

drawn to the exhibition for the reason that there is much to be seen of the character indicated. They probably would not attend, were it not that, to the show proper, there are added these attractions. When they are there, they are likely to desire, as hundreds do, to see also the other parts of the exhibition, and, in viewing it, are frequently stimulated to endeavor to follow the example of others whose products are being exhibited. At all events, they receive the same agricultural education as those who attend for that purpose only. I am not pleading for these attractions, nor do I desire to excuse them. I take no interest in them whatever; but they do draw the multitude there, whose money is afterwards used for the legitimate advancement of agriculture.

If the Provincial is to continue at all, it must take the lead of all others. It should be ahead in extent of prizes, and in details of management. Now, I ask, can this be done? Is it worth while to try?

In my judgment, it is not, at present. The field is already occupied, and no good will result by merely adding another, when there are already too many.

### Farmers' Clubs.

#### Dominion Farmers' Council.

The Dominion Farmers' Council meets in the city of London, Ont., on the third Thursday of every month, at 1 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, A. LEHMANN, LONDON, ONT. This Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, objects, etc.; Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, and notes on how to organize a club. These will, on application to the Secretary, be sent free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.

On the 18th ult., the Dominion Farmers' Council assembled, President Anderson in the chair.

#### REPORT OF COMMITTEE SENT TO THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH.

After the disposal of the routine business, Mr. Deadman, the member of the committee who was to report on the horticultural department of the College, was called upon to give his report, which read as follows:—

We are sorry we cannot make any satisfactory report of the fruit department of the Agricultural College, from the fact that the Superintendent, Mr. Forsyth, brought with him the wrong book, and could not furnish us with any satisfactory or reliable information as to the names of the different varieties of raspberries, currants and strawberries grown; therefore, we had nothing by which we could determine the kinds which had withstood the winter best, and those which could be recommended for general cultivation. We could only pass through and comment on the general appearance and cultivation. We must say we consider it a total failure, which Mr. Brown attributed to the high situation of that part of the country, where the winters were too severe to grow fruit profitably. We must here differ with him; and we unhesitatingly say that the real cause of failure was the portion of the farm chosen for the planting of the fruit, &c. In the first place, the land is the lowest on the farm, taking the whole of the drainage from the back of the next farm, and in very wet times in spring and fall must be subject to a great overflow of water. We never saw a worse location chosen, without being properly and deeply drained before planting. We do not blame the present authorities for this, as Mr. Forsyth informed us that it was chosen by a deputation of the Fruit Growers' Association, Mr.

W. Saunders and Mr. Beadle being members of that committee. Only imagine a two-foot drain, and, think, only one main drain, being sufficient for the drainage of an orchard; and we were further informed that this drain had been entirely filled up, and a good part of it had been ploughed up. There appears to have been no attempt to remedy this lamentable state of affairs since, but left to die of neglect.

2nd. We believe, in addition to the want of drainage, another chief cause of failure was the borer. We saw two stubs of apple trees left, the trunks having decayed and broken off about two feet from the surface, which cause was attributed to the frost; but we practically proved that the borer was the cause, having found them in the trunk, and where they had operated, eating, girdling and killing the tree. Everyone of any knowledge in fruit culture is aware they thrive more where the trees have been stunted in growth, and in wet localities.

We cannot but believe that were a higher location chosen, and freed from water, that the apple can be as well cultivated here as in any other locality in Western Ontario. We cannot see that a higher elevation can so change the climate as to make it impossible to raise apples, except a few hardy kinds, from the fact that those few remaining of the seven acres planted, and which were on a higher corner of the field, is positive proof that the idea is entirely fallacious; and where the Fall Pippin tree can be grown, any other kind can be grown also. It seems strange to us that this branch of agriculture should be so neglected at the Farm, and that no efforts have been made to re-plant, the Institution with small fruits for their own and not make it only subservient in supplying and to test and disseminate all the newer consumption. The grapes cultivated were a kinds, number of varieties, and in ordinary years only about ten kinds ripened; and, I presume, this year they must have been a total failure, from the cold season. Last year being exceptionally a warm fall, ripened more; but why keep cultivating kinds that have been proved to be unsuitable, and that are too late in maturing? We could not learn anything about the kinds that were successful, and those that were not. The strawberries were a failure, from the fact that they had not been renewed for two or three years, instead of being renewed every year. A greater part of the raspberries had been injured by the winter, and was a mass of young wood in hills, instead of three or four canes being left in each hill for next year's bearing, and all the young wood being cut out as soon as possible. Altogether, we came away with anything but a pleasing recollection of the Fruit Department of the Agricultural College at Guelph.

Mr. Anderson, another member of the committee, in opening the discussion, said that he considered that the Institution was looked upon in a wrong light. The fact that it was one at which experiments were to be conducted, necessitated them to try varieties of fruit, &c., and methods of cultivation, which frequently turned out unprofitable. It was no use in experimenting on already well-established facts; but things which were unknown or uncertain had to be tried, and therefore experiments which showed that certain varieties or methods of cultivation were unprofitable, were not a failure, but a success, as they showed what to avoid. It was beneficial to know that out of the large number of grapes tried, only ten, the names of which will be

given in the report, were of value for that climate.

Prof. Robertson said that in justice to the Fruit Growers' Association he was forced to say that the selection of the orchard by that body had been made in winter, when there was fully two feet of snow, and that at that time the ground presented a much higher appearance than it really had. He had sampled all the varieties of grapes, and had found that none of the white varieties had ripened.

Mr. Kennedy said that Mr. Deadman's report was correct, and after considerable discussion by members of the Council, the report was adopted.

Prof. Robertson then gave a brief outline of the work of the Dairy Department at the Ontario Agricultural College, and continued as follows:—

#### DAIRY FARMING.

The people of Ontario do not recognize the value of the dairy industry. Seldom does it receive due credit for the service it has rendered to the farming and other interests of the Province. Hence, I may be permitted to occupy the attention of the Council a short time in pointing out some of the unacknowledged benefits that have followed from its development. Dairy farming, notably in connection with the establishment of cheese factories, has saved whole districts from the fate of speedily becoming unproductive. It has also largely increased the productive capacity of exhausted lands, and added to their yearly earning power. Many counties have been made wealthy by the increase in the fertility of semi-exhausted soils. Were this annual return from this extra earning power capitalized at 6 per cent., it would represent over thirty millions of dollars. The direct income of the farms from the sales of cheese last year was, in the aggregate, augmented by nearly nine millions of dollars. Not one bushel the less of wheat or any other grain had been grown in consequence. The circulation of so much money is to be credited to the cheese industry. Then, the dairy business has developed a market for coarser grains and fodders, without the exhaustion of fertility that would be caused by their direct sale and exportation. The straw from an oat crop, for instance, will realize good value through the dairy. Then, through the elaboration of the dairy, provision is made for the use as human food of much of most crops that would be otherwise wasted. Farmers are the food-furnishers for the race. It is their occupation to provide good things to eat and the raw material for clothing. It is a necessity of long-continued farming that the parts of crops which are indigestible, unpalatable or unsuitable as food for man, be fed to animals as preparation for his use; or that they be used as plant food, fuel or clothing. Plants are contrivances in nature whereby and wherein the energy of the sun's rays is stored and held available for man's use. When man cannot use that directly from the plant, or part of it, it should be otherwise prepared for him through its use by animals or other plants. By that means a man could, metaphorically, be said to live on grass, grain, straw, hay or corn, when these were turned into nutrients by the cow. Five times as large a civilized population can be supported by dairying as by any other system of farming, if gardening be excepted. Dairy farming necessitates a larger population, and makes its maintenance easily possible. Population alone gives value to property, and hence, any system of agriculture which provides for the comfortable maintenance