

### Meeting of the East Middlesex Farmers' Institute at Thorndale.

A pleasing feature in connection with the Farmers' Institute work is that the attendance and interests are steadily increasing; and while they are managed by practical farmers and freedom from all side issues maintained, they must prove highly beneficial.

The first speaker at the above meeting was Prof. Robertson. In opening the meeting he said he was pleased that a feeling of suspicion of one another among farmers was being largely dispelled by their meeting together and discussing subjects of common interest. Referring to the lack of organization among farmers, he showed that while rival business men, among whom increase of business to one meant decrease to the other, had their organizations for mutual benefit and protection. That farmers, who, on the contrary, were benefitted by the prosperity of their neighbors in the same calling, were very careless about organization. Proceeding to the subject of butter-making, he stated that the cow was a machine and would only make use of what was put into her. That wheat was all food, but flour only contained about half the feeding value; and the cow comes to the rescue—converting the straw, bran, etc., into milk, butter and cheese, another form of food. It was much to be regretted that many of these cow machines were not profitable, and were proving only a bill of expense. A good cow should milk ten and a-half months in the year—giving in that time 5,000 lbs. of milk containing 3½ per cent. of butter-fat. When questioned as to the best breed, he said he was past being in love with individual breeds. All were good in their place; but what he wanted was a dairy cow that would produce eighty dollars worth of milk in a season. Such a cow would have good heart-power to circulate the blood, good lung power to purify it, and good digestive power to assimilate the food; also, she must have the power to elaborate milk—as no cow could make milk and beef at the same time. He described, at length, the external signs of these faculties, among which are deep chest; wide nostrils; fine skin; hair lying close and sleek; long deep barrel, ribs wide apart; long from the last rib to the hip bone; long lean face, wide between the eyes; prominent eyes; sharp shoulders; long lean thin neck; back bone sharp and joints wide apart; loins long; rump thin; free from superfluous flesh at the twist and leg; udder long and with extensive surface attachment. Foul air makes bad milk. Clean stables, good ventilation, and use of gypsum gives pure air in the stables. Decaying animal matter, even in the pastures, is very injurious to milk. Corn fodder sown broadcast and thick is full of water and not valuable for milk production; in fact, corn fodder in drills is not good for milk production until the corn is beginning to glaze. That corn fodder in drills, after attaining full growth, increases 300 per cent. in feeding value from that time until the grain begins to glaze. Meal should always be fed on cut fodder or chaff—never alone. Deep setting of milk was best, as the cold water on the exterior of the cans caused a circulation, slow but effective in bringing the cream to the surface. Great care should be taken in churning to have all the cream equally ripe, as the sour cream churns much quicker than the sweet; the latter thus being left in the buttermilk and lost entirely. He further recommended that

cows be bred to drop their calves in late autumn, and that butter be made in the winter and the milk fed to the calves, which would thus be able to live on grass in the spring when the milk could be sent to the cheese factory. In answer to Mr. Weld (FARMER'S ADVOCATE), the Prof. said, the Denmark cow was of medium size, even, not meaty on the leg or twist, but capable of being fattened when dry; they yielded twice as much in a year as our cows, chiefly from superior treatment. A well-kept cow, he claimed, should pay \$15 profit per season.

Mr. J. B. Lane read an excellent paper on "Dairying vs. Grain Farming," in which he gave dairying the preference, but thought every farmer should raise, at least, wheat enough for his own bread. In answer to a question, he said feeding immature green fodder corn was simply an expensive method of giving cows water.

Mr. Weld was very much pleased to see the institutes making such headway, and was sure the information given by previous speakers would prove beneficial to those present. He thought it a grand thing for Canada that there was no embargo on our stock going into other countries; that this privilege had only been preserved for us by keeping our cattle healthy and stamping out contagious diseases at once on their appearance, and that he had long labored in this direction. He cited several instances in which he had, at considerable expense to himself, secured action by the government in stamping out disease in Ontario and other provinces. He explained that while some thought him opposed to the "Model Farm" and "Provincial Exhibition" such was not the case; what he had said he thought to their interest; he thanked them for what good had been accomplished. He was pleased to learn that improvements were in progress there. He also appealed to Hon. Mr. Drury, who was present, on behalf of the city of London, that in view of the fact that the Provincial Exhibition was to be held there this fall, and that as the exhibition had always come to London in debt and gone away with full coffers, that some of the funds should this year be spent in London.

Hon. Chas. Drury was the next speaker. He claimed that farming was the leading industry of our nation. Agricultural depression is felt by all classes. If farmers are in a prosperous condition, other men prosper. Speaking of exhibitions, he regretted that all the large exhibitions, except the Provincial, was under the control of the cities in which they were held, and manipulated by them to the advantage of these cities without regard for the interest of the farmer. He thought cheapening production was the chief subject for our consideration at present; he found many farmers who, notwithstanding the increased expense of living, were making no effort in this direction, being content to move along in the old rut followed by their fathers, and thinking they know it all already. Among the chief benefits derived from the institutes would be to open their eyes to the fact that there was much they did not know. He had no sympathy for a man that could not make a living off a hundred acre farm. He was pleased to know that we were not only the peers of our neighbors across the lines, but ahead of them in agriculture; he quoted statistics to show that our wheat crops were from 10 to 30 per cent. better than in any of the American States. He considered education necessary; if a man were only a ditcher, it was

of benefit to him in his work. He regretted that so many of our best young men drifted into the cities, and thought this came from a false idea of respectability, but the man who labored in moderation with his hands was healthier and better developed physically, and there was no reason why he should not be intellectually, than he who was confined in a lawyer's office or other place of business.

Prof. Robertson gave an excellent address on "Agricultural Education," showing the unpardonable mistake a man is making when he does not develop the intellect of his boys, thus making them not only better qualified to battle with life, but better men in every way. He disapproved of a man being a book-worm weighed down with knowledge, but wanted to see a man with knowledge under him to lift him to a higher plane of life. He considered it a matter of regret that the earliest education of the farmer's son tended to alienate his affections from the farm and prejudice him against agricultural education. He claimed that knowledge was not education but education was the assimilation of knowledge. A farmer should give his son an education first, and if there was any anything left all right, but first came education. He thought it a great mistake for a farmer not to take at least one agricultural publication, as nothing quickened a boy's ideas of, or inspired him with a love for, farming as much.

#### THE SECOND DAY.

Mr. Vining read a paper on noxious weeds, which was discussed at considerable length, but no new methods of eradication were brought to light.

Mr. J. B. Fram read a paper on the common sense or general purpose cow, but from the opinions expressed in the discussion following, it would seem that the common sense cow and the general purpose cow are not identical.

Prof. Robertson claimed that a good cow should have inherited capabilities and developed power as well. The heifer calf intended for a cow, or the calf intended for a stock bull should be kept thrifty but not fat. The calf intended for beef should be kept fat from the earliest possible moment, and a heifer should drop her first calf at thirty months old.

W. L. Brown read a paper on marketing grain, but which referred chiefly to abuses existing on a local market; his ideas, both as to existing abuses and their remedies, were assented to by many farmers present.

How to succeed in farming was the subject of Mr. Chas. Stewart's paper, and may be summed up in this phrase—"energy and economy."

Prof. Robertson gave an interesting address on "ensilage," the principal part of which appeared in January number of this paper.

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We had a pleasant call from Mr. Henry Wade, Toronto, Secretary of the Agricultural and Arts Association. In the course of conversation Mr. Wade remarked that as a result of our remarks in January issue of the ADVOCATE on agricultural examinations, he had received more applications for information on that subject than from all other sources combined.