to 30 pigs per acre for two or three months. Care to produce the correct animal was particularly necessary, as the difference in price of first and second quality of bacon in the English markets was the difference between profit and loss. Four years ago Canada sent \$1,000,000 worth of bacon to England; last year she sent \$8,000,000 worth, and he thought that amount would be doubled in the next two years. Pig-raising and dairy farming go hand in hand, as in no way can the by-products of dairying be so profitably used as by feeding them to young pigs. The raising of poultry and eggs was another industry which can be greatly developed. We already export large quantities of eggs, and the trade is increasing. English importers speak highly of Canadian eggs, and the market is practically unlimited. Inquiries have recently been received from a man who wanted to know where he could buy 1,000,000 eggs per week for the English market. Although not much had been done in exporting poultry meat, there were splendid prospects for a large trade if care were taken to consider the demands of the market. The demand for poultry in England was great, but buyers were very particular as to the condition of the birds and the way in which they were dressed and packed. Experiments had been made in fattening and shipping fowls to the English market. They had been very successful and realized a handsome profit, as, apart from the labor, the returns from the fowls had doubled the cost.

Mr. R. Robertson, Supt. of the Experimental Farm at Nappan, could not see why the Maritime Provinces could not receive a share of the \$20,000,000 now taken by the farmers of Ontario and Quebec from the English markets for dairy produce. He thought more good could be done to the country through the medium of the dairy cow and her adjunct, the hog, than through any other source. In order to obtain the greatest degree of success farmers must stop selling the crops in their crude state, and must manufacture them into a finished product. And to do this no machine could be used to such good advantage as the dairy cow. The simple owning of cows does not make a man a dairyman. The first essential to success is the man himself; he must be intelligent and progressive, willing to apply the best methods, and to put in practice the experience of others. After the man comes the cow; she must be as nearly fitted for the business as possible. Cows of the beef breeds or the general purpose cow were not profitable dairy animals. Any of the four dairy breeds found in Canada was good. The best breed was the one the man liked best, and he was more likely to do well with it. The raising of the calf for dairy purposes is very important. A cow is a creature of habit, and these habits can be cultivated. The calf should be fed to promote growth without fat, and for this purpose nothing was so good as skim milk; whole milk should not be used. The feeding of concentrated foods to a greater extent than is required for growth will tend to produce fat, and this should be avoided. After the calf becomes a cow the extra food she will then obtain will be devoted to producing milk. To obtain the greatest success in dairy farming it was essential that the factory system be adopted, as by its means large quantities of a uniform quality could be produced; the demands of the markets could also be more closely studied

and more easily satisfied. It was essential that dairying be carried on through the whole year. The ideal way is to have the cows come in in the fall, milk all winter and spring and until late in the summer, going dry when the pastures are poor and other work is pressing. Cows calving in the fall gave a greater profit than those calving in the spring, and the calves coming at that season can be most successfully and profitably raised. The crops grown should be the most suitable for the object in view, and every effort should be made to cheapen the cost of production. Roots, ensilage and corn was the secret of milk. By raising roots the cost of food can be reduced two cents per day, with ensilage another cent can be saved; all these can be successfully grown in Nova Scotia. While exercise was all very well in theory, it does not always do in practice, as the quieter the cow is kept the more she will produce, and in order to disturb her as little as possible would only feed twice a day. Kind, gentle treatment paid in dollars and cents. Watering was very essential; the best way was to have water always before them.

At the morning session, on February 23rd, Mr. W. W. Hubbard, Sussex, N. B., gave an address on dairying, in which he pointed out the advantages of co-operation in the production of cheese and butter by means of the factory system, and the importance of balanced rations, of regularity in feeding, of care in regard to the comfort of the cows, the quality of food and water given, and of proper lighting, ventilation of stables in order to secure pure air, healthy conditions, and a high-class product.

Mr. J. J. Ferguson, Smith's Falls, Ont., gave an excellent address on the raising of pigs for bacon purposes, in which he described the ideal type, and how to produce and feed the pig which best suits the export trade.

Mr. Peter Innis in his address pointed out the great need of better agricultural education in Nova Scotia, and the unsatisfactory work which had been done by the Provincial School of Agriculture at Truro, and he moved a resolution recommending the establishment of a thoroughly equipped agricultural college, and its location in King's County. A very warm discussion ensued, the delegates from the western part of the Province favoring the resolution, while those from the east contended that the clauses referring to the location of the college should be omitted and the decision left in the hands of the Government.

The resolution was finally amended so as to call the attention of the Government to the necessity of amalgamating the existing schools of agriculture and horticulture at one point, and establishing a better-equipped institution, but leaving to the Government the selection of its location; and an influential committee was appointed to wait upon the Government and to submit the views of the Association on the matter.

Mr. F. M. Logan, manager of the Acadia Dairy Company at Wolfville, gave an interesting account of the methods of this company, which sells direct to the consumer, delivering the butter at the house either in prints or in three or five pound jars. The cost of making is from 4 to 5 cents per pound, and the cost of delivery 2½ cents per pound. The last payment to the patrons had been 16 cents per pound for butter-fat in their milk. There was a good local market to supply, and when that was satisfied there was always the British market to fall back upon.

Mr. J. E. Hopkins, manager of the Dairy Station at Nappan, said the secret of success in dairying is co-operation. The reason why some of our factories had failed, was because they had been badly located, and because the farmers were either too rich or too poor. It was so easy to make a living from the orchards and large dyke lands that the farmers were too rich and had no need to labor. Although the price of cheese had fallen 25%, dairying was still profitable, because the cows had been improved and the cost of production has been lessened. Dairying had made great progress in Nova Scotia during the last five years. At that time there was not a separator in Nova Scotia, except at the condensing factories at Truro and Kingston; now there are not only creameries, but private dairies using separators, and our butter is taking a high place. No system of farming takes so little fertility off the farm, as one ton of butter, worth \$100, does not take as much fertility off the farm as the selling of one ton of hay worth \$6.00.

Officers elected for the ensuing year: President, Col. Blair; 1st Vice-President, Wm. Corning; 2nd Vice-President, Wm. Young. Directors—C. R. B. Bryan, G. C. Lawrence, J. R. Starr, S. J. Moore, F. H. McPhie. Auditors—S. C. Parker, W. H. Blanchard. Exhibition Commissioners—Jos. R. Wyman, John McDonald. The new Executive announced that they had appointed C. R. B. Bryan to succeed P. C. Black as Secretary of the Association.

### Salt the Cows Regularly to Prevent Long Churnings.

SIR,—My attention has been drawn to the trouble many of your subscribers have had with long churning in cold weather. I formerly experienced the same difficulty, but have found that if the cows are given salt once a day in their feed it makes no difference whether they are fresh in milk or strippers, the butter will come in reasonable time. I use the old dash churn, with cream at 60 degrees, and invariably get butter in thirty minutes, which I consider is quickly enough.

Huron Co., Ont.

Mrs. J. H.