

service rendered, and it is well known that the burdens of all such combinations fall upon the producer, as neither dealer nor consumer can be made to participate in such bearing. And history goes to show that no principle is too high for them to sacrifice in order to contribute to the all-devouring greed with which their every propensity seems ever to abound; and whereas the railways of this country have been to a very large extent constructed by bonuses granted by the municipalities and Government subsidies, both of which are the people's money, and both of which have been contributed, in a very large number of instances, for the express purpose of providing a competition that would keep the freight and passenger rates at something like what the service is actually worth, only to be disappointed and chagrined by seeing the very object they sought to gain defeated by the action of the Legislature confirming an amalgamation of the line they thus helped to construct with the very lines they were endeavouring to provide a competition with.

"And your Committee are of opinion that the time has come when the Grange should take a more decided stand in reference to what they conceive to be our vital interest. Our legislators but a day or two ago told us we were an acknowledged power in the land. Where does that power lie, and how and when are we to exercise it? Your Committee conceive that that power lies in our co-operative efforts in the selection of our representatives, independent of party politics. In this matter our interests are identical, and our efforts should be united at the ballot-box. We do not wish to be understood as asking patrons to relinquish party ties by any means, but we do believe it to be the duty of every patron, irrespective of party, to see to it that candidates for Parliamentary honours answer satisfactorily the following questions, viz.:-

"1. Will you with your vote and influence seek to restrain effectually the growing tendency of railway corporations to oppress the people by means of high and discriminative rates beyond the actual value of service rendered?

"2. Will you under any circumstances except from any railway company any token of recognition conferring upon you the rights of travel over such railway without paying for such privileges the ordinary rates of passage?

"And your Committee would further recommend that the Dominion Grange put forth a vigorous effort to place our views upon this subject prominently before the country, in order that the people may have the opportunity of acting thereon at the next general election to our Legislatures.

"And your Committee would also recommend to the Executive Committee the propriety of petitioning the Government at Ottawa to remove the present vexatious restrictions upon the cultivation of tobacco, as such restrictions have almost entirely destroyed that industry, which has been and could otherwise be a profitable undertaking in some of the Erie counties of this Province."

The Committee on Agriculture submitted a report, strongly urging a thorough system of under-drainage, the eradication of noxious weeds, clean culture, and improvement of stock by using thorough-bred male animals; noted the rapid disappearance of the forest,

and suggested that trees be planted on side lines and along fences for shelter, shade and ornament; and expressed the opinion that statistics as to crop reports might be collected by means of the Grange organization. Official reports; also reports on education, temperance, music, and home attractions were presented and adopted.

The following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—W.M., A. Gifford, Meaford; Overseer, D. B. Newcombe, Sheffield Mills, Nova Scotia; Secretary, Luther Cheyne, Brampton; Lecturer, Levi Van Camp, Bowmanville; Chaplain, J. C. Shipley, Kingston, Essex; Steward, Wm. Brock, North Middlesex; Assistant-Steward, T. McLeod, Dalston; G.K., Ewen Cameron, Port Stanley; Treas., J. R. Bull, Downsview; Ceres, Mrs. Van Camp; Pomona, Mrs. Hillburn; Flora, Mrs. Wilkie; Stewardess, Mrs. McLeod; Auditors, E. H. Hilborn and A. J. Hughes. Executive Committee—Jabel Robinson, Middlemarch; and Robert Wilkie, Rondeau.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Mr. W. P. Page, the retiring Secretary, for his long and faithful services, and it was resolved that the Grange acknowledge these services by some suitable token of respect. The Grange finally adjourned, subject to the call of the Executive Committee.

SKETCHES OF CANADIAN WILD BIRDS.

BY W. L. KELLS, LISTOWEL, ONT.

THE CROWS.

The *Corvidæ*, or crow tribe, are among the most numerous and widely diffused of the feathered race, some species being found in nearly every quarter of the globe; but only one member is particularly numerous in Ontario, and that is the common carrion crow. The raven stands at the head of this genus; but it is rare in the settled parts of this country, and when one of them is seen, or killed, the event is generally recorded in the local press. The blackbirds are very numerous, and some of them closely resemble the crows, between which and the more insectivorous tribes they evidently form a connecting link. Animal matter generally constitutes their food, though they sometimes feed on grain and fruit.

THE RAVEN.

The raven is now a rare bird in the settled parts of Canada, though at one time it appears to have been numerous. A few specimens are occasionally seen in the vicinity of Niagara and the southern counties of Ontario; and one that was shot at Watford, a few years ago, measured four feet from tip to tip of its wings. In the yet unsettled regions of Canada, this bird is still numerous; and Mr. H. G. Vennor, of weather and ornithological fame, writing from the head-waters of the Ottawa, in 1879, says:—"Ravens are abundant on Trembling Lake and Mountain, and their hollow croaks were unceasing. They remain here all the year round, but what they subsist on I could not determine." It has also been found in the highest latitudes to which Arctic explorers have penetrated. Dr. Kane, speaking of his last visit to the ship which he left frozen in the ice, says:—"As we returned to the brig, we heard the rustling of wings, and

a large raven sailed away in the air. It was 'Old Magog,' one of a pair that had cautiously haunted near our brig during the last two years. He had already appropriated our homestead." The plumage of the raven is deep glossy black, its length is over two feet, its bill large and strong; its eye has a fierce look; and it feeds on dead animal matter, as well as on the eggs and young of other birds. The author of "The Polar World" says:—"The raven, one of the commonest land birds in Iceland, is an object of aversion to the Icelanders, as it not only seizes on the young lambs and eider-ducks, but also commits great depredations among the fish laid out to dry upon the shore. Poles to which dead ravens are attached, to serve as a warning to the living, are frequently seen in the meadows; and the Iclander is never so happy as when he has succeeded in shooting a raven. This, however, is no easy task, as no bird is more cautious, and its eyes are as sharp as those of the eagle. Of all Icelandic birds, the raven breeds the earliest, laying about the middle of March its five or six pale green eggs, spotted with brown, in the inaccessible crevices of rocks. Towards the end of June, Preyer saw many young ravens grown to a good size, and but little inferior to the old ones in cunning."

CURRENT NEWS ITEMS.

MR. JAMES SWANSTON, of Egremont, sold the other day, in Mount Forest, three pigs nine months old, weighing ten hundred and twenty-four pounds, at 8½c. per pound. Receipts \$87.04.

At a wood-chopping match at Munceytown, a few days ago, for a purse of \$25, an Indian named Eli Dalson chopped four cords and nineteen feet in seven hours, and offers to chop against any white man for \$50 a side.

MR. C. A. MATHESON, of Perth, a short time ago opened up his silo and tested it by feeding to the cattle on his farm. He says that his cattle generally ate the ensilage readily enough, and that as a food for stock it is a success.

MR. P. ERBACH, of Baden, purchased a section of land in Manitoba, in August last, for \$5 an acre, and sold it the other day for \$10 per acre, a clear profit of \$3,200. This land is forty miles from Emerson, and in the very heart of the Mennonite settlement.

MR. ABRAHAM CAVANAGH has disposed of his farm on the 13th concession of McKillop, to his neighbour Mr. David Crawford, for the sum of \$5,000. The farm contains seventy-five acres. Mr. Cavanagh has purchased a larger farm near Elmira, in the township of Woolwich, Waterloo county, and intends removing thither as soon as he can make the necessary arrangements.

THE *Gall Reporter*, which comes from an extensive fall wheat growing centre, says:—"The open weather experienced so far this winter has led many to believe that the fall wheat must have received serious injury from the absence of its usual covering of snow, and alternate freezings and thawings. From inquiries made, however, we are pleased to learn that so far the plant has, to a great extent, escaped injury, and that it is only on heavy and low-lying lands that it appears any the worse."