

**Farmers' Clubs.****Dominion Farmers' Council.**

[The Dominion Farmers' Council meets in the city of London, Ont., on the third Thursday of every month, at 1 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, A. LEHMANN, LONDON, ONT. This Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, objects, etc., also a form of Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, which will, on application to the Secretary, be distributed free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

The regular monthly meeting of the DOMINION FARMERS' COUNCIL was held on the 16th ult., President Anderson in the chair.

**COMMUNICATIONS.**

A communication was received from one of the amalgamated clubs, asking the Council what method it considered the best for the destruction of potato bugs, and to give them any information regarding the use of Paris green and its chemical effect on the potato.

In reply to this question, Mr. O'Brien said that he had tried the plan of cutting potatoes into pieces, and dipping the newly cut side into pure Paris green, shaking off again as much as could easily be done, and then placing these poisoned baits, Paris greened side up, over the field. This plan had given him very good satisfaction. Mr. Shore had tried the same plan, but had found that one season the bugs did not make their arrival till the potatoes were about six inches above ground, but as a general rule the bugs were there long before the potatoes made their appearance.

Mr. Leitch stated that the smallest quantity of Paris green that could be applied, so long as it killed the bugs was the best. He used one to two teaspoonsful to a pail of water. One of the great mistakes farmers had fallen into, was to allow the bugs to enjoy all the privileges of life after the potatoes were strong enough to successfully withstand their attack. This would allow a large and vigorous army to appear the next spring. He recommended the spreading of poisoned pieces of potatoes on the patch, not only in spring, but also in the fall, after the potatoes had been dug, for there were always a large number of them searching for something to eat at that season of the year, which, if killed, would not be a source of trouble in spring.

Sprinkling the potatoes with Paris green water was recommended by most members, a number of them having tried both the dry and the wet method of application quite recently. One member stated that some extensive potato growers still applied it in the dry state mixed with land plaster. Another member remarked that one year he had a patch of potatoes bordering a field where a neighbor had his potatoes the previous year, and he noticed that near the line fence the bugs were much more numerous than some distance from it. The neighbor had not killed the bugs in the fall. Picking the early bugs, if possible before they had laid their eggs, did not appear to have been profitable, but planting a row extra early, destroying the bugs that appeared on it, which were very numerous, and removing the tops together with all bug-eggs shortly after the remainder of the patch came up, had been tried with very satisfactory results by some of the members. No member had ever noticed the application of Paris green to affect the tuber.

**NEW CLUBS.**

Moved, seconded and carried, that the Manchester Farmers' Club be amalgamated with the Council. The club was organized near Boylstone, N. S., on the 29th April last.

**TO WHAT SHOULD CANADIAN FARMERS TURN THEIR ATTENTION IN ORDER TO BENEFIT THEIR CONDITION AND THE COUNTRY.**

Mr. J. K. Little, being called upon to contribute his share to the programme, read the following paper prepared by him for the Council:—

Gentlemen,—This question needs one of wider experience than myself to handle it thoroughly. At the outset I would say that the only true road to success on the farm is on the principle of mixed husbandry. My observations in this direction for several years have brought me to this conclusion. I never could see how a specialty could be made to work on the usual size of a Canadian farm (100 acres). There is not the least doubt that there are men who have made specialties pay; but it is the exception and not the rule. Now, in laying down a principle it should be so adjusted that all could follow it. I think one great drawback to the farming class of this country is the lack of a press to advocate their rights. It would be one of the greatest benefits to the farmers had they a person or persons who would step forward and advocate their rights and look after their interests, so that the produce of the farm might be allowed to go forward in a legitimate way without being interfered with by rings and combines. It is stated that there are four men in Chicago who control the entire meat production west of that place. It is computed that they take out of Kansas alone the enormous sum of \$42,000,000 per annum. And the law of the land allows the produce of the farm to be handled in this manner. The farmers of this country are about 75 per cent. of the population, and they allow the 25 per cent. to govern them. We ask ourselves why should this be? Now, I think this could be remedied. Instead of sending lawyers and doctors from rural constituencies to our legislative halls, let us send practical farmers, and until that is done it will be impossible to improve the condition of the Canadian farmers or our country. The question is one that requires a great deal of thought. There are so many grievances that require a remedy. I won't mention here what I think is one of them; it is in reference to the railroad. The country, in the first place, builds them, and then the company turns round and levies such heavy freightage on farm produce as to lessen the farmer's profit.

Gentlemen, in concluding this short article I think we cannot impress this too strongly upon the minds of the agriculturalists, that without a journal to advocate their rights, their case is almost a hopeless one.

After a vote of thanks had been given to the writer, Mr. Anderson opened the discussion. He stated that he entirely corroborated the remarks the essayist had made, and that until farmers learned to judge for themselves, and were not led away by party cry, party feeling and party lies, very little hope remained to better the present circumstances. Farmers had to amalgamate to defend their rights, but this was almost impossible so long as they allowed their judgement to be led away by party politics.

Mr. Bartlett said that the lack of reading among a large percentage of the farmers, gave the combines a very large proportion of the power they possessed. It had almost made his blood boil at times, to hear farmers that had almost everything to learn, and therefore needed all the information they could possibly pick up, say, when he was trying to induce them to read a little on agricultural questions, that they did not want to have any agricultural literature about the house, for then their boys would sit reading when they should work on the farm.

Mr. Leitch regretted that there was such a difficulty to circulate agricultural papers, this reduced their power to benefit farmers. There seemed to be but little energy and enterprise among the latter, for the cheese buyers in Western Ontario, which were once quite numerous, had dwindled down to three or four. And although a storehouse for cheese and other farm products was much needed in London, there seemed no one willing to take hold of it.

Some of the other members made some very valuable remarks among them, "If farmers read as much on agricultural affairs as on political trash, they would be much better off." But owing to the lack of time—much business having had to be discussed—the discussion was cut very short.

The Council adjourned, to meet again on October 15th.

**The Farm.****Hints on Corn and Oats.**

Prof. Latta, in summing up his experiments, says; In corn culture the important things are thorough and deep preparation of the ground and keeping the surface clean and mellow, without breaking the corn roots in dry weather. The kind of implement and the method of tillage are of minor consequence provided the above named conditions are secured.

Barn manure produces a greater increase in yield, and "lasts" longer than commercial fertilizers. If used fresh it should be applied to the corn crop.

Commercial fertilizers have given better satisfaction upon wheat than upon other crops. They have not thus far proved profitable on the College farm. I question whether the returns will justify their uses on soils of average fertility.

The value of a fertilizer depends largely on the crop to which it is applied and on the composition and fertility of the soil, and can be determined satisfactorily only by field trial.

Broadcast and drill seeding of oats have given practically the same yields under similar conditions. On broken or foul ground broadcasting would probably be preferred. The rotary broadcast seeder would not, however, secure a uniform distribution of seed in windy weather. The broadcast seeders that have the drill force-feed are less open to the above objection.

Thick seeding of oats has given the best yields thus far, but a thick stand makes the crop more liable to lodge.

The thicker stands of corn have given good yields, but the corn is reduced in size and the labor of gathering increased thereby.

With an equal stand, cultivated one way only, planting corn in twos or threes has given better results than disposing the kernels singly. It seems probable, therefore, that if corn could be planted in hills of two stalks, say three and a-half by two and a-half feet apart, and in rows each way so as to permit some cross cultivation, heavy yields of good quality might be produced.

Rotation of crops is the most feasible and effective preventive of insect ravages. There have been no serious insect depredations on the College farm since the writer took charge of it in 1882. A judicious crop rotation equalizes the demands on the land, prevents mixing of crops, increases the yield, provides a variety of feeds for live stock and is thus a means of maintaining the fertility of the soil.