

GOOD PAY TO AGENTS.

Agents wanted in every village, town, and township, to make a thorough canvass for the RURAL CANADIAN. Liberal inducements. Work to commence at once. For full particulars address

O. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

Publisher.

LETTERS on business should always be addressed to the PUBLISHER; while communications intended for insertion in the paper, or relating to the Editorial department, to ensure prompt attention, must be addressed to EDITOR RURAL CANADIAN.

Mr. J. A. McLEAN, Manager Advertising Department of this paper, is authorized to make contracts at our regular rates.

The Rural Canadian.

EDITED BY W. F. CLARKE.

TORONTO, MARCH 1st, 1882.

OSHAWA FARMERS' CLUB.

This is one of the few working farmers' clubs the Province of Ontario can boast. It has been in existence about four years, and has not, like some others, been dormant and inactive. It has held regular meetings, at which practical farming has been discussed in its varied aspects. Occasional lectures have been given by able agriculturists. On the occasion of the usual fortnightly meeting of the club, February 11th, about 160 members were present, to hear an address by Mr. John Dryden, M.P.P., on "Success in Farming." It was an able effort, abounding in hints based on the speaker's personal experience, and we shall try to give a synopsis of it in a future issue of the RURAL CANADIAN.

TORONTO INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above-mentioned body was held February 14th. In the President's report reference was made to prevailing bush fires having somewhat diminished the attendance at the last exhibition. The number of entries at each of the three exhibitions which have been held was 8,234 in 1879, 11,074 in 1880, and 9,842 in 1881. With a view to giving greater satisfaction in the awarding of prizes, the Directors recommended to their successors a reduction in the number of judges, and the employment of thoroughly qualified experts, who should be reasonably compensated for their services. A wider representation in the Association was also suggested, by the comprehension of all the Presidents and Secretaries of the County Agricultural Societies in the Counties of York, Ontario, Peel and Cardwell in its membership. The financial condition of the Association was fully stated. Summed up in brief, it places the assets at \$47,511,016; the liabilities at \$15,125,051; leaving the amount of assets over liabilities, \$32,385,965. After discussing some points bearing on future exhibitions, the following gentlemen were elected by ballot as the Board of Directors: Mr. J. J. Withrow, Mr. J. McGee, Mr. W. F. McMaster, Mr. W. Rennie, Mr. A. Smith, Mr. J. Fleming, Mr. W. Christie, Mr. G. Booth, Mr. A. McGregor, Ald. Love, Mr. W. H. Doel, Mr. W. B. Hamilton, Mr. G. Leslie, Jr., Mr. D. C. Ridout, Mr. J. Crocker, Mr. W. S. Lee, Mr. R. Davies, Mr. P. G. Close, Mr. J. E. Mitchell, Mr. D. Lamb.

Nineteen committees were appointed, leaving the Finance Committee and the officers of the Association to be chosen on a future occasion. The meeting then adjourned.

ENSILAGE WISDOM.

A convention of ensilagers, or ensilagists, whichever may be the proper name by which to designate them, was recently held in New York city, composed for the most part of men who have experimented more or less with silos. There was a perceptible toning down of the extravagant claims that have been so often set up in books and communications to the papers on this subject, not a few of which soared quite above the realm of credibility. The meeting embodied its matured convictions in a resolution with which few fair-minded and intelligent agriculturists will be disposed to quarrel. It was to the effect that, after six years of successful experimenting in the use of silos, the system has been found to be of great advantage to the farming interest. A similar resolution might very properly be passed in regard to pasturage, hay-raising, and root-growing. Ensilage is no new thing under the sun. It has long been known in Europe, where it ranks as one among various methods of cattle-feeding. In this country, where heavy crops of green corn fodder can readily be grown, ensilaging may prove to be of greater comparative value than in Europe, where it is not extensively practised, still less does it supersede all other methods of winter feeding. On no point was the moderation of the N. Y. meeting more conspicuous than in relation to the average crop of green corn fodder per acre. Twenty-eight tons was the largest yield, ascertained by actual weight. 21, 14, 11, and 9 tons per acre were reported, and one speaker, evidently not yet recovered from the ensilage fever, claimed 58 tons per acre, but the yield was "estimated." The land was not measured, nor the crop weighed. About \$2,50 per ton was admitted to be a fair average "bill of cost" for ensilage. Its relative value does not seem to be yet ascertained. One authority makes four tons of ensilage about equal to one ton of hay. We shall doubtless reach the "bottom facts" in regard to this matter before long.

FARMING IN EAST MIDDLESEX.

At the annual meeting of the East Middlesex Agricultural Society, held at London on the 18th ult., a report was presented from which we glean the following interesting paragraphs:—

"The past season has been very favourable to the farmers of this county. There have been great crops and high prices for everything grown on the farm. The only drawback was a severe drought in the latter part of the summer, that injured the pastures and hindered the fattening of beef cattle. This was quite a loss, as owing to the high prices paid for cattle to export, it has become a very important branch of the agriculture of the country.

"We are inclined to take a very hopeful view of the prospects of the farmers of this part of Ontario. It is a common opinion that the farmers of America are gradually and surely ruining their land by over-cropping and bad management. We do not believe that this opinion will apply to this county. We are convinced that our farmers, by procuring better implements, and by more thoroughly working and draining their land, and by producing more beef and cheese, instead of depending principally upon grain, are actually improving the soil, and we are satisfied that in general the old farms in our county are more productive now than they were twenty years ago."

AMERICAN AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the above-named body was held in New York city, February 1-3. It was largely attended, many prominent agriculturists from various parts of the

United States being present. The opening address by President N. T. Sprague, of Vermont, presented the magnitude and importance of the farming interest in the United States, very forcibly indicating also lines of desirable and practicable improvement. A telling paper on "How Crops are Moved," was read by Gen. H. E. Tremain, of New York. It dealt very fully with the transportation question, contending for legislative action to establish a uniform relation between through and local freights. He said that "heavy penalties for violations of law and improper charges should be laid on railroads, and means afforded individuals to bring suit to recover such penalties; that it should be the right of States to take railroad property at fixed premiums on its cost, and be represented in their governing authority." In closing, he urged that every penny of expenditure and every act of administration of railroads should be made public.

Prof. Northrup, of New Haven, Ct., spoke on the "Homes of Farmers." He showed that though the chances for long life in the case of farmers are greater than those of any other class of people, yet statistics prove that their wives and families are comparatively short-lived. This he attributed to defective sanitary arrangements and bad cookery. The premises around farm houses were often in an unwholesome state. Too much salt meat is eaten. There should be less frying, and more baking, broiling, and boiling of food. He urged the formation of rural improvement associations, and the beautifying of farm homes.

Fish-farming was discussed, and highly commended. The tariff was considered at some length, and the following resolution adopted in regard to it:—

"Resolved, That in view of the fact that our present tariff was enacted twenty years ago, during the time of our late war, to secure an extraordinary revenue for an extraordinary purpose; therefore, this convention favours the Bill now before Congress in favour of a tariff revision."

The cotton industry was reviewed, and it was noted that the introduction of labour-saving machinery consequent on the Atlanta Cotton Exposition had been of great benefit. A Mississippi planter was quoted as declaring that the Exposition had been worth \$20,000 to him, and that his was no exceptional case—a striking example of the benefits of implement exhibitions, worthy of being pondered by those who doubt the utility of such things.

The *Country Gentleman* gives the following summary of the remainder of the proceedings:—

Dr. Byron D. Halsted, of New York, read a paper on "Weeds, and how to Discover them with a Microscope." Mrs. Amelia Lewis spoke on "The Condition of Farmers' Wives," and Willis P. Hazard, of Westchester, presented a paper on the "Channel Islands; the People and their Cattle." Then Dr. Robert Grimshaw, of Pennsylvania, read a paper on "Sugar-beet and Beet Culture." He said beet sugar was a fact, and sorghum sugar was a myth. Half of the world's supply of sugar is made from beets.

Frank H. Willard read a paper by Prof. X. A. Willard, of Little Falls, N. Y., on "Science in the Dairy," a synopsis of which will be given hereafter.