

Annual Meeting of Brant County Agriculture Board

Question of Toll Roads Discussed at Some Length; Telephone Rates Also Under Discussion

The annual meeting of the county board of agriculture was held yesterday in the chambers of the local branch of the department of agriculture, two sessions being held, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, at which questions of importance were discussed and action taken to remedy existing conditions which were considered to be in need of redress.

In the morning Mr. A. R. G. Smith, vice-president of the Waterloo board of agriculture, spoke of the work being conducted by that organization and of the possibilities and prospects of such a board. Among other things he emphasized the need of interclub debates, rural school improvements, and more social intercourse among farmers. His address was greatly appreciated by those who were present, containing as it did, many useful and instructive elements.

Toll Roads.

In the afternoon the question of toll roads was dealt with by Mr. R. J. McCormick, who reviewed the present situation in this respect and particularly in Brant county. In the discussion that followed the fact was brought out that the Paris road was maintained through tourist traffic, and it was only reasonable to allow the city to provide the necessary means for its upkeep, as when the farmers came into the city they were forced to pay toll for the use of the market and for other like conveniences. The Cockshutt road to the south of the city was also discussed, it being pointed out that more expense was incurred in maintaining this highway than in the case of the Paris road. It was suggested that if these two roads had been municipal roads they would have formed part of the county roads system, and suggested that it would not yet be too late to appeal to the county council with the object of having them taken over and yet included in the system. It was the general opinion of those present that the method of collecting tolls to provide for the upkeep of these roads was unfair and that the county council should at least be requested to secure data concerning the expense of upkeep in the past and present, and also the revenue derived from this source, and that the information thus gained should be transmitted to the Brant county board of agriculture. A motion to this effect was passed.

Telephone Rates.

Considerable attention was paid to Mr. Peter Porter, who gave an address on the equalization of telephone rates in the rural districts. Mr. Porter stated that at the present time there were five different telephone systems in the western section of Brant and two in the eastern. Peculiar unfair conditions prevailed throughout the county in this matter, stated the speaker, owing to the apathy of those chiefly concerned, the subscribers of the various companies. The various companies refused to give their subscribers connections with other lines that might enable them to converse with their neighbors when requested to do so, and unfair discrimination was also made by the companies in other mat-

ters, merely because circumstances were favorable. Mr. Porter favored competition between telephone companies, his attitude being based on the benefits that would accrue to the subscribers. In the discussion that followed government ownership of this public utility was advocated by several who spoke. A committee consisting of Messrs. Porter, Clarke and the secretary of the board was appointed to investigate the entire matter and confer with representatives of the Dominion railway board when they next arrive in this section.

Mr. Good.

Mr. Good spoke on the number of subscribers who should be connected up with one party line and gave it as his opinion that at the most from six to eight should be allowed. In some cases there were up to nineteen. He outlined many inconveniences and difficulties that ensued from the present arrangement, and suggested that the Bell Telephone Company be approached and the case be presented to them. He thought that with little expense to the company the difficulty could be satisfactorily adjusted. Mr. J. W. Clark believed that if the company refused to break up the lines an appeal should be made to the federal government to force a reduction in the rates now charged. A committee comprising Messrs. Porter, Good and the secretary was appointed to investigate and take necessary steps to obtain relief in the matter.

Mr. Standing.

A comprehensive discourse was given by Mr. Standing, county school inspector, who in commencing his address declared that he was not in accordance with many writers and speakers who deplored the present day condition of our rural schools, but that although he was not pessimistic, he could still see room for improvement in this connection. The aim and object of the school was to train the children entrusted to its care to become upright, intelligent and efficient citizens. The first of those desirable qualities was inculcated into the mind of the child by the reading of the scriptures and by the discipline maintained, while intelligence was developed by an understanding direction of the studies of the pupils. Efficiency was obtained by inculcating into the minds of the children the habit of applying their studies to everyday conditions. The introduction of technical training into the schools was a decided advantage in this respect. There was now a tendency to eliminate superfluity of attention to books in favor of work that could be done with the hands, and the department of education was now providing for this phase of education. There were many advantages in school gardens, the children were relieved from too long poring over books, and their work at school was thus more closely associated with their duties at home and better qualified them for the struggle of life. School fairs and school gardens were to be commended because they embodied concrete work and would involve more nature study and agriculture. This would be one improvement that could be encouraged by the board by offering



a medal for competition for the most beautiful and artistic surroundings among the various schools. He would suggest the appointment of a permanent committee to foster these characteristics among the rural schools of Brant county. Messrs. Schuyler, McCormick and Malcolm were appointed a committee to deal with this question, and an endeavor will be made to secure a grant of \$10 from each of the townships of the county for this purpose.

Mr. Schuyler.

Mr. R. Schuyler, district representative of the department of agriculture, spoke briefly on the value of interclub debates, and thought that if a series of debates could be arranged for the coming winter among the different farmers' clubs, and if a suitable trophy were offered, great benefit would not only accrue to the clubs thus concerned, but the very existence of the county board of agriculture depended upon the maintenance of interest that would result.

Other Speakers.

The advisability of promoting a poultry laying contest was advanced by Mr. J. W. Clark, who thought that if such an event could be arranged to take place for four or five months during the coming winter that desirable consequences in the improved poultry conditions throughout the county would ensue. Mr. George L. Telfer of Paris was to have spoken on the readjustment of automobile taxation, but was unable to be present and this address on an important topic was dropped from the program. Mr. R. J. McCormick spoke briefly on the question of having a June excursion, but as the railways have refused to consider running these excursions during the coming summer on account of the scarcity of equipment and shortage of labor this idea was abandoned. The final item on the program was an address on special meetings given by Mr. Schuyler.

COMMISSION FOR FLOOD PREVENTION

Is Asked by Mayor Bowly in Letter to Premier

INDUSTRIAL CENTRES Might Be Supplied From Power Generated

In the matter of flood prevention, Mayor Bowly has addressed the following letter to the Provincial Premier:

Brantford, Mar. 30, 1917.
To Sir William Hearst:
Dear Sir: I am authorized to communicate with you in respect of Flood Prevention on the Grand River from its source to its mouth by creating levees for generating power to supply the various Industrial Centres along the Grand River. I am requested to respectfully ask your Government to obtain if you do not already possess it, the power to appoint and pay a commission to obtain all the data and necessary facts between now and the next meeting of the Ontario Legislature Assembly to enable it to intelligently act in the premises and I am also desired to obtain from you a fixed time for your Government to receive and hear a deputation on the subject matter at as early a date as possible after the 20th proximo. An early reply is respectfully requested.

I have the honor to be,

Yours truly,
J. W. Howley
Mayor.



BRITISH FORCES NEAR THE HOLY CITY—VICTORIOUS ARMIES SWEEP ALL BEFORE THEM IN PALESTINE.

The Land of Holy Writ bids fair to soon fall completely into the hands of the British forces. This layout shows Maj. Gen. Sir Archibald Murray, Commander of the British forces advancing towards Jerusalem from which his forces are now about two score miles distant. The upper pictures show on the left St. Paul's Hospice just outside the Damascus Gate and on the right the Kaiser's Hospital which has sprung up since the dramatic visit of the Kaiser to Jerusalem some years ago when he made his historic appeals to the Moslems. The map shows the scene of the British victory at Gaza.

WAR FUNDS.

Sydney, March 30.—Via Reuters' Ottawa Agency.—It is officially announced that New South Wales has contributed £2,604,923 to various funds, being twenty-eight shillings per head of the population. This includes £1,064,495 for foreign relief, besides great quantities of provisions, clothing and other supplies. The state also contributed £35,250,000 to the commonwealth war loans.

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The Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve Overseas Division.

The Navy must be kept supreme—more men are needed to man the fleets which are sweeping the seas of commerce-raiders and submarines. Canadians joining the R. N. C. V. R., Overseas Division, are sent at once to England for training.

PAY \$1.10 a day and upwards—Free Kit—Separation allowance as in C. E. F.

No experience necessary—Candidates must be sons of natural born British subjects—Ages 18 to 38.

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For particulars apply to **COMMODORE EMILIUS JARVIS**, Naval Recruiting Officer, Ontario Area, 103 Bay Street, TORONTO, or to the Naval Recruiting Secretary, Ottawa.

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---By Wellington

P a Knows "Class" When He Sees It



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