

### A Visit to the Model Farm.

The Grangers of Middlesex and Elgin had made arrangements for the 5th ult., to have an excursion to this farm. The day being fine, a free lunch having been promised, and a general invitation to attend extended to all, a large number (1,200 to 1,500) took advantage of the cheap rate to see the farm. Only one half the number of visitors having been expected, those that came late could only be supplied with biscuits, cheese and water, but the president, Mr. Mills, his family and the students did all they could for the comfort of the visitors.

There have been great changes and improvements made in the appearance of the lawn, the garden and the experiment plots. The roads have been widened, and the grounds kept cleaner than we have ever seen them before. Many new buildings have been erected, and more improvements are still being carried on. The cattle were looking well, fat enough for show purposes, and rather too fleshy for profitable breeding stock. The sheep were not much admired by stockmen. The raising of poultry and of dogs, which once received great attention, have now been abandoned. Very little could be learned about the spring crops as they had not been up long; but the fall wheat, we heard, promised to give a good return.

The Hon. Chas. Drury delivered his first official address at the Model Farm on this occasion. He thanked the public for the confidence they had placed in him, by appointing him to his present position, and he hoped they would continue the same in the future by supporting the institution, one to which he strongly urged the farmers to send their sons. He remarked that the eve of the depressed agricultural times was close at hand, for a prominent English stock-dealer had told him that cattle were getting scarce, and if the Canadian farmer continued the judicious breeding of stock all would be well. He hoped to make improvements in the agricultural affairs, and invited friendly criticism, which he considered beneficial to all, and which we hope he will receive.

Prof. Robertson spoke in very flattering terms about the College, in which he expressed his contempt at factious opposition, a term used in parliament to denote criticism. He followed these remarks by a very able address on dairying.

Mr. We'd, who was also called upon to give an address, expressed his opinion about the institution, which will be found in another column of this paper.

The large new barn, in which the above gentlemen addressed the large gathering, is a fine building to store farm crops, but is not so well adapted for the purpose it served on the occasion—for even the strong and distinct voice of the Hon. Chas. Drury was sometimes completely lost before it reached his most remote hearers, and even those standing nearer were occasionally unable to distinguish his words which seemed to be drowned in the noise of the sparrows. These birds were no doubt very rude to interrupt the speaker, but perhaps they thought that they occupied a higher position than the human orator. This they no doubt did, and perhaps in more than one way, for the horticulturists considered them one of their worst enemies, and advocate their destruction. They appear to be the most prolific and hardy creatures on the farm, and will no doubt perform their duty faithfully, as faithfully as

Mr. Drury can possibly perform his if he does all he has promised to do.

Judging from the opinion of the largest number that attended this excursion, the general impression was a favorable one, particularly among those that listened to the speeches of Messrs. Drury, Mills and Robertson. A prominent farmer, however, said he thought it the greatest humbug ever perpetrated on farmers. A group of farmers asked us what the total cost of this institution had been since its establishment, and also what the annual cost of its maintenance, and the expenses connected with it amounted to. We were unable to reply accurately, perhaps the Hon. Chas. Drury or Professor Mills might kindly give us the response to the two questions.

### Address by Mr. We'd at Model Farm.

*Hon. Sir, Worthy Master, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—It was with an admixture of surprise and gratification that I read the communication of your Secretary, inviting me to accompany you on this excursion, and possibly it may astonish some present that I should be here, as there are some whose acts and words would imply that your humble servant has been the worst enemy your organization or the Model Farm ever had.

We are pleased to be present with you, and believe that such courtesies must tend to good. At this institution the best information should be attainable on all subjects connected with the farm. Every tree, plant, animal and implement should be the best of its kind. The treatment of both animal and vegetable life should be perfect, but the treatment of man should be first considered—honor, truth and candour should be the foundation stone. Light and knowledge should shine forth from the institution so as to cause the admiration of all—cause a quadruple crop of gratitude for its blessings, morally, physically, mentally and financially. The only way for it to attain the high position it should hold is by judicious, fair and impartial criticism. It is to be feared that the man is yet unborn that can or dare do it. Should one attempt to do it, the strong partizan feelings are such, that the friends of the institution would call such a person a traitor. The worst enemies that this institution has ever had or ever will have are those employes whose sole aim has been to obtain grants of money. They have attempted to shield its defects and laud its merits. By its fruits it must be judged; on its merits it must stand or fall! The day is near when the people will demand that it be made self-sustaining. Every farmer should be in possession of such information about it as to enable him to form correct opinions—purchased opinions are valueless. We believe, we may rightly claim, to have done more towards establishing this order, and this institution, in Canada than any other individual, although not at present an active member of the order. Many very excellent men were members, and no doubt some are still in the fold. It is possible that from its trials and adversities it may rise to be of greater utility than it ever has been. Possibly to some extent its influence may have enabled the new Minister of Agriculture to receive his appointment, I now allude to the Hon. Chas. Drury, the gentleman to whom you are indebted for this bountiful repast, who was one of the Executive Committee of the Grange, and in his parliamentary capacity has shown himself to be an

able debater and a person of great shrewdness. His fluent tongue, affable manner and debating ability make him a person in many ways qualified to fill the position of head of the government's agricultural institutions. He may be a guide and a pillar of strength to your organizations, and may cause utilization and popularization to commence during the present year. Since this institution has been placed under a Board of Control, and that Board consisting of good practical farmers, decided improvements has been brought forward. Should your Granger Minister of Agriculture accept and act in conformity with the best Council of this body, he may be enabled to show good results and make this institution what it ought to be a credit to our country, self-sustaining and universally admired—as it is located in the best agricultural Province in this Dominion, and unsurpassed by any State in the American Union. The appointment of one of your members to such a position should stimulate you to greater exertions.

Trusting that both your order and the Model Farm may now receive such an impetus for good, and that your honored representative may have power and strength given to him to act in such a manner that his conscience may be directed by that Power before whom all terrestrial beings must bow.

### How to Buy a Horse.

An old horseman says: "If you want to buy a horse, don't believe your own brother. Take no man's word for it. Your eye is your market. Don't buy a horse in harness. Unhitch him and take everything off but his halter, and lead him around. If he has a corn, or is stiff, or has any other failing, you can see it. Let him go by himself a ways, and if he steps right into anything, you know that he is blind. Back him, too. Some horses show their weakness or tricks in that way when they don't in any other. But, be as smart as you can, you'll get caught sometimes. Even an expert gets stuck. A horse may look ever so nice and go a great pace, and yet have fits. There isn't a man who could tell it until something happens. Or he may have a weak back. Give him the whip and off he goes for a mile or two, then all on a sudden he stops on the road. After a rest he starts again, but he soon stops for good, and nothing but a derrick can move him.

"The weak points of a horse can be better discovered while standing than by moving. If he is sound he will stand firmly and squarely on his limbs without moving them, feet flatly upon the ground, with legs plump and naturally poised; if the foot is lifted from the ground and the weight taken from it, disease may be suspected, or at least tenderness, which is a precursor of disease. If the horse stands with his feet spread apart, or straddles with his hind legs, there is a weakness in the loins, and the kidneys are disordered. Heavy pulling bends the knees. Bluish, milky cast eyes in horses indicate moon blindness or something else. A bad tempered one keeps his ears thrown back; a kicking horse is apt to have scarred legs; a stumbling horse has blenched knees. When the skin is rough and harsh, and does not move easily to the touch, the horse is a heavy eater, and digestion is bad. Never buy a horse whose breathing organs are at all impaired. Place your ear at the heart, and if a wheezing sound is heard it is an indication of trouble."