

## Farmers' Clubs

Wednesday morning's session commenced with an interesting discussion on "Farmers' Clubs," by F. Hedley Auld. A. F. Mantle then followed, his subject being "Should judges explain their reasons for making awards." Mr. Mantle confined his remarks principally to the summer fair. "In former days," said Mr. Mantle, "judges were not trained." They were men who lived and grew up with live stock, and in many cases were very competent as judges, but as they had not been trained in the art of expressing themselves, it was a difficult thing for them to state just why one animal was better than another. In the second place," continued Mr. Mantle, "the judge's reasons for giving certain rewards will be liable to be followed by severe criticism. Thus the fair would lose a great deal of its dignity. Again, exhibitors, whether they lose or not, are not anxious to have their stock criticised. Further, it was not feasible for the simple reason that the time was short and the judges were overworked." He said, however, it might be arranged, to have discussion in the team classes and the breeding classes. Mr. Mantle concluded by stating that it was a matter for the societies to consider themselves, whether or not the judges should give their reasons for awarding prizes.

## Stock Judging Demonstrations

Dean Rutherford then gave an interesting talk on "Stock judging demonstrations and competitions." Mr. Rutherford said he was of the opinion that more demonstrations should be held and less judging. He would eliminate a large number of classes, and would seek to gather the young men and boys at the fairs for the purpose of demonstration. He pointed out that before a boy could thoroughly know a horse, he must be thoroughly acquainted with the various points of the animal, and have in his mind a picture of the ideal. "It means nothing," said Mr. Rutherford, "to be told that one horse was better than another, but when the judge points out the various points of the horse, dwelling on their good or bad qualities, it means a great deal." Mr. Rutherford concluded by saying that he hoped to see the societies make room for demonstrations next year. The summer fair, as at present conducted, was discussed by W. L. Ramsay. Mr. Ramsay stated that precedent was the curse of a country. We in the West had followed the East in the past and failed. When we succeeded, it was when we branched out with our own ideas. John A. Mooney then gave a demonstration in judging wheat.

## Wednesday Afternoon Session

Dealing with "The farmers' responsibility in the production of superior milk, cream and butter, and how it can be accomplished," George H. Barr, chief of the Dominion dairy division, Ottawa, delivered an instructive address. Mr. Barr was followed by an interesting address by Angus McKay, of Indian Head Experimental Farm, on the subject of "The production and use of fodder corn in Saskatchewan." "Alfalfa growing in Western Canada," was treated by W. H. Fairfield, of the Experimental farm, Lethbridge, and he was followed by Dean Rutherford on the subject of "Saskatchewan's alfalfa growing competition."

## Evening Session

The second evening session was the occasion of two lantern lectures by A. F. Mantle and Norman M. Ross. The former was on "A well planned farm house," and the latter on "Beautifying the home."

The first picture that Mr. Mantle showed could hardly be called a well planned house. It was, in fact, the tar papered shack of a homesteader. The next picture, however, was the house to which Mr. Mantle confined his discussion. The house chosen was built of concrete, and was the property of J. A. Donaghy, of Belmont, Man.

The first plan shown was of the cellar. The root cellar was entirely separated from the other part and not heated. The remainder of the cellar, excepting the cold storage room, was as well warmed as the house, and divided into a boiler room, laundry, work shop and fuel bin. On the ground floor was shown a parlor, dining room, kitchen, pantry, library and bedroom. The ventilation system installed was simple and satisfactory and eight tons of coal warmed the house during the winter. The house was piped

with gas throughout, and the owner, said Mr. Mantle, would shortly install a gasoline plant.

As economy, the builder figured on spending \$8,000 on the construction of this house, but as it stands, practically completed, it has cost only \$3,000. The house has some seven thousand trees around it, tennis courts, lawns, etc., and in general presents quite an attractive appearance.

## Ornamentation of Grounds

Norman M. Ross spoke chiefly with regard to ornamentation of grounds. Mr. Ross said that it seemed to him that the work spent on beautifying the ground was not generally considered to be a paying investment, and he hoped by means of his slides to show that this impression was wrong. Mr. Ross showed a garden plan 175 yards by 245 yards, of which a little over one-sixth was devoted to ornamental ground.

He next showed a set of slides taken at the Indian Head Nursery, showing the development of five successive seasons. He also gave a description of the methods of preparation of the lawns and the seed used. Pictures were then shown of some of the more satisfactory perennial flower blooming shrubs, describing their uses, time of blooming, etc. He also dealt with the various varieties of trees, which have proven themselves the most satisfactory for planting in the Western climate.

The program of the evening was closed with a song by Mr. Phillips.

## Resolution Morning

Thursday morning's session was devoted principally to the passing of resolutions, the following being adopted:

"That this convention of agriculturists of Saskatchewan deplore the loss that the province has sustained since our last meeting in the death of one of our number, the late George Mutch, of Lumsden. He was a leader in his work and one who enthused brother farmers. We wish to convey our sincere sympathy to relatives and friends."

"That this convention approves of an amendment to the agricultural act providing that the board of directors shall be elected for a period of years, one-third to retire each year."

"That the department of agriculture be requested to pay a grant of \$50 to each society that offers one scholarship of the value of \$100 each year to first year students of The College of Agriculture; such students to be elected by ballot by the directors or at a meeting of members."

"That in order to give continuity to societies from year to year, the established rule of retaining the membership fee from prize-winners be not abolished."

"That the membership grant on all districts other than those in which cities are included shall be based on a minimum membership of one hundred."

"That in section 37, relative to grants in part ten, clause five should be altered to read: 'the grants payable to any society which has been in existence for a period of at least ten years.' (Withdrawn)."

"That in wheat, oats and barley classes at provincial seed fairs, each exhibit shall be at least one bushel and exhibitor shall guarantee to accept one order to the extent of at least fifty bushels, through the agency of the department if given before the close of the agricultural convention, equal to sample shown."

"That there should not be such a delay in the making of payments of grants. (Withdrawn)."

"That in view of the tremendous additions made to the work of the women of the West by the yearly influx of harvest help, that the railway companies be asked to provide in connection with each harvest excursion train at least one colonist car exclusively for women and give the same railway rate to any able bodied woman who is willing to come West and engage in housework on a farm during harvest time."

## Approve of Reciprocity

"That this convention regard with approval the proposed reciprocity arrangements with the United States."

The last resolution dealing with reciprocity was passed unanimously and without discussion.

The resolution that caused the greatest discussion was that dealing with the retention of the membership fee from prize-winners. F. Hedley Auld in dealing with the matter, said there were two reasons for the proposed change: (1) the simplifying of returns, and (2) no reason was to be found for it while there were

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