

be a benefit to our mechanics to dispose of their stock of implements. The farmers at this season were always wanting something—a new plough, or roller, or harness, or seed drill, or some other tools for the farm. He thought a quarterly Fair should be tried first. If this was successful, they could then try a monthly one. He did not know if other counties gave as much encouragement to Fairs as Northumberland did; or if other counties had given prizes as they had done. He thought that farmers stood in their own light not to patronize these Fairs. They had to be worked up, just as Farmers' Clubs had to be; but if Fairs were once fairly set going, they would grow of themselves; but they wanted to be pushed at first to give them a start.

Does Farming Pay?

The Western New York Farmers Club lately met and discussed the question "Does it pay to be a farmer?"

We extract from an exchange newspaper some particulars of the discussion:

Mr. Glass felt like Artemus Ward when he said he had been an honest old farmer five years. When the speaker first went into the business he was told by some people that he could not realise over five per cent. on his investment. He said if he did not make ten per cent he would not be a farmer. He found by experience that farming did pay, in spite of all that was said to the contrary. Farmers have a habit of charging the interest against stock, but omitting the cost of living, and by this theory, which is unusual in other business, a farmer figured that he realised seven per cent. on his investment, when in fact it was seventeen per cent. The speaker illustrated his argument by an article published in the *Rural Home* on this subject, in which a farmer calculates that he made eight per cent. on his farm, and forgot to add to it the cost of living, the rental of his homestead, and sundry other items which would have to be counted if he were doing any other business. If fifty young men were to start out and engage in farming, and fifty others were to enter other pursuits, the young men who had become farmers would, doubtless, be nearly all successful, while at least half of the other fifty would be likely to fail.

Another speaker, Mr. Root, said he made a profit of \$240 per acre last year above expenses for family and keeping up buildings. In twenty years he had made an aggregate of \$100,000 by farming.

Mr. Quimby gave his experience in getting on in farmer life. He started with \$1,500 and a wife and three children. He bought 135 acres of land, and it took nearly all the money he had to stock it. His wife was in delicate health, and children all small, and he had to pay a great deal for labour. He persevered, however, raised his family, educated them, gave his two sons \$1,300 when they attained their majority, and after sixteen years' service in farming he sold his land

for considerably more than he paid for it, and walked off with \$20,000 in cash. He attributed his success in farming to planting his crop in rotation. There is no investment like that in real estate.

R. W. Warner said that farming paid in every way, although many young men thought otherwise. It pays in the enjoyment of health, in the leisure time it affords, and in various other ways. He gave an instance of a family of five boys who had entered upon farming some years ago, and now each of them has a large farm, is highly respected, and withal, in the most comfortable circumstances.

Mr. Hooker believed that the lands of farmers ought to be directed to the future usefulness of their farms. He was opposed to the principle of exhausting the land in a few years for the purpose of raising large or profitable crops. This only afforded a temporary advantage, which often proved in the end ruinous. The speaker related something about Canadian farming. He knew a farmer on the other side of the lake who had his farm divided into sections, in each of which a crop was raised. He had it so arranged that he rotated his crops most systematically. Many of our farmers have a fluctuating policy. When there is a prospect of corn being high, they raise corn, and when the market looks well for wheat they sow wheat.

Mr. Hodges said that Early Rose potatoes were commanding a high price; everybody raised Early Rose potatoes.

On the question of the best crops to raise, it was generally conceded that much depended on the locality, and that in general a mixed system of husbandry was most advantageous.

The Agricultural Society of France.

The Society was established in 1868, and consists of between 3,000 and 4,000 members, who are resident in almost every department of France.

It appears that the Council of the Society is arranged into ten sections for the following departments:—First, agriculture proper; second, of breeding and rearing live stock; third, the cultivation of the vine; fourth, woods and waste lands; fifth, horticulture and the cultivation of fruit trees; sixth, climatology, irrigation, and the economy of water generally; also, with sectional railways for the benefit of agriculture; seventh, agricultural industries; eighth, silk culture, and entomology generally; ninth, rural economy, and legislation bearing upon agriculture; and tenth, the creation of superior agricultural schools, &c.

Everyone who has travelled in France must have been impressed with the fact that agriculture in many districts is very much behind, particularly as regards the breeding and general management of live stock; and also that there are large tracts of country which could be profitably reclaimed and brought under cultivation. With such a climate as that of France, and with soils generally so friable and fertile, the aggregate produce might be increased to an extent far exceeding the estimates made by the most sanguine agriculturists.

Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association.

The following are the names and addresses of the elected members of the Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario for the ensuing year:

- District No. 1.—Archibald McNab, Loochiel.
 " 2.—Hon. James Skead, Ottawa.
 " 3.—Andrew Wilson, Maitland.
 " 4.—Irving Diamond, Ameliasburg.
 " 5.—Nathan Choate, Port Hope.
 " 6.—Geo. Graham, Brampton.
 " 7.—Geo. Murton, Guelph.
 " 8.—J. C. Rykert, M.P.P., St. Catharines.
 " 9.—Hon. David Christie, Paris.
 " 10.—Robt. Gibbons, Goderich.
 " 11.—L. E. Shipley, Falkirk.
 " 12.—Stephen White, Charing Cross.

PRESENTATION.—Mr. Walter Riddell, of Cobourg, was recently the recipient of a handsome testimonial in the form of a watch and gold chain, presented by members of the West Northumberland Agricultural Society, of which he is Treasurer, in token of their high appreciation of his services to the Society, and his efforts for the advancement of agriculture in the County. Mr. Riddell has been a member of the County Society for thirty years, and during more than half that period has gratuitously filled the office of Treasurer. He has also for many years efficiently performed the duties of Secretary to the Hamilton Township Agricultural Society, and more recently has rendered the same service to the newly organized Farmers' Club in that neighbourhood. He has besides been a careful observer, and furnished some valuable statistics of the time of sowing and reaping, and market prices of farm produce, during a period of more than 25 years, and has contributed in addition a number of excellent practical articles to the columns of the *CANADA FARMER*. These and other claims upon the esteem of his brother agriculturists were cordially recognized in the address which accompanied the presentation. Every one who knows Mr. Riddell will feel that this tribute of respect has been well deserved.

AGRICULTURAL ENTERPRISE IN JAPAN.—The *Prairie Farmer* says that for some weeks past Capt. Capron and an associate have been engaged in purchasing specimens of American farm implements, seeds, &c., together with representative cattle, swine, horses, and sheep, under commission from Gen. Horace Capron, who was recently called to Japan, by the Emperor, for the purpose of introducing American agriculture into this empire. The greater amount of the purchases have been made in the West. All were expected to be in readiness to pass over the Pacific railroad to San Francisco, for ocean shipment, about February 1. The entire shipment would be gathered together at Chicago, including some half dozen practical farmers, who go out to assist the General.