


# THE MONTHLY FARMERS' ADVOCATE



Vol. 2] DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. [No. 12

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London, December, 1867.

Postage Free.  
Office—Dawson & Bro., op. City Hall

## PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

An Agricultural meeting was held in Toronto on the 12th of November, consisting of one delegate from each County Agricultural Society, and the members of the present Board. We attended the meeting for the purpose of taking observations. Nearly all the delegates answered to their names.

The meeting was for the purpose of framing a new bill to lay before the Legislature of Ontario at its first session. J. P. Wheeler the President of the Association was appointed Chairman. It was ascertained that the present Board had already been scanning over the Act, and had concluded on what changes they wished to adopt.

Mr. Geo. McGee of London, and others wished the Board to lay their plans before the meeting, and allow it to discuss the merits of the alterations they had agreed upon, which would have been a fair way, as many that were appointed as delegates knew not what was required, not having made it their study. However, that was not done, and they took up the different clauses of the old bill & discussed on what changes they would like. Some speakers were continually heard on every subject that came up. Many had some particular point they wished to carry and were heard. Numbers said nothing all the time, but watched the progress of the meeting, and voted on the different questions. Many were dissatisfied, few got what they wanted, and some consider the meeting a farce. There was a strong

feeling evinced in the desire to have fresh men in the Board.

One important measure was passed. It was to divide Ontario into twelve electoral divisions, each to appoint a director. This we think was carried through Mr. Cowan's able and clear explanations. Great opposition was given to this innovation, but the majority considered they had gained a victory they had long fought for.

The whole community have long been desirous to see the present Board deprived of their power, because it is considered that fair play and justice has not been meted out by them. Some of the Committee that are appointed to frame this bill might just as well have been omitted, but no doubt the majority of them really wish well for the prosperity of Agriculture, but the majority of them are from Toronto or its vicinity. The reason assigned for not having them from a greater distance was on account of expense of traveling. While speaking of traveling we heard it hinted that the Board should have asked for return tickets from the Railroad Companies for the Delegates. We believe the Railroad Companies would willingly have granted them, as the success of agriculture must materially benefit their traffic receipts. At any rate the G. W. R. R. Company kindly granted us a Pass.

Another important measure was also passed, viz. the appointment of two Auditors, and the publication of the receipts and expenditures of the Association.

Mr. Philpott of East Elgin strongly pressed the rights of Township societies, but was defeated. The delegates being all appointed by the County Societies

were strong advocates of the extension of power to the Counties, and less to the Townships. This is a part of the act that requires judicious action. The Township shows cause a great rivalry among many farmers that have never dreamt of venturing to obtain a Provincial or even a County prize. They causes many to exhibit that otherwise would not, while increasing the power of the Counties and diminishing the privileges of the Township, will undoubtedly give greater spirit to the County Exhibitions. In many localities this may be advantageous, but in remote Townships where the distance is too far to go and return in one day it would act detrimentally. There were many other alterations of minor importance discussed. We have not space to give full details, but hope in next year's papers, when our subscription list comes in, to be able to issue extras, should the paper when doubled in size not be large enough.

Dr. Beadle of the St. Catherines Nurseries, very ably, lucidly and tenaciously advocated the admittance to the Board of Directors of a member of the Horticultural Society, but he was defeated in the attempt.

We cannot condemn in too strong terms the way the reports are hatched up for the *Globe*. Anything said tending to expose mismanagement has been too much oiled over or omitted. We contend that had unbiassed accounts and free condemnation of any existing evils been freely circulated through the country, the necessary changes would long since have been made, and the Provincial Exhibition