

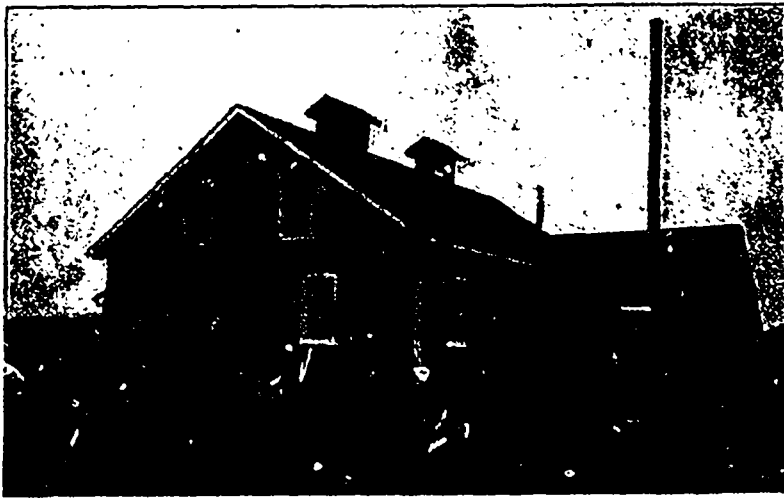
sistent with safety, yet in certain cases, notwithstanding all the cultured skill employed, that point was over-reached. For example, the lovely heifer, Queen of Athelstane, which was never beaten, died some months after she was sold to Lady Pigot, and it was found, on *post mortem* examination, that her heart was so closely enveloped in fat that it ceased to act. The triumphs achieved by Mr. Douglas shed quite a lustre around Scottish Shorthorns, which must illuminate their history for all time.—*John Downing, in London Live Stock Journal*.

North Lanark Farmers' Institute

(Special Contribution.)

A very successful meeting of the North Lanark Farmers' Institute was held in Lanark village on January 24th. A good sprinkling of representative farmers were present during the afternoon, and at least 450 people were present in the evening, keenly appreciative and attentive.

In the afternoon Mr. N. G. Somerville spoke on the milk producers' responsibility outlining the methods necessary if a clean and sweet article is to be delivered to the cheese factory. He urged strongly the adoption of the system of paying by the Babcock test. It was an obvious injustice to pay to the farmer who brought in 1,000 lbs. of milk showing 4 per cent. butter fat only the same money



A CO-OPERATIVE CREAMERY, NEEPAWA, MAN.

that was handed to another farmer for the same weight of milk testing $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The former's sample would make far more cheese or butter than the latter. As a matter of common honesty it should receive a higher price. Payment by the butter fat test would also naturally tend to improve the general quality of the herd.

Mr. A. Elliott, of Galt, gave a vigorous and practical talk on essentials to success in dairying. He would not advise anyone to rush into purebred stock even of a dairy breed. The best foundation for a good dairy herd was the common Canadian cow. She was hardy, usually a good feeder, and generally free from disease. Use a purebred bull of the dairy breed you fancy best, raise the heifers from the best cows only, and stick to purebred mates of the kind you first start with. Kindness and cleanness are the two essential virtues in the cow-stable. Mr. Elliott also warmly advocated the use of the Babcock test in cheese and butter factories.

Mr. M. Burrell, of St. Catharines, addressed the afternoon meeting on the subject of "Insects in Relation to Agriculture." The speaker emphasized the importance of this too much neglected study, and pointed out the enormous damage done annually by insect pests, such as tent caterpillars, cut-worms, codlin moth, horn fly, and so on. Mr. Burrell then dealt briefly with the structure and classification of insects, and referred to the transformation of

insects. It was necessary to know what a particular insect was like in the various stages of its existence, some of our injurious pests being comparatively easy to destroy at one stage of their life, and impossible to control at another. Clean farming birds and beneficial insects were instanced as agencies by which we were helped in the fight, and the use of poisons was touched on, the speaker closing with the remark that to fight our worst insects successfully it was absolutely necessary to know something of their breeding habits, transformations, etc. No subject could be more interesting to study; few more profitable.

Mr. W. C. Caldwell, M.P.P., took the chair in the evening, and, in introducing the speakers, called attention to the excellent work being accomplished by the Farmers' Institute meetings, in stimulating and arousing thought amongst agriculturists all over the country. Mr. Elliott spoke on the "Changed Conditions of Agriculture." He clearly and forcibly showed that in many directions competition in the British markets was becoming too fierce for the Ontario farmer. He had to compete in that market with the products of Russia, India and Argentina, many of whose agriculturists were little better than slaves. The Canadian farmer, it is true, was more intelligent than these people, but his wants were greater, neither could he live on the miserable pittance that supported the Russian serf or the Indian ryot. The secret of our success in the future must not only be the lessening of the cost of production, but the production of a higher quality. What we had accomplished with our cheese and our bacon, we must accomplish in other lines. For agricultural produce of the highest quality there is, and always will be, a limitless market in Great Britain.

Mr. Burrell gave an address on "Birds in Relation to Agriculture." The speaker pointed out the interdependence of all forms of conscious, and even unconscious, life, and reviewed at some length the conditions of the world of nature round us. The struggle for life amongst plants, insects, and higher forms was fierce and continuous. We, who depend largely on plant life for our subsistence, would feel disastrously the effect of the thousands of injurious insects were it not that many of these serious pests were themselves the food of birds. Mr. Burrell discussed forcibly the economic status of the crow, the hawks and owls, the oriole, robin, native sparrows and English sparrow. The last was condemned wholesale, the speaker urging that it was responsible for the driving away of our Canadian birds, nearly all of which were highly beneficial.

The officers of the North Lanark Institute are to be congratulated on so successful a meeting. At the same time, one cannot help reflecting that much of the success was due to the President, Mr. David Moir, and the indefatigable and popular Secretary, Mr. A. McLean. Both these gentlemen are untiring in their efforts to make the Institute work a success. We only heard of one man ever refusing to give the 25c. subscription. The Secretary's hearty and winning manner coaxed out the needful quarter every time. If every institute were blessed with such officers the system would be accomplishing even far more than it does now.

A Great Help

ST. THOMAS, Feb. 9th, 1899.

SIR,—Find enclosed \$1, to continue my subscription for 1899. I find it a great help to me in working my farm and improving my stock.

Yours truly,

J. G. CHAPMAN,
Oak Farm.