

W. D. Perley, from the Audit Committee, reported a balance of \$28.09 in the Treasurer's hand.

The meeting then adjourned on motion of Mr. Alpine.

THIRD DAY.

The Association resumed at 10 a. m., and after routine, a lengthy discussion ensued on the Management and Object of Agricultural Societies. At the conclusion of it the following was adopted as the view of the Association in the matter:

Resolved, That in the opinion of this Association, Agricultural Societies have done much for the advancement of agriculture, and under more efficient management would be of greater benefit. Such efficiency can only be secured by the more general attendance of membership at the regular meeting, and by a sincere desire being shown by both officers and members to carry out the spirit, as well as the letter of the law;

Therefore resolved, That, as it would seem that some societies are not in as healthy a state as is desirable, and the action of the Board of Agriculture in regard to the same meets with approval;

Therefore further resolved, That local exhibitions as at present conducted do not seem to give an equivalent for the moneys expended, and it is a question whether county exhibitions could not be substituted under regulations prepared by the Board of Agriculture, by which all societies formed in counties may unite and hold one exhibition annually or biennially, as may be considered advisable by such county.

The Dairy question was lengthily discussed by S. L. Peters in a paper of considerable merit, who was followed by several members of the Association. The discussion on this question was concluded by the passage of the following resolution:

Whereas, The discussion on dairying has taken a wide range, and the time allowed for consideration of the same has been very short;

Resolved, That we do urge upon all farmers the necessity of improvements in dairy cows, as well as the appliances for the manufacture of butter, and also that greater cleanliness be observed in the care of the milk and cream in order to produce a better quality of butter and cheese, such as the market demands, and believe that associated dairying would be productive of such results.

A resolution requesting the law creating the Board of Agriculture to be amended so that the Secretary of the Board may be elected by that body was carried; and two others—one to enlarge the number of members of the Board to one for each county, and the second to extend the time of holding the position from one to two years—were voted down.

A resolution was moved by Mr. G. M. Peck, requesting the Local Government to purchase a number of Ontario Reports on Agriculture for distribution among the

farmers. The resolution passed, and, on motion of Col. Beer, the Secretary was authorized to bring the matter before the Government. The Chairman appointed Messrs. White, Flowelling and Peters a committee.

Barton, Sunbury Co., was the place chosen for the next annual meeting and the Association adjourned.

During their visit the delegates were treated with every consideration by the people of Riverside, receiving especial marks of kindness from Hon. Senator McClellan, who attended all the meetings and evinced much interest in the proceedings.

Thursday evening a very large number of persons sat down to a splendidly prepared dinner, and there was a round of speech-making and song. The ladies of Riverside deserve every credit for the part they took in the affair, which was presided over by Mrs. S. J. Calhoun.

The following description of the Agriculture of Norfolk, in England—a county report—will be read with interest by Nova Scotian farmers:—

The county of Norfolk comprises an area of 1,356,173 acres, and is the fourth shire in size of the counties of England—Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, and Devonshire being larger. The greatest length is 67 miles, and the greatest breadth 43. It is an egg shape, the ends lying east and west. The county is very flat and undulating, the highest elevation being less than 250 feet above the level of the sea. The soil is variable, but generally of a light, friable nature. A network of railways now prevails, many having been made during the past few years; and some are now in course of construction. This, coupled with the fact that there are various rivers and canals in the county, has very much helped in making Norfolk agriculture what it now is.

For the production of farm crops it is essential to have a suitable climate, especially at the present time, when our seasons have so much altered from what they were a few years since. The climate of Norfolk is dry, owing in great measure to the county's aspect towards the east, from whence during the winter and spring months we get dry, cold winds. These owe their nature to the great extent of land—the plains of North Germany and Russia—which they have passed over before coming to this county, their brief passage over the North Sea not having been sufficient to mitigate their piercing character. The amount of rainfall in Norfolk is not so great as in many of the western counties of England. Observations relative to this matter are taken annually at fifty places, and it averages 23½ inches, or 2350 ton per acre. In 1878, Norfolk measured 31½

inches, or 31 per cent. above the mean proportion. Thunderstorms are frequent and severe in summer.

The great characteristic in the geology of Norfolk is that chalk forms the foundation of nearly the whole of the county. This is situated at various depths, owing to the covering of what is generally termed the Norfolk drift. In the west the chalk is much nearer the surface than in the centre or south, whilst in the east it is not very far beneath, as is plainly seen by the numerous chalk and marl pits in that district. Over the greater portion of the shire this formation is thickly covered with beds of clay and sand, and can only be reached by deep wells and borings. The land, if left in its natural condition, would be poor and light, but Norfolk farmers have long been famous for their skill in agriculture, and, by mixing the soils, by digging clays and marls, and adding these to sandy surface, together with a liberal use of manure, they have rendered this division of England among the most fertile and fruitful. The writer of the article "Diluvium," in *Morton's Cyclopædia of Agriculture*, in referring to this matter as practised by Norfolk farmers, says:—"Lands not worth 5s. an acre have been raised in value to 25s., by what is there called claying and marling. In place of scanty crops of rye, they now yield 4 qrs. of wheat per acre. Instead of feeding only rabbits and sheep, they fatten the largest bullocks in the most superior manner." Of course this was written many years since, but it shows how and by what means the lands of Norfolk have yielded the crops which for many years they have produced.

In matters agricultural, the county has long ago earned its far-spread fame. Waste lands have been utilized, and all much improved. Many years since thousands of acres of common land might be seen. These have been brought into cultivation and now produce good crops. We think Norfolk is paramount among the other divisions of England for the strides it has made in agriculture. The produce is vastly greater now than half a century ago. We cannot, however, conceal from ourselves the fact that for the past two seasons a retrograde movement has been observable. The wet seasonless weather has rendered the land less fertile, and it is much more foul and unclean than formerly. As in other districts, sunshine is much needed to eradicate the couch and other noxious weeds, and cause the land to return to its old state of productiveness.

As is well known Norfolk is farmed principally on the four-course shift, viz., wheat, roots, barley, hay. These are the staple crops of the county. Oats, beans, peas, etc., are not grown to any con-