

Third Annual Meeting of the Nova Scotia Farmers' Association.

[SPECIALLY REPORTED FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.]

This Association was formed three years ago under Government auspices, and the Nova Scotia Farmers' and Dairymen's Association was amalgamated with it. The membership consists of one delegate from each of the agricultural societies, two delegates each from the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association, the Nova Scotia Poultry Association, and any other societies approved of by the Governor-in-Council. Any other person may become a member upon payment of fifty cents, or a life member upon payment of five dollars. The Government gives a small grant—not to exceed \$1,000 a year—for the use of the Association. It was generally believed that the fate of the Association depended upon the success of this meeting, as the Government had signified its intention of withdrawing the annual grant. The Hon. T. R. Black was present at the meeting as the representative of the Government. The following delegates were present: John Davidson, Shubenacadie Agricultural Society; Matthew Wentzell, Farmers' Ag. Soc.; Wm. McKerrow, Halifax County Ag. Soc.; Ronald Chisholm, Sylvan Valley Ag. Soc.; J. R. Wyman, Yarmouth Ag. Soc.; Hugh Munro, Earlton Ag. Soc.; H. G. Reid, Musquodoboit Ag. Soc.; J. R. Mackenzie, Malagash Ag. Soc.; W. W. Jones, Weymouth Ag. Soc.; C. A. Burt, Pugwash Ag. Soc.; Hugh McMillan, Strait of Canso Ag. Soc.; Dr. J. N. Fuller, King's County Ag. Soc.; W. J. Maxwell, West River Ag. Soc.; W. O. Creighton, Pictou County Farmers' Association; E. A. Logan, Spring-side Ag. Soc.; F. R. Trotter, Antigonish Ag. Soc.; M. Geo. de Wolf, Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association. Among the many others present were Dr. Kendall, M. P. P.; B. W. Chipman, Secretary of Agriculture; Col. D. McCrae, of Guelph, Ont.; R. Robertson, Supt. Experimental Farm, Nappan; Prof. Smith, Principal Nova Scotia School of Agriculture; F. L. Fuller, Supt. Model Farm, Truro; R. N. Starr, Wolfville; L. C. Archibald, Antigonish; Col. Blair, Nappan; W. W. Hubbard, Sussex; and Mr. Ferguson, M. P. P., of Guysborough.

The meeting was opened by the President, S. C. Parker. His able address principally had reference to the proposed withdrawal of the Government grant. He pointed out, among other things, that this Association was the first and only representative of farmers ever organized in Nova Scotia. It was pointed out that the Association had exerted an influence in consolidating and directing public sentiment towards the concentration of efforts in a Provincial Exhibition, which is now placed on a permanent basis; to the directing of public sentiment towards a needed change in the statute labor law, and in many other worthy efforts. While the Government had granted the Exhibition Committee \$30,000, certain gentlemen in the House considered \$1,000 can be better expended in some other way in promoting agricultural interests than in granting it to this Association. The President in concluding his remarks said "it seemed that this Association has been used as a 'cat's paw' to pull the exhibition chestnuts out of the fire, and then we are turned down as a back number."

The address was referred to a special committee to report upon. The Secretary-Treasurer, P. C. Black, also read his report. As many thought the expenses were unnecessarily heavy, it was referred to the same committee to report upon it. Both reports were finally adopted.

Beef-raising.—C. H. Black, of Amherst, read a paper on beef-raising. He pointed out the fact that our butchers are going to Ontario to buy beef for our local markets, and saw no reason why they could not be supplied by the farmers here. He spoke of the many advantages Nova Scotia possesses for the production of superior beef cattle. The pastures were good, hay was a very plentiful crop, and roots yielded well. He advocated the feeding of the crops upon the farm instead of selling them, as is now done, and spoke strongly against the practice of trying to make beef from scrub and animals of the dairy breeds. In order to make beef-raising pay it was necessary to produce it at the lowest possible cost, and this could not be done with inferior animals. He favored grade Shorthorns or Hereford cattle, and urged farmers to use bulls of the recognized beef breeds.

Dr. Kendall, of Sidney, C. B., took rather a gloomy view of farming in Nova Scotia, and thought it very questionable if it would pay to grow beef here. While some parts of the Province were particularly favored, in others the farms were being abandoned. He thought more pains should be taken to instruct the farmers of those regions, but what they wanted was not so much lectures as object lessons.

Col. McCrae, of Guelph, Ont., said that the time of ton beef was past, what the market now demanded was animals weighing 1,400 pounds, yielding good, young, nice beef. In order to produce beef profitably we must have animals of the beef breeds. Good feeding required skill and thought. The critical time was at weaning, and special care should be given during the first year; after that there was no trouble. Economy should be practiced by growing cheap feed, and too little was being said about turnips. Straw and turnips were good foods for beef. He considered ensilage the cheapest food where it could be grown, but thought he got as good results from dry corn. In growing cheap feed his practice was to sow oats in the spring and seed them with clover. After the oats were cut in the fall, rye was drilled in during the last week of August or the first week of September. After the rye was taken off white turnips were sowed. He spoke strongly against the feeding of grain upon grass; if anything were fed it should be oil cake. If the pastures were poor or too heavily stocked, supplementary crops should be grown. I. H. Starr said that his stock were Polled Angus, and that he could always get from nine to ten cents per pound for his beef in Halifax.

A question as to the necessity and benefit of feeding salt, and also as to the possibility of increasing the fat in milk,

created quite a discussion, with many conflicting opinions. R. Robertson, Superintendent Experimental Farm at Nappan, thought that cattle in Upper Canada required more salt than those in Nova Scotia. Being close to the sea, he thought they got more in their feed. With regard to increasing the fat in milk, he explained that every cow had a limit, which he called a normal, beyond which it was not possible to force her. If the yield were below the normal high feeding would increase the fat.

In the afternoon there was a large attendance, and the Mayor, on behalf of the corporation and citizens, presented an address of welcome. In it he referred to several instances where worn-out farms had by good farming methods been brought to a state of profitable production. As the horse furnished the motive power upon the farm, he thought the exhibitions should encourage fast walking. He spoke strongly against the proposed withdrawal of the Government grant, and thought the Government should aid the Association by every means in its power. He hoped the time was not far distant when Nova Scotia would rank as high in farming matters as she now does in fishing and shipping.

Col. Blair, of Nappan, was requested by the President to reply to the address. After thanking the Mayor for the kindness shown to the Association, he compared the past and present of Truro and the farms surrounding it. He showed that the growth and prosperity of the town had depended upon the farmers. He was glad to see that the young men were taking an increased interest in farming matters; even business and professional men were recognizing the importance of farming, as was shown by the increasing interest they took in agricultural matters. Co-operation and the exchange of experience was, he thought, the surest means of progress. As to the withdrawal of the Government grant, he could not think the Government was serious in the matter. If they were he would say, "Go on without it"; he for one would not let it interfere with the work of the Association.

A Paper on Stock-raising, by C. S. Archibald, of Truro, was read by the Secretary, Mr. Archibald being in Ontario. He thought stock-raising was unprofitable because there was no market for the class of animals now raised, and that with the present system of feeding it costs too much to grow them. Too much money was invested in machinery and taxes were too high. He saw no reason why stock-raising should not be profitable if the right class of animals were kept, and looked forward to the time when Nova Scotia would not only supply her home market, but participate in Canada's increasing export trade.

Mr. R. Robertson, of the Experimental Farm at Nappan, in his address said he thought there was no class of men so beneficial to the country as the farmer, and that it took more brains and ability to make a good farmer than any other profession. As the prosperity of a country depended upon what it produces, when it has to depend upon agriculture alone necessity compels the adoption of improved methods. This had been the case in Upper Canada, and consequently she now led in all agricultural pursuits. The necessity of improvement was being felt more and more in Nova Scotia. He thought there was no obstacle to successful farming in Nova Scotia, but that diligence and better information were necessary. He read an extract from a Halifax paper stating that Halifax merchants imported yearly \$250,000 worth of butter, eggs and poultry from other Provinces. He did not think this was right, and that Nova Scotia farmers could and should supply the trade. He spoke of the export trade of Upper Canada, which went past our doors and in which we take no part. More scientific methods must be used. It did not take much intelligence to grow and sell hay, but it took a great deal of intelligence to convert it into something else and sell it for more money and at the same time save the fertility. He thought prosperity depended greatly upon live stock, as by raising stock the products of the farm could be converted into a condensed form, and for this purpose no stock was better than dairy cows. If beef animals were chosen, he advised that no attempt be made to mix the blood of different breeds. He thought there was room for many more sheep, and that no stock gave such returns for the money invested. Money might be made from pigs, but cows were wanted first. What was wanted was the best cow for the purpose. He thought there was less difference between breeds than individuals of one breed. He advised that corn be grown where it is possible to do so, and said that the period of ripening could be greatly hastened by constant cultivation. Even after intelligence had been used and the land made to produce much more, and after the best live stock had been procured, only a small advance had been made towards success. A lot of little things had to be made use of which, while they cost but little, increased the profits: Heat, to keep the animals warm, enabling them to put their food to profitable use, instead of merely maintaining life; and he spoke strongly against the practice of turning cows out to water, which should be provided in the barn. Light, which was a great invigorator and tended to good health. Kindness, which would pay in dollars and cents; and regularity of habits. These things, he said, often made the difference between success and failure. Speaking of creameries, he thought their success depended upon the farmer, and advocated winter dairying in preference to summer, as he could not afford to board a cow all winter for nothing. In answer to a question as to what was the right temperature to keep stables, he said about 60 degrees. He had always got more milk when the temperature was nearer 70 degrees than 50 degrees, but that beef cattle did not require so much heat. He would sooner have a lower temperature than poor ventilation. He gave the ration fed to cows at Nappan as follows: Thirty pounds roots, 30 pounds ensilage, 3 pounds bran, 1 pound meal, 10 pounds hay. He thought bran was absolutely necessary to properly feed dairy cows, but that clover and roots would do nearly as well. Peas, he thought, were worth more per pound than any other grain as a dairy feed.

(To be continued.)

JNO. CLARK, SR., Crowfoot Creek, N. W. T.: "I like the paper very much, and wish it a prosperous year."

DAIRY.

Cheese and Butter Makers' Association.

The new dairy association, which had its birth in London during the Western Ontario Cheese and Butter Association meeting in January, held its first convention in the town of Woodstock on Feb. 23rd and 24th. There were some 200 makers present, most of whom became members of the new organization. The purposes of the Association are to guard the makers' interests and to improve cheese and butter making of Ontario. The convention was conducted by J. T. Henderson, Pine River.

"Practical Dairying" was very ably dealt with by Mr. Geo. Barr, of Sebringville, who always advocates thoroughness in every branch of dairy work. Commencing at the weigh stand, Mr. Barr claimed that milk having bad flavors should be returned to the patron and followed with kindly and helpful advice by way of improvement. He claimed that all makers must take a stand to not accept badly-flavored milk, and not to take in a patron's milk who has left another factory because his milk has been sent home. The curing rooms should be kept clean, sweet, and tidy. A slovenly, dirty curing room will prejudice a cheese buyer against the cheese before he has bored it. Curd sinks and utensils need very close watching. Curd cloths should be thrown into sweet whey over night and washed in several waters in the morning. Butter can be as well made in winter as summer, said Mr. Barr, provided improper milk is not accepted. The feeding of turnips should not be tolerated. Many useful suggestions were thrown out to the listeners, who after he had finished entered into a helpful discussion.

"Economic Use of Steam" was the subject taken by Mr. E. Agur, Brownsville. He told how he had been able to save a great deal of fuel in making steam. He claimed that many fireplaces were not kept cleaned of soot and ashes. Soot is a nonconductor of heat, and when it has accumulated on the boiler it lessens the effect of the fire. The tubes should be cleaned twice a week. It is not well to use all the draft, as it burns wood unnecessarily fast. Mr. Agur has his boiler well built in, and every steam pipe perfectly tight. He uses a draft, in the chimney by which he controls the fire. He is able to make cheese with just three fires each day—the first to heat the milk, the second to cook the curd, and the third to mill the curd, wash up, elevate the whey, etc. He fills the boiler at night to within two inches of the top of the glass. It is then partly warm by morning. As a boiler purge, he recommends caustic soda, just enough to make the water feel soft. He uses two-foot wood, split coarse, and would almost as soon have soft as hard. With 122 cords of short wood he made 186 tons of cheese, kept the curing room warm, and heated dwelling house from Feb. 10th till a year from the following April. He has run his factory six days on a cord of soft wood, and had steam enough for all purposes, when making at the rate of 136 tons in the season.

Prof. H. H. Dean gave a brief review of the dairy experiments conducted at the Ontario Agricultural College during the last seven years. Some of the giants this new organization had to slay by co-operation and organization were low wages, long hours, and losses from bad quality of cheese and butter, due to causes over which they had no control. Ignorance too was mentioned as a troublesome giant, which they must make an effort to overcome. Unsanitary condition of factories is now a great drawback, which successful co-operation and organization can overcome. To do the best work for the industry, co-operation among patrons, makers and the market is necessary. The experiments referred to were the effects of various foods on the texture of butter; effects of pasteurization; thickness of cream for best churning; the use of starters; testing milk; washing butter, and many others. Mr. T. C. Rodgers followed Prof. Dean with an exhaustive treatise on practical butter-making, based on the experiments and experience of the O. A. College dairy, and Mr. James Stonehouse ably described a model creamery.

Rules and Regulations, as drawn up by the Committee for that purpose and adopted by the Convention, were as follows:

1. This Association shall be known as the "Cheese and Butter Makers' Association of Western Ontario."
2. Only cheese and butter makers and helpers in factories be accepted as members.
3. Everyone interested in dairying will be welcome at all public meetings.
4. None but members can become officers of this Association.
5. The Board shall consist of a president, vice-president, and seven directors. The president shall be elected from among the directors by that body.
6. The vice-president by virtue of his office shall succeed the president.
7. The nominating committee shall be appointed by retiring president.
8. All officers must be elected annually, and at least one new member be elected on the Board each year.
9. Officers shall have power to select the Secretary and Treasurer.

The following recommendations were also brought in:

"That the makers stand shoulder to shoulder in regard to the rejection of milk, and that no maker accept milk that has been rejected by any other maker; that this Association take steps to issue to the salesmen of factories circulars requesting them and their local boards of trade to pass resolutions that all sales of cheese and butter be made binding on the buyer and salesman alike, and that all cheese and butter be inspected before buying; that cheese and butter makers shall be held responsible for inferior cheese or butter due to inferior utensils or curing rooms, or unsanitary condition of factory, and that makers be responsible for inferior cheese or butter due to

their carelessness clauses be inserted in factory men; that in and factory men, inspector appointed be appointed in t sary.

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