

Mr. R.—I pick them into a dish, then take them to the house and kill with boiling water.

Mr. T.—and do you skim the fat off to grease wagon with?

Another party said that he did not have much faith in co-operation, and he "cal'lated that the buyers knew purty well what a critter was worth." Another said, "I would not ship my stock with the Club, because everybody would know how much I got for them."

Quite a little storm in a teapot arose over the question of shrink on hogs. We weigh all hogs here and then shrink the whole shipment equally on a percentage basis. Some thought that their hogs would not shrink as much as the other fellow's and they ought to get a little more for them for that reason. But in spite of all, our Club is steadily growing and now has a membership of 48, and we are thinking of building a co-operative store. Our Club has benefited the settlement by enabling us to obtain higher prices for what we have to sell, and to buy at a great deal lower rates than the local storekeepers were charging. This benefits not only the members but the whole community.

Its greatest benefit is, however, socially, as it draws the different elements of society together, breaking down any feeling of caste in the community, it has a tendency to break down that innate selfishness of human nature, as in the working out of such co-operative principles there must needs be a certain amount of give and take. It also tends to a higher standard of morality and open, honest dealing one with the other, as there is no secrecy with regard to prices of anything either bought or sold. All accounts are open to the inspection of members at any time.

We have no "smug" drover or general merchant to say, "Now, just because it's you Jim, I'll give you a dollar more for that bullock," or "Seeing it's you, John I'll let you have this for \$3.75, which is 50 cents less than what I would take from anyone else." P. T. Barnum was wise to the ways of humanity when he said, "The public likes to be fooled." But our Club is here to stay.

Haliburton Co., Ont.

ALFRED G. TATE.

A Different Program Committee for Each Evening.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Prior to the fall of 1910 the prevailing pastime in a certain rural community was "tripping the light fantastic." Some may find no cause for alarm in such amusement but in the particular district referred to some of the more serious minded people felt that the youthful energies might be developed along better lines. Dancing had settled down to a procession of public balls for which on many occasions the music alone cost as much as half-a-hundred dollars. Some form of literary work seemed to be in order and the announcement was made at the Sunday services that a meeting would be held in one of the church basements for the purpose of organizing a literary society. The idea seemed to "catch on" from the outset. Both old and young entered heartily into the project and the movement was launched with an executive committee at the helm and without the usual chart of constitution and by-laws.

During that winter the meetings were held on alternate Friday evenings in the basement where organization had taken place. The attendance averaged more than 250 people. Not a few found themselves taking part in a public gathering for the first time. The most optimistic had never dreamed that such talent was available, and without the literary society this would doubtless have lain dormant, or wasted itself along lines which would have been of no service to the community.

When reorganizing for the next season it was felt that a larger auditorium should be sought, and it was decided to hold the meetings in the Music Hall with a seating capacity for 500 people. To finance the rental of the hall and other incidental expenses a silver collection was taken at each meeting and so liberal has been the response that a substantial surplus has accrued each year. With this money several street lamps were installed in the village and are being maintained.

The meetings are conducted in such a way as to lend variety, and so eliminate the monotony which often creeps into such gatherings. The president is merely the executive head. He does not preside at many meetings, but appoints other competent parties to act in that capacity. When reorganizing each fall, two capable persons are selected to arrange a program for each meeting. This enables each pair to begin early to plan their evening and engenders a healthy rivalry. This feature contributes more than any other to maintain an interest on the part of those who attend. There is less tendency to a sameness in the personelle or the numbers of the successive programs, and people go away each night asking themselves "which after all has been the best evening?" Entertainment has ranged all the way from "A Mock Trial of Kaiser Bill" to "The Trial Scene in the Merchant of Venice"; from essays on such themes as "A History of the British Navy" to a debate on "Woman's Franchise". In proximity to Burn's Anniversary or St. Patrick's Day the prevailing note has been Scotch or Irish, respectively. Possibly the evening, par excellence, was that at which five nations were represented in costume, speech, and song. John Bull and Uncle Sam needed no introduction to the audience. The Kilties captivated those of Scotch extraction, and all laughed heartily at the witticisms of Paddy with his sheelalah and green tie. Miss Canada left nothing to be desired in portraying the charms of the land of the Maple Leaf, and it needed no previous

arrangement for the judges to yield the palm to her. At the close, all the nations appeared on the platform and in conjunction with a colored friend sang and acted "Every race has a flag but the Coon."

The society has been vastly more than an amusement bureau. It has always stood for service, and during the progress of the war has helped very materially to foster patriotism, stimulate recruiting, and show a practical interest in those who have enlisted by the presentation of wrist watches. It has aided many a novice over his first attack of stage-fright and developed in him a healthy self-confidence. It has always discouraged any form of rowdyism and has thereby instilled into the hearts of the more youthful a better community spirit and a general regard for law and order. It has been a rallying centre for all classes and all ages, and has served to break the monotonous routine of many an isolated person. "Success" may be written across its records, and any community which will inaugurate a similar movement, and regard nothing as too much trouble if only success can be attained may do as well.

Perth County, Ont.

W. A. AMOS.

Should the Farmer go to University?

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I beg to offer an opinion on the subject so frequently discussed in these columns—"Education for the Farmer." It is not long since someone declared in this department against the agitating for higher education for the farmer. The writer claims, and quite reasonably so, that the more practical the farmer's education becomes the more speedy and permanent will be the abridgement of the gulf that separates the farmer from the professional man. No one disputes that elementary education should consist of those things implied by the name—the elements of our daily mental requirements. The writer in question would eliminate Latin and Greek, Algebra and Geometry and other subjects of this nature from the course of study of the farmer to be. Only those practical subjects such as stock judging and soil cultivating should be used in training the farmer. So long as this view is held I believe that the lack of understanding between the farmer and the professional man will continue to exist. What use is Algebra and Geometry to the doctor or the lawyer from a practical viewpoint? Does it imply a further knowledge of medicine or law? I believe that it does not; but it disciplines the mind. It renders the processes of reasoning more accurate and clear in either case. These theoretical as well as practical subjects are demanded of the prospective doctor or lawyer before he is admitted to the formal studies of his profession. In addition to the fact that these studies are necessary as a mental discipline before his formal studies begin, it is considered that he can better understand his work. Through these subjects the achievements, the discoveries, the inventions, and the best thoughts of the people of all ages are revealed. It broadens one's outlook on humanity.

If these things are true in professional life, and they must be true or the educational authorities would not demand them, then why are they not true of the farmer? The problems that he must solve require as much mental discipline as the lawsuit demands from the judge. If the farmer occupied the position he should occupy, the orbit of every profession would be around him. He needs as much discipline; he requires as much human sympathy to effect useful organizations for his benefit as the doctor. These accomplishments may have been obtained by some, but until the farmer's education is placed on a basis at par with professions, I claim he will not be recognized as he should be in the affairs of our national life.

Bruce Co., Ont.

STUDENT FARMER.

Impromptu Speeches Excite Interest.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

A literary society in any community is of very great value. It is very often there that our cleverest men have acquired the power to think and speak fluently and with confidence. Many men have valuable thoughts but have not the power to express them publicly, whereas if they had been accustomed to speaking at small gatherings, as literary societies, etc., it would come natural to them when they have grown to manhood.

The literary society raises the standard of ideals in the community. Young minds, that are just developing, learn to enjoy music, singing, thus cultivating their tastes for the finer qualities of life, and for those things that will make for better ideals. In most every community the people associate in cliques, according to their wealth or thoughts, and many young people have no chance to advance where, by the literary society, all are made welcome and find a common interest, and each one tries to raise himself or herself to a higher level. It has a great tendency to encourage the boy or girl who may not have the brightest environment, and give them the determination for clear thinking and right living. The literary also has another value. The people in the country lack sociability. Here they meet their neighbors and become better acquainted. It also fits boys and girls, men and women with the desire to play their part, and so unconsciously they are fitting themselves for social service.

The methods used in starting and managing are: first, get several interested, then have a public meeting and elect officers. I find the interest, is best maintained by electing different program committees for each night. Second, arrange for a concert, as this distributes the re-

sponsibilities and excites more interest, for the onus of management is not then confined to a few. Debates seem necessary at these societies; they arouse interest and teach one to examine a topic more closely. The impromptu speech is also a fine thing. Begin with two-minute speeches and gradually increase the time to five minutes, and it is wonderful how many will take part. Always call one those first who are sure to respond; then others will fall in and take their part.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

WILLIE WILLMOTT.

Make Everything Bright, Breezy and Brief.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

Every community should have a literary society because such is a part of our college course. It has been tried and found beneficial. Experience teaches. There is need of having some community centre, which is not provided in any other way. It affords a splendid opportunity for mixing. "It is not good for man to be alone". It also has a social value; winter evenings are long and life is apt to become monotonous. The literary society affords and provides splendid entertainment. It cultivates and develops young beginners in speaking and thinking on their feet. It tends towards efficiency. It has an educational side. Lectures may be given by leading men and women on science, medicine, war, etc., or a synopsis of some leading recent book. Some oracle can also give weekly an epitome of world news with spicy local hits and humor.

A public meeting should be called and well advertised. A chairman may be appointed and a nominating committee. This committee will bring in their report at the next meeting. This method is preferable to having officers named in a public gathering. It ensures better officers, and these are absolutely essential to get the best results. Make the first meeting after organizing free and easy; have refreshments if possible. Open each meeting with some patriotic or national song, and have a respectable membership fee.

Emphasize variety; have plenty of all kinds of music, except poor music. Debates are good. A question drawer is also interesting; have members write their questions and appoint someone present to answer them. Make it all spontaneous. Let the one answering refer any question to anyone in the audience, if he so desires. Avoid all personalities. Mock parliaments and mock trials have their place. Make everything bright, breezy and brief. If it is allowed to drag it will die. Have a good critic, not necessarily the same one for each evening. Advertise well.

Are short addresses successful? That will depend on the speaker. On the whole they are not successful. There should not be more than one each night, unless it be an oratorical contest. "New occasions teach new duties." Have an objective. Get up a play or entertainment, and be practical with it all. Have in mind some patriotic or human cause, and work for these. It will help the Society to help others.

Selkirk, Ont.

R. C. WATERBURY.

How a Contest Increased Membership.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

As we are reorganizing our Literary Society for this winter I thought it might be of some interest to other communities to know of our success and methods of conducting a rural literary society. After our initial organization, the election of officers and the adoption of a constitution and by-laws, two captains were chosen to conduct a contest to run for six weeks, each side to give three programs. The losing side was obliged to give a seventh program and at this meeting new captains were to be chosen for another contest. In the contest, each new member paying 25 cents membership fee counted 25 points, a debate was held each night, the winning side getting 25 points also 5 points for each new debate; i. e. the winning side having 3 debaters who had not debated before in this contest would get 40 points and the losing side with 3 new debaters would get 15 points. One neutral member was chosen to judge the programs by points, the time limit for programs being two and one-half hours.

Our society was held in the school house, that being the only available building, and it was packed every week by young people from the surrounding country, some coming 5 and 6 miles.

We consider such an organization very beneficial as it educates the young people to appear before the public and to be able to express their views in a creditable manner. It also encourages reading and that is educative, as our debates were all on practical subjects and live issues of the day. As a sample I might mention these four:

Resolved "That the United States would be justified in entering the present war."

"That capital punishment should be abolished."

"That a good education is a better start in life for a young man than one hundred acres of land."

"That co-education is preferable to separate classes for boys and girls."

This last subject was discussed by school teachers spending their Christmas holidays in the community, our aim being to use any outside talent available for our interest and profit. At the end of our second contest we had over three hundred paid up members, and not considering it advisable to hold another contest we decided to have a concert, the proceeds to go to Red Cross work. Although we had rather a poor night and bad roads the proceeds amounted to \$50.00.

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