

son, Abingdon; Dorset Horns, R. W. Harding, Thorndale; Hampshires and Suffolks, John Kelly, Shakespeare; Ontario Agricultural College, Prof. G. E. Day. General Directors—John Campbell, Woodville, and Andrew Whitelaw, Guelph.

Vice-Presidents by Provinces—British Columbia, A. E. Davey, Ladner; Alberta, Bryce Wright, DeWinton; Saskatchewan, Paul Bredt, Regina; Quebec, H. E. Williams, Knowlton; New Brunswick, James Telfer, Markhamville; Nova Scotia, Prof. Cumming, Truro; Prince Edward Island, Albert Boswell, Charlottetown.

A Large Meeting of Holstein Breeders.

A record attendance, lively and spirited discussion, and genuine keenness of interest, characterized the annual meeting of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association, held in Toronto, Feb. 8th. Many questions of importance to the breed were thoroughly threshed out, and definite action taken, and the entire transactions denoted a spirit of progressiveness and faith in the breed.

The secretary's report showed that the business during 1911 had far exceeded that of the previous year. Two hundred and thirty-eight new members were added to the list in 1911, and 532 Record of Merit tests were made and accepted. The total number of registrations during the year was 5,924, and 5,324 transfers were made. The total receipts were \$14,234.19, and expenditure \$12,195.15, leaving a balance on hand of \$2,039.04, or \$457.12 increase over that on hand a year ago.

The usual grant of \$150 to the Dominion Cattle-breeders' Association was passed.

Considerable discussion resulted over the recommendation of the Executive Committee that the grants or prizes of \$5 and \$10 given to owners of cows qualifying in the Record of Merit be discontinued to breeders who have already drawn \$25 or over, new breeders being allowed to draw to that extent, and no more. The meeting was fairly evenly divided on the question, but it was finally passed that any member may draw up to \$25 during the year, the amount per head being cut down to \$5, whether for a seven or thirty-day test.

To further strengthen the prestige of the breed, it was decided that, in the event of a Holstein cow winning the championship at any Winter Fair, she receive \$50 as a special prize, in addition to the championship prize, this money to be paid by the Association.

The giving of silver cups to several of the larger exhibitions putting on a dairy test was discontinued.

The old and much-discussed matter of affiliating with the Canadian National Live-stock Records again came up, and, after a short discussion, in which no new arguments were put forth, it was decided to appoint a committee to confer with the National Live-stock Records Office to ascertain what saving, if any, would be possible, and if it would be an advantage to the Association to become affiliated with the National Live-stock Records. A committee consisting of the President, D. C. Platt and James Rennie was appointed to look into the matter, and report at the next annual meeting.

In view of the fact that the business of the Association has increased so rapidly, it was decided to increase the secretary's salary to \$2,000 per year, and to pay the auditors each \$25 per year and expenses.

The following grants to exhibitions were passed: Canadian National, Toronto, \$300; Calgary, \$100; London, \$100; St. John, \$75; Halifax, \$75; Victoria, \$100; Regina, \$50; Quebec, \$50, Sherbrooke, \$150; Winnipeg, \$100; Ottawa, \$100; Charlottetown, \$50; Brandon, \$75; New Westminster, \$100; Edmonton, \$50. Winter Fairs' Guelph, \$450, Amherst, \$275; Ottawa, \$450—a total of \$225 more than last year. For milk tests at Charlottetown, Sherbrooke and Woodstock, \$25 each.

Prof. H. S. Arsell, Assistant Live-stock Commissioner, urged the breeders to push the official testing work to a greater extent than ever before. He advocated the keeping of a record of rations fed to the cows making a test, and impressed those present with the necessity of paying more attention to the breeding ability of the cattle, which he stated does not depend on show-yard conformation, appearance, or even performance. Some system should be evolved of placing a premium on breeding ability.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

President, J. E. Herrick, Abbotsford, Que.; 1st Vice-Pres., James Rennie, Norwich, Ont.; 2nd Vice-Pres., R. E. Hicks, Newton Brook, Ont.; 3rd Vice-Pres., D. C. Platt, Millgrove, Ont.; 4th Vice-Pres., M. L. Haley, Springford, Ont. Directors—Stanley Logan, Amherst Point, N. S.; W. Mitchener, Red Deer, Alta.; N. Sangster, Orms-town, Que.; J. W. Richardson, Caledonia, Ont.; Sec.-Treas., Geo. W. Clemens, St. George.

Convention of Fairs and Exhibitions Association.

That the year just past was the worst in the past century for at least one-third of the agricultural societies in the Province, was indicated by the report of the Superintendent of these Societies, J. Lockie Wilson, at the 12th annual convention of the Fairs and Exhibition Association, held last week in Toronto. The Legislative grant of \$10,000 was all used in paying 50 per cent. of the loss caused by bad weather on exhibition days. Over 100 Societies took advantage of the grants. Two-thirds of the fairs were held on fine days, and the attendance and receipts were satisfactory.

The Societies showed increased interest in the field-crop competition, 104 of them taking part. In 1912, the amount of money available for this work will be \$18,000, owing to the grant from the Dominion Government of \$10,000, in addition to the \$8,000 donated by the Ontario Government.

In speaking of the advantages of these competitions, Mr. Wilson said that those taking part had been educated along the line of producing grain of the best quality; that they had been able to sell this grain at remunerative prices, and that the supply of good seed available for use in the Province had been largely increased. He suggested, as a further improvement, that the local societies which conduct these standing field-crop competitions, in addition, arrange for prizes at the local shows for clean grain and grain in the sheaf taken from these standing crops.

A radical change was suggested in the prize lists of some agricultural societies which were not up-to-date. The special appropriation for agricultural societies in Northern Ontario is increased from \$3,000 to \$5,000 this year.

In the absence of Prof. C. A. Zavitz, T. G. Raynor, of the Seed Branch, Ottawa, discussed field-crop competitions. In speaking of the extent of the demand for good seed, Mr. Raynor said that there are 5,000,000 acres devoted to the production of cereals in Ontario, and for this seedling, seven and one-half million bushels of seed are required. If, as a result of the use of good seed, we can increase production by 5 bushels per acre, which he thought easily possible, it will mean 25,000,000 more in production, and \$20,000,000 more in the value of crops produced. The products of our fields would be immensely increased by the use of pure grain and thorough cultivation.

Speaking of the subject of standards for judging grain and potatoes, Geo. H. Clark, Dominion Seed Commissioner, contended that, in the main, these products should be judged on the basis of values fixed by the buyers of the Province. Millers, he stated, like a hard, glutinous wheat, Ontario farmers for a time endeavored to produce this, but, as they could get a much larger yield of the softer varieties, and the millers only made a small discrimination in price, they soon reverted to growing the soft, starchy, heavier-yielding varieties. It is difficult for millers to get uniform Ontario wheat, consequently many of the largest millers are not in the market for this wheat, hence wheat-growing in this Province is decreasing, and more attention is being given to oat production. Mr. Clark advised societies to offer prizes for types, rather than for different varieties of grain.

"Classification and Judging of Live Stock at Exhibitions," was the subject dealt with by Prof. G. E. Day, of the O. A. C. Exhibitions of live stock are held for the purpose of encouraging the breeding of pure-bred live stock, and the object of offering prizes is to stimulate improvement by encouraging the breeder and exhibitor, and by giving the spectator an object lesson. The success of a fair depends largely upon the number of men who can be induced to exhibit, and the prizes should be awarded to help the amateur and farmer's son, rather than the dealer, and each prize should be awarded in a place where the public can get the benefit of the expert judge's knowledge.

John Farrell, of Forest, brought the matter of increasing Government grants to agricultural societies before the meeting. In view of the fact that the work is broadening, he believed that an increase of \$25,000 should be made.

Hon. Martin Burrell, Morley Pettit, O.A.C., and Thos. Delworth, Weston, also addressed the meeting.

The treasurer's report showed \$320 on hand. The following officers for 1912 were elected: President, J. C. Simmons, M. D., Frankford; 1st Vice-President, John Farrell, Forest; 2nd Vice-President, Dr. W. A. Crow, Chesley; Secretary, Editor, J. Lockie Wilson, Toronto; Treasurer, Alex. McFarlane, Ottaville. Directors—G. C. Smith, Cornwall; R. J. Bushell, Kingston; J. H. Garbutt, Peterboro; A. McFarlane, Shannonville; Geo. Patten, Barrie; H. F. Stoddard, Welland; Wm. Holmes, Otterville; D. O. Graham, Lobo; John Dewhurst, South Woodbury; Geo. Rennie, Burlington; R. Lavoie, Gravenhurst; F. E. Stephenson, New Lis'eard. Auditors—R. A. New, Meaford, and Wm. Collins, Peterboro.

Canadian Seed Growing.

The report of Secretary L. H. Newman, of the Canadian Seed-growers' Association, at the 8th annual meeting, in the Canadian Building, Ottawa, Feb. 8th and 9th, showed that there were now 164 members in full standing, with 232 applications listed, making a total of 396 affiliations, and that in 1911 satisfactory hand selections of seed had been made by ninety growers. As time passes association seed growers are coming to include more than one class of crop in their special system of seed-growing. Experience is indicating the wisdom of limiting varieties and checking the tendency to change varieties and adopt new ones before sufficient evidence of their superiority was obtained. As a fundamental principle of practice, it is generally recognized that seed which is perfectly matured and developed gives better results than seed inferior in other respects, which pre-supposes fertile land in good cultivation. This indicates the desirability of using the best patch of land as a seed-producing center or plot, and pursuing a definite system, so that there will be no mal-nutrition. Supplementary to such a system follows, necessarily, severe grading, because of defects growing out of deficiencies in soil and moisture, even on the same farm. These special precautions are further necessary to avoid impurities introduced by itinerant threshing machines and other agencies. The work of the association indicates more clearly than ever the need of reaching the individual farmer.

A new system of inspecting and sealing sacks of seed grain is being established. Reference was made to the success of Seager Wheeler, a member of the association, in Saskatchewan, in winning the prize at New York for the best 100-pound sample of wheat grown in America with the Marquis variety, a product of the Central Experimental Farm.

This year there was available for disposal some 475,000 pounds of "Registered Seed" by members of the association, and the demands for it were rapidly increasing. Of "Improved Seed," there are some 360,000 pounds.

The President, Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, referred to the past seven years as a period of preparation for achieving better results in the future.

SEED STANDARDS AND DISTRIBUTION.

The report of the directors was submitted by the secretary.

In future, the Association shall recognize only two classes of seed, namely "Elite Stock Seed," and "Registered Seed." By "Elite Stock Seed" is meant seed which has been produced on a special seed plot in accordance with some definite system, and which has shown itself, after being properly tested, to be worthy of distribution. "Registered Seed" is the term applied to the succeeding progeny of "Elite Stock Seed" up to and including the third generation when such seed has passed the required standards of purity and vitality fixed for "Registered Seed." The new regulations admit seed descended two generations further from "Elite Stock Seed" than was formerly the case. This will allow a much more rapid multiplication of important stocks than formerly, and will therefore make available a larger quantity of high-class standard seed.

All sacks of seed which are offered for sale are to be inspected and sealed by an officer approved by the Association before the said sacks leave the premises of the grower. Formerly, seed cultures were inspected in the field only. This extra inspection of the final product should constitute an important and very necessary precaution against careless and defraudulent practice. By means of a special tag attached to each sack, all purchasers obtain not only useful information regarding the variety and quantity they have purchased, but also receive the certificate of the grower over his signature. By means of the system of numbering these tags, it is possible to trace all lots disposed of throughout the country.

The conducting of local trials of a number of leading varieties in various centers was unanimously agreed to be a most important essential to the progress of the work. It was pointed out that in certain districts many different varieties of the different kinds of crops are to be found, some of which, while clearly inferior, are not readily abandoned by farmers in the absence of exact information. It was clearly shown that, if the association was to succeed in producing large quantities of pure stocks in different centers, the number of varieties must be limited. Where many different varieties are grown, it is found to be very difficult to maintain the purity of any one of them. Where large quantities of pure seed may be produced in certain favorable localities, the large, as well as the small buyer is provided with a source from which they may obtain any quantity within reasonable limits. It was recommended that the Executive should consult with the authorities at the Experimental Stations, with a view to effecting an extension of the present system, so as to exclude a great number of tests in local centers as circumstances demand.