

Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions.

The second annual convention of the above Association was recently held at the Queen's Hotel, Toronto. There was a good attendance of delegates present, nearly every fair of any importance being represented.

The objects of the Association are of a praiseworthy and laudable character, and as such deserve and should receive the hearty support and practical sympathy of every Fair Board in the country. By the discussion of plans and methods, and interchange of thought on matter pertaining to fair management, it is expected that many of the difficulties that beset Fair Managers will be wholly or partially removed, and bring about a more uniform classification in the prize lists of the different fairs so as to bring them in harmony with each other, and with the views of exhibitors. How to ascertain who are competent and honest judges; shall all judging be decided by points based on a standard of excellence recommended by the association; shall the territory be divided into districts, and dates fixed so as to prevent as far as possible the holding of two or more fairs on the same dates in the same district, and other important topics were brought before the convention for consideration. The Association does not claim or endeavor to exert any arbitrary powers over the Fair Boards represented in its membership. The results of all discussions and resolutions adopted are embodied in the annual report, which is sent to all the fairs in Canada, and simply recommended for adoption.

The first session of the convention took place Tuesday, February 26th, at 11.30 a.m. In the absence of President John Adams, Mr. H. J. Hill took the chair. By request, the chairman read a paper by Sydney Smith, Secretary of the Texas State Fair and Dallas Exposition, on "Gates and Tickets," which was received too late to be read at the International Convention held in Chicago last fall. The subject was treated in an exhaustive manner, some valuable suggestions were made on the arrangement of the entrance and exit gates, manner of handling tickets, etc. At its conclusion, the Secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Smith for permission to incorporate his paper in the proceedings of the convention.

Secretary McBroom read his annual report, showing a membership for the last year of fifteen Fair Associations. The amount of receipts from membership fees was \$65, and the expenditure left a balance due the Treasurer of \$9.67, and outstanding accounts \$6.25.

The best methods of judging elicited considerable discussion, also the desirability of giving prizes to grade cattle, the consensus of opinion being that if prizes were given for grade cattle they should not include grade bulls.

Prof. Shaw, of the Agricultural College, Guelph, read a paper on "The Duties of Exhibitors at our Exhibitions." He proceeded to show that although reform was necessary in certain matters connected with fair management, yet in many cases fair boards were doing all that was possible under the circumstances. Yet, because these evils were not remedied at once, many exhibitors were chronic in their fault finding, as if there were only one side to the subject. He then proceeded to show many of the faults and inconsistencies of unreasonable exhibitors.

D. McCrae, ex-President of the Clydesdale Association, read a paper on "The Need of Improvement and Classification of Horses at Fairs." He urged that better facilities be furnished for seeing the horses, and advocated that some order be followed in placing them in the stalls. It was decided to bring the matter of grants to Central Fairs again before the Local Legislature. Messrs. Moberly, Bruce, McBroom, McCuaig and McFarlane, were appointed a committee to draft a scheme and submit same to the convention. It was moved by Mr. Moberly, seconded by Mr. Wade, and carried, that as it would be a great benefit to the different Central Associations to know the name and residence of persons competent to be judges in the various departments of a fair, and as it is impossible for this information to be obtained by the officers of each of said fairs separately, it is recommended that the Secretary of each of the central fairs belonging to the Association, send a list of the different judges in his vicinity to the Secretary of this Association, stating such particulars as he can respecting the qualifications of such judges, and that a list of said names can be obtained by any of the Secretaries of the said Central Fairs from the Secretary of this Association.

Moved by Mr. Moberly, seconded by Mr. Tripp, and carried, that it being of the utmost importance, that each animal be judged with a view to the usefulness for the purpose for which it was intended, therefore this Association would recommend that as far as practicable such judging be made on the system of points, which is used to advantage in Great Britain and the United States. As this Association considers that by following said method, general satisfaction will be given, and the present practice of over fattening of animals, making them useless for any purpose whatever will be discouraged.

Wednesday morning's session opened with President John Adams in the chair.

Mr. Moberly read the report of the Special Committee appointed to prepare a scheme to present to the Minister of Agriculture. The substance of the report provides that grants be given to Central Fairs which pay \$1200 or more in prizes, and which own or control grounds and buildings valued at \$9,000 or \$10,000.

Mr. H. J. Hill read an excellent and well considered paper on "Fair Management," for which he received the hearty thanks of the convention.

Ottawa was chosen as the place for the next regular convention, on the invitation of Mr. McCuaig, of the Canada Central Fair, who offered to furnish all delegates with free passes by the C. P. R. to Ottawa.

A paper on "Exhibitions as an Educator of the Young Men and Women of the Country," was read by Mr. Henry Wade, Secretary of the Agricultural and Arts Association. It was well received and elicited the thanks of the convention.

Secretary McBroom gave the following notice of motion to be brought up at the next convention:—That this Association recommend that entrance fees be abolished, and as a substitute for the fees thus lost to the funds of the Exhibition, a percentage, to be fixed by each association, be deducted from the prize money paid, and that all exhibitors and attendants be furnished with tickets good for the term of the Exhibition at a nominal charge, said charge to be fixed by the associations adopting this arrangement.

The following officers were elected:—President, Mr. F. C. Bruce, Hamilton; first Vice-

President, Mr. Wm. Rutherford, Peterboro; second Vice, Charles Magee, Ottawa; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. George McBroom, London. Executive Committee, George Moberly, Collingwood; Wm. Sweaton, Belleville; R. C. W. McCuaig, Ottawa; W. C. Martin, Kingston; Alex. McFarlane, Otterville.

We purpose giving in subsequent issues of the ADVOCATE, several of the principal papers read at the convention.

A Trip Among the Farmers.

A trip through the county of Huron and that northern district during the month of November, for the purpose of becoming more intimately acquainted with the agricultural resources, and also the progress farmers have made in those districts during the last twenty years, was rewarded by experiencing entire satisfaction with the great success which has attended the labors of the pioneer settlers who came to this district when the now beautiful farms were dense forests.

The first place at which we halted after leaving London, was the township of Wallace, in the county of Perth, but borders on Huron. Here surprise met us on every hand, owing to the fine houses and excellent barns everywhere to be seen. The settlers are principally Germans, who are largely possessed of frugal dispositions, and their well cultivated farms and general surroundings, indicate that their system of farming is progressive. Notably among the systems, we noticed the commendable one of fully preparing and cultivating the land in autumn. The soil, which is principally sandy loam, is plowed early in the fall, and receives very vigorous cultivation till winter sets in. The advantage of this system must be apparent to every intelligent farmer, as it puts the soil in better condition to receive the grain in the spring and also facilitates farm operations at a season of the year when the work of necessity is hurriedly executed.

We made a flying visit to Harriston, which is in Wellington county, and the centre of a rich agricultural district. Messrs. Collison & Lavan are energetic importers and breeders of Clydesdale horses, and at the present time have four fine imported stallions in their stables. Thus far they have been very successful in their operations, and their enterprise has been the means of introducing a class of fine horses in this section.

A few miles from Harriston, on the 9th concession of Howick, Mr. Samuel Johnston, who is Deputy Reeve of the township, resides. Mr. Johnston owns a beautiful farm of 630 acres, which is located in a very desirable part of the country, the soil being rich and productive. Mr. Johnston lives in a spacious mansion, surrounded with luxury and all the comforts of life. His barns and stables are erected on stone foundations, the basements being used to accommodate his large stock. He is a breeder of thoroughbred Durhams, and at the present time has several fine cows and a bull that would be difficult to surpass in the province. About 27 years ago Mr. Johnston entered the forest, and through his indomitable will and strong perseverance, he has made for himself and family the finest home in Howick. He attributes his success largely to stock-raising, and also to the fact that his operations in stock have been confined to the best bred animals procurable. During the last 15 years he has realized \$1000 annually from his stock, besides the profits accruing from the other departments of his farm. He has been the means of introducing good stock in this township