

"The Advantages of Farmers' Clubs" will be discussed, leading members of the Council and others taking part in the discussion.

The Council adjourned until the third Saturday in December (18th inst.)

Farmers' Clubs.

Now that the busy season is over, it is time to look into the future, and lay out your plans for the coming season. The questions should be discussed from every standpoint, and in order to arrive at the safest conclusions, you should discuss the questions with your neighbors. A half a dozen of you might meet regularly at your own homes, and if you have any system in your discussions for the purpose of saving valuable time, call yourselves a farmers' club. A large number of small clubs is preferable to a small number of large ones. In large clubs there are sure to be a few windbags who delight to hear themselves talk, which seriously detracts from the efficiency of the discussions. In small clubs such neighbors can be selected who are bent upon learning something, and the debates are therefore sure to be interesting. Your wives and daughters have also an opportunity of putting in a good word in dairying, poultry-keeping and other useful branches.

Choose the programs in advance of the meetings, so that each member will be prepared with useful and practical information, and if you get stuck in arriving at satisfactory conclusions, write to the editor of your agricultural paper. Don't fail to select interesting and practical subjects for discussion, which will prevent the meetings from getting tame and unattractive. When each member feels that he has a duty to perform, he will do it with greater pleasure than when no work is imposed upon him. Establish communication between yourselves and neighboring clubs, either by letter or delegation. If there is a farmer in the vicinity who is quite an authority on any branch of farming, invite him to be present, or ask him to send in a paper to be read and discussed. Write to your agricultural paper and make your wants and feelings known; if your objects are laudable, which they are sure to be, your editor will sympathize with you, and help you all he can.

Sometimes you can see several years through the mists of the future; you can do so at this moment, so you should discuss plans of organizing the farming community on a large scale. There are lively issues in store for you in the near future, and as you cannot build up a formidable organization all at once, commence now, and let the good work go on slowly but surely.

Get Your Advocates Bound.

If no book-binding establishment exists in your vicinity, you may get them done by sending them to Mr. Charles Chapman, of this city, who will bind and return postpaid for 60 cents. It will cost you but four cents per pound to send them per book post. The covers are usually taken off before binding.

"And he gave it for his opinion that whoever would make two ears of corn or two blades of grass to grow upon a spot of ground where only one grew before, would deserve better of mankind, and do more essential service to his country, than the whole race of politicians put together."—[Swift.]

The Farm.

Permanent Pastures.

Most of our readers will have read with interest the discussion on this important subject which appeared in our October and November issues, Prof. Arnold and Mr. R. J. Graham being the leading participants. The question received an immense impetus at the Farmers' Institutes a year ago from a boom set in motion by the Model Farm. The professor is not in favor of permanently pasturing arable land; he holds that the owner of unarable land, the owner of too much land, and the lazy farmer, are the only parties who should seed down to permanent pasture. Mr. Graham calls the professor a theorist, and gives facts and figures from his own experience to prove that his barley crop left a profit of 6½ percent on the investment in land at \$100 per acre, while his permanent pasture yielded 8½ percent profit on land at the same price, although its market price was only half that of his barley land.

Prof. Arnold is a close observer and a distinguished investigator; he comes into frequent contact with all classes of farmers and dairymen, and has visited many a permanent pasture, although he may have no practical experience of his own. His views should therefore have considerable weight. Mr. Graham possesses the faculty of awakening thought and discussion in his business-like manner of presenting his cases. He is evidently a strict business farmer, whose example is worth imitating. If the learned professor came into contact with many such farmers, he would never fail to arrive at sound conclusions.

However, one experiment, no matter how accurately conducted, proves very little, and many loose experiments, such as those made in permanent pastures by ordinary farmers, are just as valueless; and we desire to draw attention to a few points which keep apart the two excellent authorities above quoted. The professor speaks of American conditions, where drouths are very liable to prevail, which are very unfavorable to all pastures, permanent or temporary. We do not suffer in this respect to the same extent. Mr. Graham speaks of his pasture being watered by a living spring, and as the field is on the rear of his farm, it is likely to be well sheltered. His conditions are therefore very favorable, especially if his field is well drained, and he should not infer from his experience that every farmer, or even a majority of farmers, could make the business profitable.

There is much misconception on the question of permanent pastures. The general impression is that, as in Mr. Graham's pasture, a number of varieties of clovers and grasses are necessary for their formation, and he has not informed us how many of these varieties have remained permanent for even the four years of their existence. It requires many years to test a permanent pasture of this kind. If our native grasses eventually crowd the other varieties out of existence, we cannot speak very flatteringly of permanency. A permanent pasture may be composed of only one variety, and if this is native to the soil and climate, we know that it is permanent; foreign varieties must be tested in every locality for a long series of years. We have seen varieties flourish on one

side of a hill, and fail on the other side; some must have a drained soil, and some delight in low, sheltered places; some will not stand such close cropping as others. Everyone knows the advantages of a large number of varieties of grasses and clovers; it lengthens the pasturing season, withstands drouths, makes a heavier growth, has a larger feeding range in the soil, etc., but all these advantages are of little avail where only a few varieties can be made permanent.

There are leading American authorities, practical men, who disagree with Prof. Arnold's views. Those who are acquainted with the famed blue-grass regions, where there are many old established permanent pastures of this variety, speak very flatteringly of its many qualities, and what is asserted of these regions applies with equal force to many parts of Canada. Mr. Waldo F. Brown, whose honesty or intelligence cannot be questioned, in a letter to the Philadelphia Press, after describing a journey through Ohio and Indiana in the spring after the destructive winter of 1884-5, when all vegetation seemed to be dead, except the blue-grass pastures grazed by contented herds, makes the following allusion to the varieties of blue-grass:

I enumerated the following points in favor of a permanent blue-grass pasture. (1) This grass is adapted to rolling lands, unsuited to the plow, and when once set with it there will be no loss from washing. (2) There is no such thing as a failure of crop with it, as in the driest season there is always at some part of the year a heavy growth of it, and almost without exception it makes a rank growth, both spring and fall. (3) A pasture once set in it is for life, and there is not the expense of preparing a seed bed and furnishing seed every year or two, as with other grasses. I know many pastures of this grass that are from 25 to 50 years old and upward, and there is not one of them that could be improved by plowing up and re-seeding. (4) This grass grows rapidly in cool, wet weather, and yet it is very nutritious when young, and cattle will fatten on it early in the season, when on a clover or timothy pasture of equal growth they would scarcely make a living. (5) It is less injured by tramping than any other grass, and with these qualities it is a first-class early pasture grass, and will usually give a full month's good feed before either clover or timothy should be grazed. The fall rains start a second growth of it, which furnishes nutritious pasture until covered with snow, and the grazing season is again lengthened, often as much as six weeks. I believe in full feeding of dairy stock, and always grow roots for winter feeding and a supply of sweet corn for bridging over a summer or fall drouth, but in connection with these I want also a good permanent blue-grass pasture, and recommend that every farmer on whose land this grass will grow should have a few acres of it.

There are two varieties of blue-grass (*Poa pratensis* and *Poa compressa*), both of which are native in Canada, and flourish just as well here as in any part of the American Union. They are unequalled for hay or pasture, and they should not be ordered to go until their superior is discovered. Many farmers have failed to raise a permanent pasture because they believe that it needs no top-dressing with manures or fertilizers. This failure is evidently not the fault of the grasses. Why should not our Northwestern grasses be tested in this Province in preference to foreign varieties? Is it because they have no pedigree? Must our native blue-grasses go for the same reason?

With reference to soiling, a word seems to