

The Institutes.

Messrs. Bedford and Leech had a very successful trip during March along the South-Western branch, organizing Institutes at Kildonan and Neapawa on their way home. The first meeting was held at

NAPINKA.

It was largely attended, and Mr. Bedford's address thoroughly appreciated. It was decided to organize an Institute immediately. Next meeting was at

DELORAINÉ.

a report of which we clip from the Times:—

"Deloraine Farmers' Institute was successfully inaugurated in Chapin's Hall. There was a large attendance of farmers. Mr. Bedford, of the Experimental Farm, Brandon, and Mr. Leech, Secretary of the Central Farmers' Institute, were present for the purpose of organizing. Mr. Bedford delivered a splendid address upon mixed farming, which was listened to with great attention and lasted about two hours. Afterwards various questions were asked, and it almost seemed as if the farmers would never grow tired of asking Mr. Bedford questions, for the meeting lasted about four hours, and then reluctantly dispersed. Nothing but praise was heard of Mr. Bedford's address. Mr. Leech confined himself to organizing. About fifty farmers joined, and the election of officers resulted in:—President, J. B. Stewart; Vice-President, P. F. Johnstone; Secretary-Treasurer, W. H. Daubney. Directors—Messrs. Lynn, M. D. Wright, J. Renton, sen., M. Holladay, J. Urie, and H. Turner. Auditors—J. Morrison and A. Estlin. Interest was kept up throughout the whole afternoon, many agriculturalists asking questions and giving information, among these being the Fleming Bros., Mr. Kavanaugh, Mr. Lacy, Mr. Wright, Mr. Lynn, Mr. Morrison, Mr. Cockell, Cap. Keller, and many others. An interesting collection of grasses and grains were shown by Mr. Bedford, and the whole meeting may be described as being most interesting and instructive."

BOISSEvain.

A most enthusiastic meeting was held, the building being far too small, many being unable to get in. Mr. Wm. Millar (Reeve of Morton) occupied the chair, with Wm. Gordon Secretary. Mr. Leech spoke briefly of the objects of Farmers' Institutes, and Mr. Bedford spoke on grains, fodders, etc. A lively and interesting discussion followed, and before the close there was a largely signed petition for the formation of an Institute.

MANITOU.

A crowded house again met the speakers, and all seemed to enjoy Mr. Bedford's capital address. There has been a very successful Farmers' Club existing here for a considerable time. After seeing the advantages offered by the Institutes, it is very likely the Club will resolve itself into an Institute.

MORDEN.

Another good meeting was held at Morden. It was largely attended by the best farmers of the neighborhood. Messrs. Bedford and Leech delivered very interesting and instructive addresses, and were heartily thanked. It was not definitely settled to form an Institute.

ROSSER.

A very well attended meeting was held at Rosser, and after hearing Messrs. Bedford, Leech and others, it was determined to organize an Institute at once, a petition being got up and Mr. Wm. Styles appointed Secretary-Treasurer *pro tem*.

KILDONAN.

A meeting for the purpose of organizing above Institute was held in Kildonan East school-house on 12th March. Secretary R. E. A. Leech, of the Central Institute (organizer), after stating the object of meeting, called for election of officers, which resulted as follows:—President, Robt. McBeth; Vice-President, Jno. H. Gunn; Secretary-Treasurer, D. W. McFord. Directors—Jas. Penrose, Wm. McNaughton, H. C. Whellams, Magnus Harper, Hector Sutherland, S. R. Henderson. Auditors—Geo. F. Munroe, Alex. Matheson. Mr. McBeth, the newly-elected President, called on Mr. S. A. Bedford, of the Brandon Experimental Farm, who delivered an address on trees, small fruits, flowers and vegetables, naming many varieties which from results of tests made at the Experimental Farm proved to be suitable to Manitoba climate—in trees recommending spruce, tamarac and birch for the beautifying of the home, in fruits (smaller varieties), gooseberry, raspberry, currants and native plums—in all strongly advising the desirability of keeping the land entirely free from weeds or profitable and encouraging results could not be expected. Mr. Leech followed with an address to women (many of whom were in attendance), showing forth her capabilities to accomplish good, and also the valuable assistance they would be in forwarding Institute work in the Province if they attended and took an active part in the meetings. Rev. Mr. McKinley and others followed, citing instances of the benefits derived from union. Subject for next meeting, "Seeds and Seeding."

BRANDON.

Mr. Postlethwaite read report of the committee on railway rates, which was adopted. Mr. Elder, President of the Central Institute, being present, he was called on to explain why the executive of the Central Institute had not met the railway commission when invited to do so. Mr. Elder explained very fully the causes why it had not been done. Mr. F. Smith said he was quite satisfied with Mr. Elder's explanation. Mr. Elder then read his paper on the subject of the day, "Seed

and Seeding". In answer to questions, he said that in ploughing in oats it was better to do so as light as possible. That by growing wheat on the summer-fallow, sowing half a bushel to the acre and turning stock on it in the fall, good feed was produced for the stock and the soil was well packed and manured, which helped very materially in the early ripening of wheat. He had been troubled with smut in both barley and oats and had bluestoned the seed, which had quite as good an effect on these grains as on wheat. Mr. Middleton said that bluestone would also prevent scab on potatoes. Mr. Young had at one time been troubled with smut in oats, but had bluestoned his seed for the last five years and during that time has only had smut one year. H. Nicol had for the last few years back sown wheat on wheat stubble, without ploughing, and it had been his most profitable crop. It had yielded as well as any, being the best sample and ripe the earliest. Some of his oldest land he had sown in this way, which was one year from summer-fallow, and it had yielded better than his new land. He had not been able to see any great difference in the crop between broad-casting and drilling. He had got best returns from oats on spring ploughing, and was not altogether in favor of ploughing them in. Mr. Elder explained that he was very much in favor of sowing on the stubble, but had given up talking about it as it was inclined to set some men astray, numbers of farmers having treated stubble in this way that was not fit for it. He had given it up in practice, as Couch grass was making great headway in the Viriden district, and this system was not suitable where this had a hold.

BELMONT.

One of the best meetings held this winter was on March 5th. Jas. Dale, Grund, read an excellent paper on "Economic Farming." (Space would not permit of its publication in this issue.) Following this there was a lively discussion. The Hon. J. H. Standing graphically described his methods and success in farming, especially with potatoes, promising to give at some future date results of experiments with trees, shrubs and vegetables. Mr. Nicholson said that from his experience manuring was a failure, growing chiefly weeds. Mr. Williamson said that he had found manuring very beneficial, both rotted and fresh from the stables. He grew no weeds, and so had none in the manure. Messrs. Spring and J. T. Smith testified to good results from manuring. The former stated that one field manured 7 years ago still showed the benefits. Mr. Dale told of a case where a man had top-dressed a native meadow and got an increase of 1½ tons per acre the first year. Mr. McDonaghy claimed that manure should be piled in narrow piles 3 feet high to let sun and rain penetrate, so as to germinate all weed seeds. Mr. Nicholson did not think there was much money in beef, but there was in milk cows, his having averaged him \$15 to \$20 last summer. The following were then appointed a committee to discuss advisability of holding a fall show at Belmont:—J. C. Smith, F. Williamson, Walter Moscrip, H. Sparks, S. J. Pridham, W. Spring, Jos. Matchett, J. H. Standing and W. Glass.

That Mixed Farmer.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

I think that the "Mixed Farmer's" ideas on "Mixed Farming" are all "Twaddle," with a big "T." However can a man with an ounce of common sense think he can keep on moving his farm to "pastures new" every few years? Does the man think he will always be able to get land for from \$2.50 to \$5 per acre? And does he think there will be *always* virgin land to be bought? Will not our country in a few years be as thickly settled as the Eastern Provinces?

I think the article of A. D.'s will do a lot of harm among farmers who are just wavering on the balance between "mixed" and wheat farming, especially among men who only read THE ADVOCATE once in six months, or thereabouts, and who will not see the answering letters with regard to this question.

GEORGE PATTERSON, Calgary.

A Protest Against "A Mixed Farmer's Views."

A contributor, signing himself "Mixed Farmer," Chater, Man., makes a very vigorous protest against the article in our February 5th issue by "A Mixed Farmer on Mixed Farming." He wonders if the writer of the article referred to has his buildings on wheels, so that they can be easily moved onto new land. The idea of it not paying to manure land is, he says, preposterous in the extreme, but he fears there are too many farmers that practice, even if do not preach, "A Mixed Farmer's" views. He strongly urges the keeping of as much stock as possible, and the application of all the manure to the land, and the adoption of a system of rotation of crops. He is himself feeding some seventy hogs, and expects to make a good big profit if pork keeps its present price.

Prize Essay.

Mr. Jas. Beer, of Brantford, asks for directions for building an ice house with a cold chamber attached, suitable for storing fowls, butter and eggs, etc. In order to obtain the most practical plans from farmers who are using such buildings, we will give a prize of five dollars for the best plan and directions for building such a house, suitable for general farm use. Plans must be in this office not later than June 1.

Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.

Top prices lately: Beeves, \$4.50; hogs, \$4.75; sheep, \$4; lambs, \$4.75. These prices are decidedly lower than were current a year ago, but compare well yet with the prices for grain and other farm products.

The export movement in live cattle is again on the increase, and it is much heavier now than a year ago. Prices on both sides of the water are considerably lower, and the shippers are complaining of losses; but as one was never known to complain or admit anything else, there is nothing very sensational about that state of affairs. The fact remains that the vessel room from the chief United States ports has been engaged far in advance, and the cattle of fair quality seem to be offered freely at prices that are as low as were ever paid here for export cattle. The bulk of the 1400-pound cattle bought lately in Chicago cost \$4 to \$4.25, and at the present time the bulk of the cattle being used by exporters are selling at \$3.75 to \$3.90. The large cattle feeders in the far west are also beginning to take a hand in the matter, and several shipments have been made direct from Kansas and Nebraska. As a rule, however, those who experiment in this way are at a disadvantage and are apt to get very much the worst of it.

There certainly is a great deal of merit in the contention of Canadian cattle shippers that they should have as low ocean rates as are granted by the ships leaving the United States ports. Perhaps when the Canadian cattle had the advantage of free entry to the interior of England and Scotland, and for that reason, if for no other, were worth more, there may have been some show of reason for the Canadian steamship companies exacting higher rates, but no such show now exists. It looks as if it were merely a matter of charging "all the traffic will bear," as the railroads do out west. Having a lack of competition, they simply put on the price as much as they dare so as not to stop the traffic.

The tuberculosis bugaboo is creating a good deal of excitement. There is doubtless enough of it along the Atlantic seaboard, but the sensation mongers are never satisfied without greatly magnifying such matters. The people who favor an entire suspension of the live stock ocean traffic are adding the talk of tuberculosis to their arguments, claiming to be based on humanitarian grounds.

While the writer is inclined to think it would be wise for Canada to adopt a dressed meat system, it would seem unfortunate for either country to abandon shipments of live stock.

The recent revival of shipments to Europe of United States sheep has assumed surprising proportions. Numerous lots of 125 to 140-pound western corn-fed wethers, valued here at \$3.75 to \$4, have been forwarded; nearly 5,000 went from Chicago in one week. One lot of lambs attracted a great deal of attention. There were 523 head in the lot, and they were high-grade Shropshires and Southdowns. D. C. Earl, of Fairbury, was the shipper. The lot averaged 117 pounds and sold at \$4.75 per 100 pounds. They were pronounced the finest, considering number, ever seen in these yards. They were bought by R. F. Quick for export to Liverpool, and were bred, raised and fed by Earl, Myers & Grubb, of Fairbury, Neb. Same grade of lambs sold in 1891 at \$6.85 to \$7; 1892, \$6.65 to \$6.75; 1893, \$6.40 to 6.50.

The following ruinous prices for sheep on the western ranges show that the sheep industry very badly needs all the stimulus that the present brisk export movement in fat muttons can give it. Sun River Sheep Co., 4,000 head at 25c; Charles Severance, 10,000 head at 50c; another outfit, 50c. to 70c. It is also stated that the Sun River Sheep Co. have offered their band of 7,000 head at \$1.25 each before shearing. To show how wool-growers are getting it in the neck, it is only necessary to state that the season before last Mr. Cook realized \$3.25 per head for the very class of sheep which now net him but 87c.

R. E. Norman, of Burlington, Ont., was at market with cattle and hogs from his 1,000-acre farm at Baird, Iowa. His cattle, averaging 1261 lbs., sold at \$3.75, and hogs, 360 lbs., at \$4.50. He marketed a year ago a load of hogs which sold at \$7.85 per 100 lbs., realizing nearly as much as the car load each of cattle and hogs combined did on the late shipment. But it must be remembered that last year was a boom time for hogs, and that values now for everything are on a lower level. Mr. Norman comes over three or four times a year to look after his western farm.

The horse situation seems to be picking up to some extent. The winter being over, there is the usual spring demand from those who consider it wise to sell rather than to winter their horses. Clearly there is an over-production of all common to fair horses, and prices even for good ones are low, but the really well-bred horses are selling quite as well in proportion as any kind of live stock.

The general business situation is improving, and as soon as the factories get to working full time, the live stock business will gradually mend.