

## Farmers' Clubs.

### Dominion Farmers' Council.

[This Council meets on the third Saturday of every month at 2 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, W. A. Macdonald, London, Ont. The Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, also pamphlets containing a form of Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers Clubs, which will, on application to the Secretary, be distributed free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.]

The regular monthly meeting of this Council was held on the 20th ult., President Leitch in the chair.

Several communications were read asking for copies of Constitution and By-laws. The Secretary stated that the same had been duly mailed to the applicants.

#### GRANGE AMALGAMATION.

The following communication from the Secretary of the Dominion Grange was read, the letter being a response to a resolution passed at a previous meeting of the Council, directing the Secretary to correspond with the Secretary of the Grange as to the amalgamation of subordinate Granges with the Council:

Manilla, Oct. 23, 1886.

W. A. Macdonald, Esq., Secretary Dominion Farmers' Council, London, Ont.:

DEAR SIR,—Your favor of the 19th inst. to hand and contents noted. I am also in receipt of your By-laws, and have read them carefully over. In regard to amalgamation of the Council and subordinate Granges, there appears to be an obstacle in the way, as you are aware that there is a certain amount of secret work in the constitution of the Grange to prevent imposition upon its members from designing persons outside of the Order. This would necessitate your members becoming members of the Grange at the same time. But I see no reason why there should not be the greatest harmony existing between the two societies, as their aims and objects run concurrently, working for the farmers' social, intellectual, and financial advancement. Yours very truly,

H. GLENDINNING.

The following communications were also read:

Sombra, Ont., Nov. 15, 1886.

Secretary of the Dominion Farmers' Council:

SIR,—We hereby beg leave to inform you that Selman Grange, No. 899, has passed a resolution subscribing to the objects of the Dominion Farmers' Council, and that we co-operate therewith under the name of Selman Farmers' Club, and have appointed Wm. S. Howell as Corresponding Secretary for that purpose.

FRANCIS BROWN, W. Master.  
W. T. HENRY, Asst. Sec'y.

Sombra, Ont., Nov. 15, 1886.

Secretary of the Dominion Farmers' Council:

SIR,—We hereby beg leave to inform you that the Co-operative Branch of Selman Grange has passed a resolution to co-operate with the Dominion Farmers' Council, and subscribe to the objects thereof, and have appointed W. S. Howell Corresponding Secretary for that purpose.

A. A. MEYERS, Chairman.  
W. T. HENRY, Sec'y.

Sombra, Ont., Nov. 15, 1886.

Secretary of Dominion Farmers' Council:

SIR,—Selman Grange, No. 899, has passed a resolution subscribing to the objects of the Council and co-operation therewith, and has organized a series of special meetings to be held on the Monday evening after each full moon, and has invited other farmers and patrons to meet with and co-operate with them. The first meeting for organization was held Oct. 25; the second to-night. The discussion to-night is on "The Orchard."

A. A. MEYERS, J. P., Chairman, does not trim his trees, and they bear equally as well as those trimmed.

P. D. SHEENAN trims at any season, but keeps the land well cultivated and manured, and has a thrifty orchard. Farmers pick apples too late generally, which makes too many culls, as they get ripe, fall off and bruise, or are blown off by the wind.

P. N. HENRY would plant in the fall, and put a piece of board under each tree to make the roots spread; would not have any one trim in the spring; would cut out the flat-headed borer with jack-knife; manures in spring with straw as mulch, which prevents the tree blooming too early, so escapes frost.

H. WINTER manures his whole land in the orchard in the fall with rotted manure, well spread over the sward, as advised in the ADVOCATE some years ago. He trims a young orchard in July and early winter with jack-knife; would not have farmers sell their ashes.

W. S. HOWELL,  
Cor. Sec'y Selman Farmers' Club.

The above communications created a lively and lengthy discussion. The spirit of the Council was that of good feeling towards the Grange, but the meeting was unanimous on the main point, viz., that a Grange, as such, could not amalgamate with the Council on account of the former being a secret organization, while the latter protested against all secrecy, maintaining that secret organizations had too often proved a source of danger to the community, and that, in the opinion of the meeting, the Council could protect its interests without resort to such a weapon. There having been some irregularity in the form of application for amalgamation, the final decision was postponed until next meeting, by which time another communication is expected from Sec'y Howell.

The following motion was moved by Frank Shore and seconded by Jas. K. Little: "That each amalgamated club be privileged to elect one delegate at any time, either general or for any specified purpose, who shall be entitled to attend any meeting or meetings of the Council, and vote thereat, and enjoy all the other privileges conferred upon the members of the Council, and that no fee be charged for such privileges, such delegate, before sitting or voting in the Council, to be introduced by presentation of a copy of the resolution by which he was appointed, duly attested by the signatures of the President and the Secretary of the club." Carried.

#### MUNICIPAL LITIGATION.

HENRY ANDERSON, Vice-President of the Council, read the following paper on the above subject:

The Township of Westminster has suffered severely by vexatious law suits and exorbitant law costs. I shall be well pleased if I can make any suggestions that may tend to lessen the legal robbery to which so many corporations have been subject.

It has become a common saying that a jury is sure to give a verdict against a corporation, right or wrong. The question then arises, Would justice be better administered without juries? I say no, decidedly. Juries are our best safeguards against official tyranny, and in suits between individuals they generally decide justly; but the original idea in the jury system was to give every one the right to be tried by his peers.

The radical defect of the present system is that corporations are not tried by their peers. Corporations and individuals are not in any sense peers; there is no equality between them, and when a suit is brought against a corporation, the jury is composed of individuals whose sympathies and prejudices are sure to be in favor of the individual as against the corporate body, and an impartial trial is impossible. I would not accuse juries of doing wrong intentionally, but the merits of even the clearest case, after it has gone through the process of mystification employed by the counsel at the bar, is generally so inextricably mixed and confused in the minds of the jurymen that they cannot be sure which is the right, and so let their sympathy dictate the verdict.

The only remedy for this state of things is that all claims against corporations should be finally settled by arbitration; then both parties have a chance of being fairly and equally represented by persons chosen by themselves as being specially qualified to decide the matter in dispute.

The Municipal Act provides elaborate and expensive machinery for conducting arbitrations, and if the award finally settled the case, all would be well, but unfortunately the Act also provides that all awards so made shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the High Court of Justice, so that after you have gone to the trouble and expense of holding an arbitration and getting an award, the case may not be finally settled; for if either party is dissatisfied, and is willing to risk the cost, the case can be brought into court, where corporations are sure to meet the same disadvantages and incur the same costs as if they had gone there at first. In fact, there is very little use in arbitrations until awards are made final without appeal. Of course we cannot expect lawyers to approve of this course, as it would deprive them of some profitable business, and some others may think it a hardship if in certain cases a person had to submit to what he considered an unjust award without the chance of an appeal. But I would ask, is a court of law a certain remedy? The glorious uncertainty of the law has become a proverb, and the only thing certain about it is that the costs, in nine cases out of ten, amount to ten times the value of the matter in dispute.

But can we expect to get the laws amended and simplified for the purpose of preventing lawsuits, as long as we send so many lawyers to parliament? Indeed, the multiplicity of changes and so called amendments made in the law by the Ontario Legislature, especially the changes in the Ditches and Watercourses Act, would seem to be framed expressly to promote litigation or to prevent drainage. I know by experience that it has affected both these results in our Township.

It would no doubt have a good effect if all Farmers' Councils or Clubs in the country would pay more attention to the laws affecting their own interests, and, by consultation and discussion, arrive at some definite conclusions concerning the measures required for their benefit. So long as farmers remain mere blind adherents to one party or the other, and think more of men than measures, they can scarcely expect others to take much trouble to think for them.

The paper created a lively discussion amongst the practical farmers present, especially the last paragraph. Numerous cases were cited in which individuals, on the most trivial provocations, succeeded in obtaining damages from municipal corporations. The sentiments expressed by Mr. Anderson were heartily concurred in. It was regarded as a crying shame that lawyers should be permitted to represent rural constituencies, while farmers would be held out to ridicule if they proposed to stand nomination for city constituencies. It was thought that farmers were perfectly capable of representing their own interests in Parliament, but the desired change could not be brought about without increased organization and education.

#### TESTS OF DAIRY COWS.

A committee was appointed to report upon the scheme proposed by the Council to establish a register for dairy stock, based upon individual merit. The committee will report at the next meeting of the Council.

In choosing a programme for next meeting, the Secretary was directed to write to Mr. J. B. Freeman, M. P. P., asking him to prepare a paper on "Renting Farms on Shares." At the annual meeting of the Council, to be held on the third Saturday in January, a public meeting will be advertised, when the subject of