

should feed his horses. I must allow him to be his own judge, as a difference in work requires a difference in treatment in most cases. The horse when properly cared for is long lived, and will well repay for careful attendance. Coarse feed does not give strength to the muscles as grain does. A horse in high flesh, if he has no grain, may rapidly fall away when put to hard work. In preparing horses for spring work, say in March, you should begin to feed a little better than you have done the last three months; commencing to prepare them gradually for work. As they have done little hard work through the winter, and are consequently soft, they should not be worked hard at first. To take a horse on a bright warm morning, hitch him to a plough, and work him hard all day, is very cruel. Especially should young horses be put to light work, and accustomed to labor before being required to do a full day's work. Special care at this season should be taken of his shoulders; after the long rest of winter, his shoulders are tender, and will be easily galled at first. Be sure that the collar is in good repair, and fits properly; nothing looks more barbarous and cruel than a horse compelled to work with a galled shoulder. Great care in keeping them clean is very beneficial at any season of the year, and especially in the spring. After a hard day's work, a good currying or brushing, and a good bed of straw, are all necessary for his comfort, with a good stable well lighted and warm. Some have their stables made of stone, under the barn, which I think is very bad, as they are too damp for the horse. A frame stable is the best, with stalls not less than five feet wide in the clear, and back far enough to prevent them from kicking each other; the floor sloping so as to keep the stalls dry. A great difference of opinion exists among farmers as to which is the best way of making in the stable hay racks or mangers. I object to the rack, on account of the dust that falls in the horses' face and eyes when feeding. Stables with mangers can be made the warmest, on account of having all tight over head, preventing the cold coming from the loft on them. In conclusion, the best preventive of disease is, regular feed, moderate work, and good care.

After Mr. Smith concluded the reading of his essay, the subject was discussed at length by a number of those present. Many useful and practical observations were made upon almost every point pertaining to the question: the method of feeding colts at various stages of their growth, the care of the working horse is almost all the circumstances in which he is ever placed; the relative value of different substances as horse food; the very important item of how a horse should be shod; and other things of minor importance, were fully canvassed. The horse, in its relative to man as a motive power, was also spoken of. Unlike the other domestic animals, which are merely raised to serve as human food, the horse fills a different and a higher sphere in the economy of agriculture. He furnishes the force whereby the farmer is enabled to overcome physical obstacles and difficulties that could not be accomplished by human muscle; and in Canada where man's labor is dear and scarce, the extensive use of the horse is a necessity. At the close of the discussion it was moved by Mr. C. W. Smith, seconded by H. Elliott Jr., that whereas we have formed ourselves into an Association for the discussion and consideration of subjects connected with agriculture, and have taken the name of the Darlington Farmers' Club, and being deeply impressed with the importance of thorough and full discussion of prominent agricultural questions, and believing that occasional large meetings held throughout the year, where parties from all quarters of the township could be brought together, would be productive of much good; and further, that this end can be better attained under the auspices of the Township Agricultural Society than by our club. Be it resolved, to send a delegation to the next annual meeting of the Darlington Agricultural Society, for the purpose of introducing that body to hold two or three extra meetings per year, to consider and debate questions of general interest and importance to farmers. A committee was chosen for that purpose.

The subject for next meeting is a very important one, viz.: "The economization of manure." The meetings are held on the last Friday evening of each month. An impression seems to have got abroad that the club sits with closed doors, and none but members permitted to attend. Such an impression is quite wrong; for, on the contrary, we extend a cordial and hearty invitation to all, to our meetings without restriction; and further, hope that the public will accept the invitation.

An Airing Trip.

As we have been too closely confined to our office for a long time, we threw down our pen and left the talking, books and correspondence to be attended to by our assistant on Thursday, at 12 o'clock, noon, and went to the

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE EAST MIDDLESEX AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, which was held in this city. The attendance was somewhat larger than formerly, though not half as large as it should be. There were more changes in the officers than usual, Mr. John Nixon being elected President of the Society, and Mr. Tooley, M. P. P., and the late member, Mr. L. E. Shipley, were nominated as members of the Provincial Board of Agriculture. An objection was raised against Mr. Tooley on account of his being a member of Parliament; it was shown that the business of the two sometimes clashed so as to prevent their attendance at the meetings of the Board. A challenge was thrown out for any one to mention any act that Mr. Shipley had done or any inattention to business that would show he was not fit to hold his office, and no response was made. A vote being taken, Mr. Tooley had the majority. There was a direct charge made by one of the late office-bearers, that politics had been dragged into the Board, but no attempt was made to confute the assertion; it was allowed to go unchallenged. The meeting was soon over, and each went his way without being much better posted on agricultural affairs, all being ready for dinner. The question suggested itself to us: cannot such meetings be made more useful, more cheerful, more profitable, and attractive? We think it would be more beneficial if the time prescribed for holding the meeting was changed. It is now held at 12 o'clock, and we think it would be an improvement if it were to be held at half-past one, as farmers generally dine about 12 o'clock. There are some English farmers in Canada, and it is said that hunger makes a native Englishman both cross and uneasy. They are not then in a good plight to sit and hear remarks, or give much information; they want to get away as soon as possible. Perhaps there may be some others in the same way. If the hour should be changed, we think the afternoon might very profitably be spent in holding discussions on agricultural subjects. It would be well to induce as many to make remarks as possible, and to have no address over 10 or 15 minutes in length.

ST. MARY'S,

a pretty little town in the county of Perth, situated on the river Thames. This place is celebrated for its building material, and is the furthest point west that we are aware of, where good building stone can be procured in quantity. This place is a marked contrast to all other towns, villages and cities of the west, as its buildings are of stone. They have most substantial bridges both on the railway line and over the river, far surpassing any of our Western bridges, being constructed apparently as if they would last forever; they are handsome structures. We would suggest to the inhabitants of St. Mary's to encourage the planting of evergreens and shade trees to their utmost extent.

We went on the ice to see a game of Curling that was in progress. It was the first time we ever witnessed the "Roarin' Game," and we saw but little of it then, but to notice the intense anxiety of one grey-headed old gentleman, with broom in hand, was enough to make us at once attached to the game. The expressions were novel to us. One person cries out: "You're a hog!" the "hog" being a stone not sent over the line in front of the T. Then, "scop him up, scop him!" as another stone comes lazily along, taking its place, the ice being swept where the player wanted it. Then, the order, "side wipe this," and "fall into the T," when up comes another, missing its mark, going past and out of the grand circle. The

game is one of the most exhilarating and healthful that can be engaged in, which is manifest from the hilarity displayed on both sides while the game is going on; and from the ruddy and healthy appearance of the players, we should judge that they cannot fail to sit down to their beef and greens with lively spirits and sharp appetites.

The Annual Meeting of the S. Perth Agricultural Soc'y was held the same day. This Society has made it a custom for many years to have an agricultural dinner after the meeting, and having previously received an invitation from the Secretary to partake of their hospitality, we did so. The dinner took place at about half-past six. There were nearly a hundred present, consisting of the officers of the Society and leading farmers from the surrounding country, some of whom came a long distance in order to be present. The most famishing appetites and fastidious palates having been satisfied, the cloth was removed. The Punch Bowl was then placed on the table, and all who wished partook of the contents as often or as seldom as they pleased. A succession of toasts were proposed, and different gentlemen were called upon to respond. The health of the Queen being the first, it was responded to by every one joining in singing "God Save the Queen." Then followed the Prince of Wales, the Governor General, Our Legislators, the Board of Agriculture, the South Perth Agricultural Society, the Sister Societies, the Agricultural of the Dominion, the Dairymen, the Manufacturers, the Medical and Legal Professions, the Volunteers, and many others, but we took no jottings at the time, and it might occupy too much time and space to report every speech. We must say it was one of the greatest treats we ever had, and a more pleasant meeting we never attended. The responses to the above toasts were made in such a manner as to give either instruction, information, or amusement, and songs were interspersed to enliven the evening. There were farmers present that are destined to advance beyond the mere drudgery of the farm; the lawyers and doctors toasts were most ably and courteously handled. Nothing more could have been done than was done by the inhabitants of the town of St. Mary's to make the meeting agreeable and beneficial to farmers. We find, on enquiry, that these gentlemen are the principal supporters of this annual custom of having a dinner after the meeting. The officers are real active men, and we wish them and their Society every prosperity. Some may condemn the Punch Bowl as an entertainment of this kind, but there was no injury done by it there. Excesses were not indulged in, and no remark was to be heard unfit for the drawing-room. We hope yet to see the day when our wives and daughters will attend our agricultural meetings and give us their accounts of dairying, the cultivation of flowers, and their management of poultry, etc. There is one thing to be regretted; it is that after the officers of the Society have taken the pains to have a social gathering, and after the towns-people so nobly responding to the calls made upon them for agricultural purposes, that so few of the farmers attend. It is an excellent farming section, and the farmers are wealthy. They would gain more enlightenment, elevating and real useful information at such a gathering than they would gain in many years, in fact never gain, by staying away. We venture to say that no farmer that attended this meeting but would say that he was greatly benefited by it and that to a far greater extent than the mere loss of time or money. Such meetings are the places where our requirements are made known, where improvements are suggested. If only one good idea is brought forward it will drop into some ear that will appreciate it, and if the seed is sown the fruit will follow. We say to each of you: endeavor to have an agricultural gathering of some kind during the year, and induce as many to speak as possible.

We left St. Mary's the following morning, intending to stop at Guelph, but a slight incident at Stratford caused us to proceed direct to

TORONTO.

Desiring to see the Minister of Agriculture, we went to the Parliament Buildings. The House was not to meet until 3 o'clock; the Minister of Agriculture was absent at the time. We returned to the buildings before the appointed time, but we were not fortunate enough to obtain a few moments' conversation with him. The Speaker took the Chair at 3 o'clock. The Scott (of Ottawa) accusation was the subject of discussion. The House adjourned at six, when we proceeded to the floor and had a few moments' conversation with the Hon. A. McKellar, Minister of Agriculture. We were treated with respect, but did not receive any remark of encouragement or disparagement. We learned from him and other members that it was the intention of the Government to carry on the Mimico Farm. The College buildings had been contracted for by the former Government at \$450,000, but this does not include the outbuildings. We were not certain, from hints thrown out, whether this establishment would at present be abandoned or not.

The House re-assembled at half-past 7. M. C. Cameron, the leader of the Opposition, continued a vigorous onslaught on the members of the present Ministry. The results of course you will all know from the political papers, which will be published two weeks before you get this article we are now writing.

The following morning, Saturday, we visited the seed and implement warehouses and the printing establishments, to obtain information that might be of service to our readers. We should disgust you if we gave too many of our ideas in one paper. We took the noon train and stayed a few hours in

HAMILTON.

The Agricultural Society had held their annual meeting just before our arrival, but we saw many of the members. We had a little conversation with Mr. Thos. Stock, one of the leading agriculturists of Canada. He is the farmer that prevented the Provincial Exhibition from going to Ottawa at a time when it would have been against the interests and wishes of the inhabitants of Ontario. We conversed with him on the future prospects of our agricultural affairs. He palliated the great Mimico undertaking, but is not entirely satisfied with it; would let the Provincial Exhibition pass as one of the things to be; would strengthen and support our divisional Exhibitions; let the Township Exhibitions die out, and have one great Exhibition once in 4 or 5 years, to continue for 2 or 3 months. We do not agree with him in all his ideas. We know that the cities have the power; that might is too often considered right; that nearly every farmer within a radius of 15 miles of a city or main centre of holding these Exhibitions would support the views of Mr. Stock, in endeavoring to centre the interest in these different localities. The leading men of the country live within such a distance of some place that is or will be one of these centres. But by far the majority of farmers do not come within this radius, and for them we still uphold the township exhibitions. This representation of agricultural interests by population is not right. The inhabitants of the cities are numerous, and know or care very little about the plodding farmer. They are in a centre; they can vote and carry measures that are injurious to the agricultural interests of the distant parts of the country, and of advantage to the cities principally. To prevent the false representation that now exists, we would suggest that no person who is not an occupier and cultivator of at least 25 acres of land, and has not obtained his support from the cultivation of the soil, should be allowed to vote on our agricultural affairs. The country should be represented as well as the city. The coun-

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