

### Cattle Exporters Aroused.

The number and value of cattle exported from Canada to Great Britain has steadily declined from 104,133 and \$8,114,145 in 1890, to 80,572 and \$6,790,638 in 1893. This serious falling off is in part due to the scheduling of our cattle in Britain. We have all along contended that scheduling would hurt the cattle interests of Canada, and so it has proved. It also tends to promote the business of the U. S. dressed beef monopolists. Scheduling is not the only trouble with the Canadian export cattle trade, as the manifesto issued from Ottawa by the Dominion Live Stock Association recently ably and vigorously sets forth. It is charged that the very existence of the trade is jeopardized by reason of the unfair treatment to which it is subjected by those who control the ocean carrying trade from Montreal. Mr. Mulock, M. P., has a bill before Parliament which aims to remove these grievances and restore the cattle trade to a healthy basis. The shipping charges levied are described as "uncertain," "excessive," and "arbitrary." The manifesto referred to is signed by T. O. Robson, President, Thos. Crawford, Vice-President, Henry Bracken, John Dunn and A. J. Thompson. Mr. H. Gilchrist, Montreal, is secretary of the association.

### Forty-Eighth Annual Meeting of the Agriculture & Arts Association.

Jas. Rowand, M. P., President, took the chair; Mr. H. Wade, Secretary.

A letter was read from C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, announcing the following election of members for the next three years:—No. 1 Division, D. P. McKinnon, South Finch; No. 2 Division, W. C. Edwards, M. P., Rockland; No. 3 Division, Joshua Legge, Gananoque; No. 4 Division, B. Mallory, Frankford.

Communications were read from T. R. Melville, Secretary South Grenville Agricultural Society, and one from A. Shaw of Kingston, asking that the sale of stock, as contemplated by the Agriculture and Arts Association in the coming autumn, be held at their respective places, Prescott and Kingston; and one from John McCorkindale, of Guelph, asking the Association to waive any claim they may have on \$25.00 given by the Ontario Agricultural College. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Wm. Dawson was elected President for the coming year, and Jonathan Sissons, of Barrie, was elected Vice-President.

The following members were appointed a committee to strike the standing committees, viz.:—Messrs. Legge, Sissons, McEwen, Rykert, Rawlings and J. C. Snell.

The Secretary read the forty-eighth annual report of the Association, reviewing the work of the past year. They had recorded 368 horses, 791 cattle, 30 sheep, and 2538 swine; had printed the Seventh Volume of the Clydesdale Stud Book, and the Second Volume of the Swine Record; had held the Seventh Spring Stallion Show at Toronto, and the Tenth Fat Stock Show at Guelph; had granted diplomas to 160 graduates; had held four Provincial ploughing matches; and had helped to make the World's Fair a success. Nearly 7000 letters and post cards had been issued from the office, as well as the Herd Books and Government Report.

A deputation waited on the Council to advocate Kingston as a proper place to hold the sale of cattle proposed by this Council. The deputation consisted of A. Shaw, Manager of the Midland Fair, Dr. Preston, M. P. P. for South Leeds, and Mr. Hart, M. P. P. for Kingston. They all spoke in favor of that city.

A deputation from Guelph also waited on the Council to ask that the next Fat Stock Show be held in their city. On motion of N. Awrey, seconded by D. P. McKinnon, it was resolved that the next Fat Stock Show be held there.

Mr. Legge, Chairman of the Special Committee for appointing the Standing Committees, reported as follows: Executive—Messrs. Legge, Awrey, Westington, Mallory and Rykert. Finance—Messrs. McEwen, McKinnon, Rawlings, Awrey, Sissons and Rykert. Stock Shows—Messrs. Snell, Legge, McEwen, Rawlings and Sissons. Shorthorn Herd Book—Messrs. Snell, Edwards, Rowand, Westington, Mallory and Wade. Representative to Central Farmers' Institute—Jas. Rowand. Report adopted.

Mr. McEwen then presented the report of the Finance Committee as follows: Your committee has examined the Treasurer's Report as audited, and recommend that it be adopted.

A letter of protest was then read from J. C. Rykert, Secretary of the Ontario Association of Trotting Horse Breeders, as to the giving of their gold medal to Graham Brothers, instead of to Dr. McCully. On motion, the decision of the Judges was sustained.

A long debate occurred in regard to the holding of two sales of cattle and sheep, one in the East and one in the West, and it was finally determined not to hold any this year.

### Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union.

#### REPLY TO "A SEEDSMAN'S COMPLAINT."

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I notice an article in your valuable journal of April 15th, entitled "A Seedsman's Complaint," written by Mr. J. S. Pearce, London, Ont., to which I would like very much to reply. Mr. Pearce has surely got a wrong impression in regard to the work which is being done all over Ontario by the Agricultural Experimental Union, an association composed of officers, ex-students and students of the Agricultural College, who pay a certain fee annually. It is practically an ex-students' organization, and in no sense of the word is it secret in its operations. A very important feature of the Union work is the system of co-operative experiments which it has established over Ontario, in which any person may engage, whether a member of the Union or not. A description of how seeds for testing may be obtained, and also the results of the successful and valuable co-operative experiments, are published annually in detail as an appendix to the Agricultural College report, which is sent free to any person on application. The following sentence can be found in every report for some years back:—"Each person who wishes to join in the work may choose any one of the experiments." If seedsmen are in the dark in regard to this Union work, as Mr. Pearce says they are, who can possibly be to blame unless they are themselves? Whenever seedsmen ask for the Union samples we are always pleased to furnish them. Mr. Pearce applied for five varieties of winter wheat last autumn, and they were forwarded to him with our best wishes. Practical farmers over Ontario have not been furnished with samples for experiment, unless they have first asked for them, and in my intimate connection with the Union for the past eight years I do not remember having refused a single Ontario seedsman any samples for which he has applied. Neither do I remember ever refusing any seedsman the best information I could furnish him in regard to where the seed of such varieties of farm crops as had given the best results could be obtained.

In referring to six varieties of corn which were mentioned in a summary report of Union work, written by myself a few weeks ago, and which appeared in the leading papers of Ontario, Mr. Pearce says: "Why ignore the seedsmen and the varieties they are handling by recommending varieties that neither they nor anyone else know anything about?" In this Mr. Pearce is certainly mistaken, as these varieties are now familiar to hundreds of farmers, and more than that, they are now offered for sale by Ontario seedsmen, who have asked where they could be procured, obtained the names of the American seed firms, secured a supply of seed, and are now in a position to furnish their customers. These varieties have all been tested from three to five years in the Experimental Department at Guelph, among many other kinds purchased from Canadian and American seedsmen, and they have also been tested over Ontario along with others from one to three years. They were all specially mentioned in the College reports previous to planting time in 1893, as being varieties of very excellent qualities when total yield per acre, amount of grain produced, and earliness of maturity were all considered. How could we possibly know Mr. Pearce's desires unless he expressed them to us in some way, and had he simply applied to the College for samples of these varieties, the committee on agricultural experiments would have been pleased to have furnished them to Mr. Pearce to grow on "his own trial grounds" during 1893, and thus prevented his being so much annoyed by farmers asking for "new-fangled varieties," which he speaks of as knowing nothing about.

Is it not the desire of all corn growers in Ontario, whether seedsmen or practical farmers, to have all the leading varieties carefully tested? When three or four varieties from the great corn-growing States of the American Union prove themselves to be worthy of an important place in Ontario agriculture, why not give to them a hearty welcome here, instead of calling them "new fangled," and say, "It very is questionable if they are any better, if as good, as those now introduced and being handled by leading seedsmen," and again, "Now, I know that we have and are handling just as good and reliable varieties of corn as any that Mr. Zavitz has made prominent," as Mr. Pearce has done in his article to the public without ever testing the varieties himself. The varieties which have been advertised by Mr. Pearce in his catalogues of late years have all been purchased and tested by the Experimental Department, and the Mammoth Southern Sweet, which he claims "has no superior," in his catalogue of 1894, has been grown along with many other varieties for five years in succession. The reports of the College give the results of all these tests without any partiality whatever.

I wish to assure Mr. Pearce that, to the best of my knowledge, the members of the Union have nothing but kind feelings towards the seedsmen of Ontario, and whenever any of them express a desire to engage in the co-operative work of the Union, we are always pleased to do our utmost to supply them with material for any of the experiments. It might be interesting to your readers to know that the number of co-operative experimenters in agriculture for the present year has already surpassed that of 1893, at which time it was upwards of twelve hundred. C. A. ZAVITZ,  
Director of Co-operative Experiments in Agriculture.  
Agricultural College, April 23rd, 1894.

### The Farmers' Institute System.

SIR.—A short time ago I read with a good deal of interest and care the very complete reports given in The Globe of the proceedings of the Central Farmers' Institute, the annual gathering of which was held in Toronto. I have also listened to an excellent account of that meeting brought back by a representative of our local institute in East Middlesex. All the published annual reports previously issued have reached me from time to time.

It cannot be said of this large—in fact, one might say cumbersome—Toronto meeting that subjects of interest to farmers were not discussed, because most of the army of delegates seemed in duty bound to "resolute," and "resolute," and "resolute," upon every imaginable question, until, as one of the members at a local meeting in this riding remarked, enough resolutions were placed on record to reach from Toronto half way across the province. But, as has been frequently noticed, a large proportion of these solemn "whereas and whereas" and "be it resolved" declarations simply become a dead letter. It was quite apparent that a lot of valuable time was consumed discussing crude and ill-considered propositions, some of which at least were wholly uncalled for. Others were practical and timely, and may result in benefit if properly followed up. Now, I do not dispute the right of the members to tackle the affairs of the country great and small *en masse*, but it is a question if they would not have done well to address themselves as did the apostle, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient."

If we accept a paper read by the President of Agricultural College towards the close, the conclusion seems irresistible that the Central Institute dealt exhaustively with almost everything but the one subject that above all should have occupied its most earnest thought, viz., the work and progress of the local institutes. It is in these bodies that the real work and usefulness of the institute system to the farmer is accomplished. If it does not reach him in a helpful way at this point, long-winded resolutions in Toronto will be of little avail. In some populous farming localities this very season but a bare handful of farmers have attended these meetings. Surely there is something wrong when only a dozen men out of hundreds will come together to discuss their own business and how it may be improved, especially when improvement is so obviously needed. I do not say that this deplorable apathy, or whatever it may be, is universal, but it is too apparent in some quarters. The Central Institute is supposed to be the vital, heart centre of the whole system, but there must be something radically defective or else it would be infusing new life into the local bodies, causing enthusiasm to be aroused, the membership to be increased and more practical good accomplished. In reply to this point, which I raised at our local meeting in this riding, it was stated that the Central Executive was probably entrusted with enough already, and the big delegation to Ottawa, by which over \$200 was frittered away, and nothing tangible achieved beyond getting a snub, was cited. Whether or not it was proper for this delegation, paying their expenses out of the funds drawn from one Government, to go to another with a petition, the spirit of which was directly contrary to that Government's policy, I will not enlarge upon.

Dr. Mills, of the College, by whom in the past the main series of winter meeting has been very well mapped out, intimated that his duties were growing excessive and an assistant was recommended, who, I presume, would relieve the President of at least some clerical work. This, however, would simply leave things for the most part in the old "go-as-you-please" groove. With the rapidly growing usefulness of the Agricultural College, and the development of its various grand departments, that President Mills should ask for relief is only to be expected. The magnitude and importance of the institute work imperatively demands a change, though I presume, as in the past, the able College staff can be utilized to assist at one series of meetings.

I have heard the suggestion that the local institutes might be directed more efficiently from the Department of Agriculture in Toronto, but I doubt the wisdom of that idea. In some places injury has already been done through the impression (no matter if erroneous) that these organizations had some political party bearing. In another province I found danger to institute work cropping up in that very way.

As far as my observation goes, the system as in vogue in Minnesota and Wisconsin seems to be most effective. A thoroughly practical man (no mere party hack) with executive ability, well versed as to the country and the needs of farmers and the work, acts as superintendent or director of institutes, systematizing their operations, awakening local interest, in co-operation with local officers, working up home talent, starting new institutes, reviving sluggish ones, spreading knowledge of