

Joliette, and Montcalm, requested permission of the council to hold a district competition, this year, of three counties, and prayed the council to grant them the supplementary sum of \$600.00 to aid in the organisation of the competition.

Resolved that while the council admits the importance of these district exhibitions as an excellent means of advancing the interests of agriculture in the province, it regrets that it has no funds at its disposition to encourage these competitions, the necessity for which it at the same time admits.

The programme of the operations of the agricultural society of the county of Dorchester was read, and approved by the council.

The programme of the operations of the agricultural society of the county of Champlain was not approved by the council, except on the special condition that the society conform itself to the rules of the council, by holding a competition for the best cultivated farms, before holding any other competition.

The programme of the agricultural society of the county of Nicolet was read, and the council approved it, except as regards that part which concerns the purchase of animals. The council requiring that sufficient proof of the purity of the breed of the animals be produced, and postponing the payment of the grant to the society until the council be convinced of the purity of the animals proposed to be purchased by the said society.

The programme of the agricultural society of the county of Yamaska for the present year was read.

The council, while approving this programme, orders the money to be expended in the purchase of breeding stock, and that proofs, satisfactory to the council, of the purity of the said stock be produced.

Letters were read from Messrs J. Barr and A. Casavant, placing their farms, cattle, and buildings, at the disposition of the council for the establishment of school-farms.

Mr Benoit, seconded by Mr Lemyre, moved that the council, while it rejoices to see several offers of farms for the creation of agricultural schools, in addition to those already assisted by government,—many more offers of a like sort being shortly expected to be made; the council does not feel it to be its duty, at present, to express any opinion as to the offers in question, but prefers to postpone its decision in this matter, until all proposals of the kind shall have been submitted to the council, which will, then, be in a position to offer its advice on the subject to the government, with a thorough knowledge of the whole question involved. (carried).

Resolved: that the secretary be instructed to prepare a list of the pupils at the different agricultural schools of the province, pointing out the time they have spent at the said schools during the past two years.

Resolved: that the committee for visiting the schools be requested to study the question, if it be not expedient that the pupils of the said schools who are finishing their course be examined by the school-committee before their certificates be granted.

Resolved: that the secretary be instructed to forward to the different agricultural schools an extract from the report of the committee on schools, pointing out the improvements or alterations considered as being the most favourable to the teaching afforded in the schools, as suggested by the said committee.

The report of the visiting school-committee was read.

Resolved: that the report of the visiting school-committee be received and adopted, and that the thanks of the council be given to the committee for the excellent report which it has submitted, and for the valuable suggestions therein contained.

And the council adjourned till 8 p. m.

Session—8 p. m.

PRESENT: Messrs Massue, Blackwood, Marsan, Browning, E. Casgrain, Lemyre, Casavant, Guilbault, DeBlois, Benoit, and the ass. commissioner of agriculture.

After the discussion of the annual address of the president, it was

Resolved: that the president's address be received, and that the thanks of the council be voted to the president for the remarks full of wisdom contained in the address.

Acting upon the suggestion made by the president in his address, Mr Blackwood, seconded by Mr DeBlois, moved:

That the president, the vice-president, and the secretary, form a committee specially charged with the duty of visiting the agricultural colleges at Guelph and Lansing, for the purpose of study-

ing the mode of education pursued there, and reporting thereon to the council. (carried).

Mr Browning, seconded by Mr Benoit, moved that the money-prizes offered by the agricultural societies for the competition for the best cultivated farms will only be awarded to practical farmers, i. e. to those who, working their own farms, have no other occupation, and support themselves by the sale of the products of their farms.

Those farmers who are excluded by this rule may receive, in lieu of money prizes, a diploma or other recompense, when, in the opinion of the judges, they are found to deserve it. (carried).

Mr Browning, seconded by Mr Pilote, moved: that all the agricultural societies be requested to forward to the council, on or before 1st April next, a statement containing the most complete account of the breeding stock bought by them, the description and the age of each animal, the price paid, the name and address of the seller, and if the animal in question still belongs to the society; and if any animal has been sold, the statement should contain the name of the purchaser, the date of the sale, and the price paid. A regular pedigree of each animal, horse or horned stock, must also be sent to the council. (carried).

Mr Browning, seconded by the hon. G. Ouimet, moved:

That all the agricultural societies that have not been exempted by the council from holding a competition for the best cultivated farms be informed, that if they do not conform to the regulations of the council as regards these competitions, the amount that they are bound to pay in prizes in the competitions will be deducted from their share of the government grant. (carried).

Mr Browning, seconded by M. Benoit, moved:

That no agricultural society be allowed to offer prizes for any bulls except those of pure breed, possessing an authentic pedigree proving indisputably their purity of descent. (carried).

The evening session was wound up by a long and interesting conversation about cheese- and butter-factories. The council adjourned till the next day at 10 a. m.

Thursday, Feb. 1st, session 10 a. m.

PRESENT: Messrs Massue, Benoit, Browning, Blackwood, Casavant, Marsan, Gauthier, A. Casgrain, E. Casgrain, Lemyre, DeBlois, Pilote, Ouimet, and the ass. commissioner of agriculture.

Mr Gauthier considered, that the importance of the different reports submitted to this meeting of the council of agriculture, and the resolutions adopted concerning them, rendered it advisable that the council should order a certain number of copies of the reports and resolutions to be printed, and to be distributed among the members of the legislative assembly. (carried).

Mr Browning, seconded by Mr Benoit, moved:

That ploughing matches be held this autumn in each of the districts of Quebec, Three-Rivers, and Montreal, and that a committee, Messrs Casgrain, Benoit, and the proposer, be named, with power to fix the time and place of the said meeting, the amount of the prizes to be offered, and to prepare the rules and regulations which are to govern these competitions. The amount of money to be expended in these meetings not to exceed \$2,000.00. (carried).

Mr Browning, seconded by Mr Blackwood, moved:

That the date of the annual meetings of the horticultural societies be fixed for the months of September or October of each year, instead of January, as ordained by the 6th article of the rules, and that the reports and financial statements of these associations be forwarded to the council of agriculture on or before the 1st November of each year, instead of February as prescribed by the 16th article of the rules which govern the horticultural societies. (carried).

The rev. Mr Pilote, seconded by Mr Benoit, moved: that the government be requested to take into consideration the propriety of organising a general competition of the best cultivated farms in every district, and to prepare the ways and means for putting this project into execution. (carried).

Mr Casgrain gave notice, that at the next meeting of the council he would bring forward a motion, seconded by Mr Lemyre:

That Canadian bulls be admitted to compete as thoroughbreds at the county and other shows, if, in each case, it shall be proved to the satisfaction of the judges that these breeds are the produce of five generations, without any admixture of foreign blood.

After several members of the council had made remarks on the