

## Farmers' Clubs

### Dominion Farmers' Council.

[This Council meets on the third Thursday of every month at 2 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, W. A. Macdonald, London, Ont. The Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, also pamphlets containing a form of Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, which will, on application to the Secretary, be distributed free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

The regular monthly meeting of this Council was held on the 17th ult., President Leitch in the chair.

A large number of communications were read, and the discussing and answering of questions occupied considerable time.

#### FARMERS AND POLITICS.

A letter was read from G. F. Brooks, Co. Frontenac, asking if political questions were discussed by the Council, and if the Council intended to run farmers or independent candidates for parliament. He said the question of discussing politics was debated in the club of which he was Secretary, some having contended for the affirmative and some for the negative. He was endeavoring to organize several clubs in his neighborhood, meeting monthly, and having a central club composed of delegates from the local clubs meeting annually, and it was his intention to endeavor to obtain an amalgamation with the DOMINION FARMERS' COUNCIL. A meeting for the purpose was to be held on Feb. 24.

The Council welcomed this scheme. It was stated by the Vice-President and other speakers that they would adhere to their present practice, namely, to discuss no political questions except those mixed up with our agricultural affairs, and these must be discussed only from the farmers' standpoint, and not from that of party. This plan had, so far, worked very satisfactorily, and had not given rise to heated debates. With reference to running farmers or independent candidates for parliament, it was decided to say nothing on this subject until the Council had gathered more strength, which could be accomplished mainly by amalgamating more clubs, and these clubs would then be consulted in the matter.

#### FARMERS' CLUBS AND FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

A letter was read from W. R. Ham, Secretary for the Reach, Port Pery and Scugog Farmers' Institute, stating that the Institute had a large membership, but had not adopted any constitution or by-laws, and asking for suggestions or advice as to adopting the Constitution of the Council. He also wanted to know if the Council obtained grants from the Government, and how such grants were obtained. The Secretary stated that he had forwarded him copies of the Council's Constitution and By-laws.

The Council welcomed the co-operation of Farmers' Institutes, but considered that they could not be amalgamated as such, although they might retain the same officers and members. While sympathizing with the objects of these Institutes, the Council being an independent body and rejecting Government aid, could not carry on business with a body of farmers depending upon the Government for support. The Constitution of the Council prohibited such amalgamation.

#### GOVERNMENT EXPENDITURE.

Henry Anderson, who was appointed to read a paper upon this subject, stated that he had given the question thoughtful consideration, but confessed that he could not see how the Council at

present could handle it without giving it a political coloring. He understood the policy of the Council to be either the reduction of agricultural expenditures or their employment in more profitable channels of agriculture. On the other hand, basing our calculations upon the enormous sums squandered in other branches of industry (not mentioning the other privileges), the farmers, as the most important part of the community, were not receiving half enough money or attention. The question was too vast to be satisfactorily treated in a single paper or discussion. He thought the farmers could vote their own grants and do their own helping, and if other branches could not do the same thing, then let the fittest survive. In any case, the money came out of the farmers' pockets, and it was better that they should give voluntarily than involuntarily. For the present, he did not believe in abolishing agricultural expenditures all at once, for he believed some of them were doing some good, but he thought that the principles which underlie these expenditures should be more thoroughly discussed, and sounder conclusions arrived at. So long as farmers depended upon the Government for support, their agricultural energies would be weakened, and party politics, the bane of our country, would reign in their stead.

#### GAS LIME AS A FERTILIZER AND AN INSECTICIDE.

John O'Brien read the following paper on this subject:

I tested the effects of gas lime as an insecticide and fertilizer on corn, plums and turnips. In the fall of 1885 I plowed a field of clover and timothy sod. The following May I spread the gas lime at the rate of four loads to the acre, or a little less than two cords, and plowed it in with the gang plow, harrowed it and sowed with the seed drill, forty inches apart, seven quarts of corn to the acre. (I can raise about one-fifth more corn to the acre when sown in drills than when sown in the usual way.) The absence of the black birds in the field, where the gas lime was spread, was remarkable, there being scarcely one to be seen. In the next field, plowed at the same time, there were scores of black birds following the plow. The same effect was observed when the corn came up: the birds did not touch it. There were four drills put in where a fence was removed, and they pulled it nearly all up.

We have a plum tree which blooms every year, and the plums fall off before they come to maturity owing to the depredations of the curculio. I was told to spread gas lime under the tree. I spread the lime around under it, covering a space of fifteen feet from the tree, the result being that we measured 3½ bushels of plums. The tree had not borne a crop for six years.

On a turnip field I put four loads of gas lime to the acre, after plowing twice; then I plowed light, harrowed, drilled up and sowed the turnip seed, but scarcely one seed came up. I sowed some of the same seed in another field without gas lime, and there was a good crop of turnips.

In answer to questions from several members, Mr. O'Brien made the following statements: The lime was hauled from the gas works in a perfectly fresh condition, and placed in heaps in the field—about six sleigh loads in each heap—and there it lay for two months. I paid nothing for the gas lime, there being scarcely any demand for it, the gas lime company are glad to get rid of it. After spreading it on the field, it was gang-plowed under within six days. The soil was all varieties—gravel, sandy loam, clay loam, stiff clay and vegetable mould—but the best corn was on the clay where it does not usually flourish so well as on lighter soils. The gas lime also effectually destroyed the white grub. It produced no effects on the codlin moth.

Mr. O'Brien then proceeded to describe other experiments which he had made. Several years ago, he sowed salt on spring wheat at the rate of 2 bush. per acre, staking off a strip of 10 paces in the middle of the field on which he applied no salt, and noted the results. That strip was completely destroyed by the wire worm, while to the rest of the field, where the salt was applied, no damage was done. He applied many a ton of salt since that time and always with the same results. In 1881 he lost a six acre field of fall wheat by the wire worm, and he applied salt at the rate of 250 lbs. per acre, and since that time he could find no worm of any kind in that field. In the fall of 1882, he plowed up an old meadow, and sowed it to oats the following spring. The wire worm was very destructive in all the field, except along a narrow strip. He ascertained that on one occasion, before the sod was plowed, his boys were driving a load of salt along that strip, some of which was falling out of the wagon. He shouted to the boys not to waste so much salt, but the salt was not wasted, as the experiment was worth more than the salt; there was not a single wire worm where the salt was spilled out of the wagon.

#### CLUBS AMALGAMATED.

Moved by W. A. Macdonald, seconded by Henry Anderson, that the Granton Farmers' Club be amalgamated with this Council.—Carried.

Moved by Henry Anderson, seconded by John Kennedy, that the North Dawn Farmers' Club be amalgamated with this Council.—Carried.

Moved by J. W. Bartlett, seconded by Henry Anderson, that the South Dawn Farmers' Club be amalgamated with this Council.—Carried.

Moved by John O'Brien, seconded by W. A. Macdonald, that the Selman Farmers' Club be amalgamated with this Council.—Carried.

W. A. Macdonald stated that, in response to an invitation, he went to aid in the organization of the South Dawn Farmers' Club. The school house where the farmers gathered was full and considerable interest was manifested. He enjoyed the hospitality of Mr. D. D. Budd, President of the Club, and obtained a good deal of information respecting that section of the country (Lambton County.) Five members of the North Dawn Farmers' Club, including the President and Secretary, were also present, and they drove eight miles to witness the proceedings. He believed that the farmers of the township of Dawn were in real earnest, and he was struck with the intelligence with which they went about the organizing of their club. The county was comparatively new, lumbering being still a leading occupation, but the soil was grand—mainly a heavy clay—and it was one of the best dairy districts in the Dominion, although little attention had been paid to this branch of farming. The clovers and grasses flourished immensely. President Budd and other speakers ventilated a number of grievances which the farmers in that section suffered, and it was hoped that they would have them removed by means of efficient organization.

#### TESTING DAIRY COWS.

The following report of the committee was read and adopted:

#### RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR TESTING THE INDIVIDUAL MERITS OF COWS.

No lactoscope shall become the absolute property of any club until the Council is satisfied that diligent efforts have been made to test the quality of the milk from the cows in the locality in which the club has been organized, and until the Council passes a

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