

## Dominion and Provincial.

### COOPERATION AMONG FARMERS AND WHY FARMERS MUST ORGANIZE.

Much is being said and written in various parts of the Dominion concerning co-operation among all lines of business and the utter lack of organization on the part of Dominion farmers. Without a thorough organization, the farmers of the maritime provinces, Ontario or the northwest will never learn to co-operate. Competition in trade by successful merchants as well as professional men is now generally regarded as a thing of the past; co-operation has taken its place. On a strong organization, the basic principles of co-operation are developed and this development reaches its greatest strength where organization is most thorough. WHERE EXTENDED ORGANIZATION ORIGINATED

It is significant that the great scheme of organization was first carried out by the farmers of the United States. Directly after the civil war, the grange was conceived and instituted. In a few years the farmers of several of the richest farming states were splendidly organized, especially in Ia where over 2000 lodges were instituted and where they framed "granger" laws that were a terror to railroads, money sharks and extortionists. In Tex., Ky., Ind and Mo. magnificent organizations were perfected, which have and are still doing good work. Other states, O., Pa., Ill., Kan., Tex and Tenn had over 1000 lodges each and the grange in at least four of these states is to-day a wonderful power for good in many directions.

STRENGTH OF THE GRANGE

Coming nearer home, consider the strength of our neighboring states along the line. Mo has some 260 granges and 25,000 members. N H 255 granges, 22,500 members. Vt 75 granges, 3500 members. Mass 150 granges, 14,000 members. Ct 123 granges, 900 members. N Y 500 granges, 60,000 members. Pa 477 granges, 18,500 members. O 550 granges, 19,000 members. Mich 400 granges, 17,000 members. Wis 30 granges, 700 members. Minn. Col and Wash each 25 granges and about 600 members. With the exception of the new and sparsely settled states of Mont and So Dak, farmers along the entire line, in every state, are maintaining a strong organization and in every case it is the grange. All other farmers' orders in the states have gone down and are practically out of existence.

WHAT THE ORDER IS DOING.

Without exception, the grange in every state where organized is doing a great good. Each state organization maintains a strong legislative committee which makes the farmers' wants known before the legislatures. Lack of space only prevents a consideration of some of the many good things recently accomplished in the interest of farmers and agricultural communities. Similarly, the legislative committee of the national grange appears frequently before committees of congress as well as special commissions, as in the case of the high joint commission between Canada and the states which met last fall. Locally the county or district organizations do much in co-operative trading and several large prosperous Patrons' mutual fire insurance companies, life insurance, card contract houses, grange store houses, etc. have been established and conducted successfully many years.

The great work in the improvement of rural conditions, farmers and their surroundings must begin with more frequent social contact coupled with educational development. Lack of these two qualifications in no small degree accounts for why so few farmers are members of Dominion, federal, provincial or state governments. Until we educate, organize, co-operate and educate among ourselves, our mission in life will not receive the consideration from all other organized interests it is entitled to.

The present is a most favorable season to begin this agitation. Let us open up the thousand or more grange halls, scattered all over the Dominion, let us build a thousand more, and then assert our rights. Every town in the state of N H has a live, flourishing grange. N Y has 60,000 active members and within the past 18 months 150 new granges have been instituted in the state of Mich alone. The cost to maintain a grange is trifling, all members of the farmer's family are eligible to membership and the

order of business as outlined in the manual and digest are perfect for parliamentary usage. Any of our readers interested in the forming of a grange in his or her town, for which only 13 farmers are required, should write to the Editor of Farm and Home, Montreal, Que.

### A POOR POLICY EXPOSED.

The time has come when Nova Scotia officials should adopt a more conservative policy in the disposal of crown timber lands. It is to be regretted that of the 2,500,000 a originally held by the province, more than 700,000 a, or the pick and cream of the provincial timber, has been sold or leased. One of the woods rapidly coming into more general use is the spruce. All but about 500,000 a of the provincial crown lands are of the spruce species. While last year tracts of spruce land and timber were sold at \$10 p a, the 700,000 a sold the past 18 years has netted the provincial treasury only about 22c p a, and this for the pick of the spruce timber. The fact is, lumber men go into the forests, run off lines as to what they want and then go in the crown lands office and take it up. An inspection of the register's maps shows the holdings thus acquired as a bad looking piece of patchwork.

The time has come to run base lines and require prospective buyers to take up claims in regular order. Had the sale of the crown lands been made after this manner, instead of \$154,300, which the 701,000 a have been sold for, if we take a low average value of \$4 p a, which is less than half what they are now selling for, the province would have received \$2,805,000, or \$2,650,500 more than it has.—[Hon C. S. Wilcox, to N S Legislature.

### THE ANNUAL FAIR.

The winter live stock fair will be held at Guelph Dec 10-15, this decision being reached after a hot fight on the part of breeders around Brantford, who hoped to capture it for their city. This is by far the largest and most popular breeders' meeting of the year, comprising as it does the Dominion cattle, sheep, swine and poultry breeders' associations. Guelph in Wellington Co is situated in the very heart and center of the fat stock interest of the province and during the past quarter century these people have spent tens of thousands of dollars in the holding of stock shows. Then again, the provincial agricultural college and experiment farm are located there. Conveniences for a show of this kind are unsurpassed.

Some features which will be strengthened this year will be a fine show of dressed poultry and a large display of live birds, a block test of hogs, sheep and cattle, and a thorough test of the quantity and quality of milk of the various dairy stock entered. Several of these features have been slightly developed in shows of the past, but this year's features in this respect will be far better than ever before. The hogs shown in the bacon class are limited to 160 to 220 lbs.

The new officers are: President, John L. Hobson, vice-president, A. W. Smith of Maple Lodge. A. P. Westervelt will look after the poultry interests, and John A. McMillan will represent the sheep men. What is likely to develop into a most popular feature of the work of the associations is the holding

of annual sales at central points for the disposal of thoroughbred stock. It is stated the Dominion government will assist the various associations in advertising and conducting these sales. Of course the railroads will be expected to do their share in popularizing meetings of this kind.

### FOR BETTER ROADS.

Nothing will conduce more to the development of the country and its desirability as a place of residence than the building of good roads. The saving of time, the saving in the wear and tear of stock and vehicles, and the addition to the loads that could be hauled with more ease, would compensate for much outlay in road improvement, not to speak of the convenience and comfort to the people who travel on the roads in marketing their products and attending church and school. It is not wise to levy an additional tax for this purpose, but by wise and proper use of the means at our disposal much more might be accomplished than is now done. In many of the counties much of the work on public roads is but a shiftless pretense. If the force were kept at work on permanent improvements and the building of permanent roads instead of cleaning out ditches and throwing a little dirt in the middle, which has to be done over after each rain, much more might be accomplished. Some progressive counties have realized the importance of this permanent work and as a result good and permanent roads are being built.

**Points About Seed Selection**—Where one grows but a single one of a kind, as for instance corn or potatoes, it is possible to bring it to a high degree of excellence. A certain kind of potato, grown for years from well-selected seed and planted and cultivated properly, will constantly grow better. It is doubtful if under such circumstances it would ever deteriorate. We can see no good reason why it should. We must not plant what is too little to eat if we are to accomplish anything like this. The nicest, smoothest potatoes of a uniform size must always be planted. It is not best to plant in cloddy ground or poor soil or let weeds sap the richness and moisture from the soil. All of these conditions are avoidable, but are not avoided by the majority. If one raises an early and a late variety of one plant I believe it will be necessary to get new seed of both every few years, as it will become more or less mixed. Often what we call deterioration or running out had better be termed starving out, and is not the fault of the potato at all, but the fault of our own lack of enterprise.—[A. N. Springer.

**Soap Liniment**—M. J. F. wants a recipe for soap liniment. Take 6 oz hard soap and cut into strips, 3 oz each of camphor and liquor ammonia and 1 pt alcohol; let it alone for three days, then filter for use.—[Dr D. McIntosh.

At the annual fur sale in London, Eng. last month of the Hudson Bay Co's furs, prices went up very much higher than ever before and were unusually profitable. The increase compared with last year was 10 to 140 per cent as follows: Silver fox 100, blue 20, cross 25, sea otter 20 lower, Labrador otter 10 higher, other kinds of otters 20, lynx 140, beaver 10, fisher 5, wolverine 10.

## Among the Farmers.

**Quebec**—Spring set in in Huntington Co April 2 and birds are coming in. Maple sugar orchards are tapped, but the run of sap is very light. Butter has depreciated in value from the price to which it rose some time ago; the average price is 20c. Cheese continues to sell around 12c. Eggs have dropped to 13 to 14c. Hay sells at \$6 to 10. Meats have advanced greatly in price. Pork is selling at 5½ to 6c a lb.

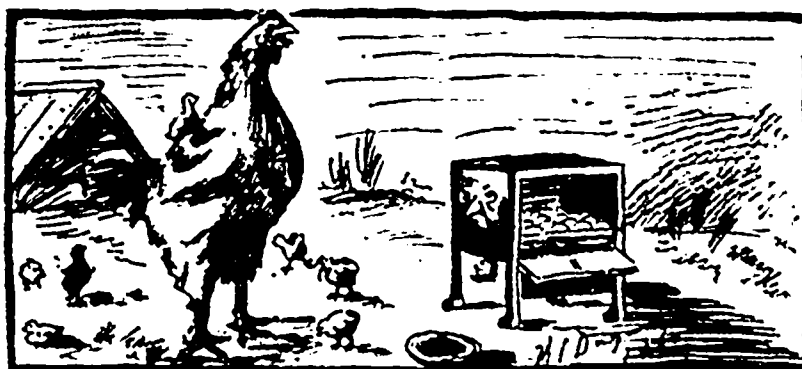
**Nova Scotia**—Much pride is taken by the people of the Cornwallis valley in their farms. The apple crop is the principal source of income, although stock and other matters are not neglected. Kings Co is quite thickly settled. Markets are generally fair, apples being shipped largely to England, potatoes to Havana and some pork to local city markets. Cattle are on the increase, the immense crops of hay of recent years causing farmers to increase their stock. A number of creameries do a prosperous business.

**Alberta**—The greatest need of farmers around Cardston is a better water supply. While all forms of vegetation grow very rapidly in this section when conditions are favorable, yet lack of water dwarfs many farm enterprises. The more prosperous are digging wells at 40 to 50 ft and putting in windmills.—[Mrs Laura Stephens.

**New Brunswick**—The winter has been very changeable, although not as cold as usual. N B farmers' winter produce continues to command good prices. Butter is way up and dealers open their eyes when dairymen ask 24c; buyers generally refused to pay above 20c since March 23, but previous to that time dealers had bid as high as 27 to 28c, while markets in the southern section warranted dairymen asking 30 to 32c. Butter which had been sent to Great Britain early in the winter and remained unsold was in some instances brought back to Canada and sold at a profit. Half a ton of turnip seed should grow a large number of turnips in a small province like N B; that is the quantity the N B bd of agr have imported from London, Eng. Farmers are assured the quality is the best procurable. Wheat mills continue to be built, one is under way at Andover, Victoria Co, Lakeville, Bristol and Centerville, Carlton Co, Canterbury, York Co, and Killams Mill West, all of about 50 bins capacity per day. Lumber continues high and keeps many supplying the mill and wood camps.

**An Improved Hog Market**—As predicted in F & H, the price of hogs has gone up and on April 6 was quoted at \$6.25 in the Toronto market. Many farmers gave up the hog business in disgust and vowed they would never make slaves of themselves for the hog ring any more. The hog ring took in the situation last month and hogs began to rise in price, and no doubt farmers will realize 6c for the present. But history will repeat itself and many farms will be overrun with hogs in the fall which will be sold at a loss.

**Top grafting on Wealthy or Duchess** is not to be recommended, as growth is too slow.—[Prof McCoun, Ont.



Madam Biddy's Retort.

"A family so small,"  
Quoth the incubator solemn,  
"I'll not recognize at all,  
Nor will bend my spinal column."

"Four legs are double two,  
Nor is mine a wholesale hatch;"  
Biddy to him full light drew:  
"Let's see you go out and scratch!"

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