

were constructed on the same principle as they were many decades ago, and since so much depended on the skill of the plowman, it was advisable to resurrect the plowing-match as a training school.

That it was difficult to induce a farmer to allow competitors to plow his field, was the complaint raised by Jonathan Gould, of Markham. A. C. Griffin, of Waterdown, said that plowing-matches were a worthless relic of the past. The introduction of implements such as the disk harrow and the spring-tooth cultivator made it no longer advisable nor profitable to do scientific or fancy plowing. Thorough cultivation after the plowing was more important.

A motion-suggestion that the Convention urge on the Minister of Agriculture the expediency and importance of making a special grant to assist in conducting plowing-matches, under the auspices of societies that wished to take up that line of work in demonstrating better methods of soil cultivation, was lost by a small majority.

RURAL CONSTABULARY.

That Ontario's rural constabulary system is considered altogether inadequate, was shown by the loyal support of a resolution demanding more efficient service in rural parts of the Province. When the subject was introduced, A. J. Russell, of Cobourg, outlined what had been done in Northumberland County to impress on the Ontario Government the importance of a change in the constabulary system. Letters from insurance companies, county crown attorneys, and "The Farmer's Advocate," were read, in which the suggested changes were supported. Several delegates cited instances of where criminals got away. J. M. Young, Wellington Co., said they were planning a system for their county whereby fees would be paid that would make it worth while to do duty in capturing miscreants. Many favored a change of system to something similar to the Northwest Mounted Police. G. L. Miller, of Jarvis, thought better management of the present system would fill the bill. The following resolution, moved by A. J. Russell, of Cobourg, and seconded by R. A. Stokes, of Sombra, was carried unanimously: "Whereas crime in rural districts, committed chiefly by vagrants, is inefficiently coped with by our system of counties constabulary, we respectfully advise the adoption of either a rural mounted-police force for the Province of Ontario, or that the present system should be supplemented in such manner as may best attain better rural-police protection; and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Provincial Attorney-General, at Toronto."

OTHER RESOLUTIONS.

A resolution dealing with accidents at railway crossings urged the Federal Parliament, now in session, to pass legislation by which railway companies would be held responsible for damage done at level crossings.

Suggestions by the Attorney-General, in regard to law reform, were approved. It was considered that one court of appeal was sufficient, but no suggestion as to limiting the number of judges on the appeal case was made.

A motion to increase the number of directors of fair boards to at least 24 was left over for a year. Secretary Wilson promised to do what he could to meet the desires of societies that wanted an increased number of directors.

SECURING QUALIFIED JUDGES.

"Qualified judges are developed by training and practice," said R. S. Hamer, B.S.A., of Perth, in discussing the best way to secure qualified judges. Others, he said, were simply strong in some particular line. It was a mistake to call Government judges experts. The main object in providing these judges was to secure outside parties to make awards. The most satisfactory men were found where they had experience. Constant association with a particular class made them acquainted with type and other requirements. Mr. Hamer did not think it possible to arrange examinations and grant certificates. Much could be done by the Superintendent to improve the calibre of the judging staff, by culling out those who did not give satisfaction, and by accepting suggestions from competent men already in the work.

JUDGES AND IDEALS.

Three qualifications essential to satisfactory placing of awards mentioned by Prof. G. E. Day, were: (1) Thorough knowledge of the class; (2) absolute honesty; and (3) tact. With regard to honesty, it was pointed out that there was not one-tenth the dishonesty among judges that many tried to imagine. Too many criticisms were made by those who did not know, or who were not in position to pass judgment. Tact was necessary in talking to an exhibitor who had not been blessed with a first prize. Such men often were grieved, and deserved consideration. Type was described as an elusive term, and, while it was essential, should not be given too much prominence. The more a man studied judging, the more he felt that others could disagree with him. Just as long as there were intelligent and honest judges; so long would they differ in selecting winners.

ENCOURAGE FIELD CROPS.

After pointing out that the value of field crops

annually amounted practically to the same as that of live-stock in Ontario, Professor Zavitz regretted that, for years past, sufficient attention had not been given to improving farm conditions. Among the points that demanded attention were drainage, rotation of crops, economy of plant food, thorough cultivation, use of better varieties, and the sowing of large, plump, sound seed at the proper time and in the proper way. Experiments had shown that early sowing was the best. There was an appreciable decrease in the yield of every crop for each day's delay after the first week of seeding weather.

Fairs, declared Professor Zavitz, did not take advantage of their opportunities to assist in improving crops of the farm. Entries gave no names of varieties, and little of an educational value was in evidence. Exhibits should be placed in uniform receptacles, and made more attractive. Special prizes should be offered for the particular variety that it was deemed advisable to encourage in that district. A class, also, should be opened for alfalfa hay, and accompanying notes on how it was grown. Further suggestions were that special prizes be offered for secretaries of societies who presented at the fall fair the most attractive and most instructive display of farm crops, and that the Ontario Association appoint a special committee to hold a conference regarding attractiveness and arrangement of the products of the field.

Success throughout the Province was reported by John Farrel, of Forest, President of the Western District, and P. S. Ewing, of Warkworth, President of the Central District.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

Before steps were taken to select officers, Secretary Wilson urged that only live men be appointed, and requested that those who were not prepared to "take of their coats" refuse to accept a position. It was also agreed to do away with the office of corresponding secretary, and elect a treasurer and a secretary-editor.

The new officers are: President, H. J. Gould, of Uxbridge; First Vice-President, Dr. J. U. Simmonds, of Frankford; Second Vice-President, Geo. E. Lee, of Highgate; Secretary and Editor, J. Lockie Wilson, of Toronto; Treasurer, Alex. McFarlane, of Ottaville. Directors—John D. Orr, of Meadowvale; Wm. Laidlaw, of Guelph; J. W. Sheppard, of Cayuga; J. Thos. Murphy, of Simcoe; R. E. Cowan, of Galt; R. H. Leary, of Peterboro; and John Farrel, of Forest. Auditors—R. Agnew, of Meaford, and Wm. Collins, of Peterboro.

Ontario Corn Association Organized at Essex.

Again and again it has been said that corn is king in south-western Ontario. But if that be true to-day, who can forecast what is in store for this great cereal ten years hence in these favored counties, or the advantages that will accrue directly and indirectly to the country generally as an outcome of the great corn convention and exhibition held last week in the Town of Essex? Provincial statistics for 1907 credit Essex County with a corn crop of 5,887,390 bushels, and Kent, 5,065,265 bushels, approximately one-half of the whole corn crop of the entire Province. But in all directions the corn-growing area is extending, because of the value of corn for ensilage purposes, fodder and feed grain. With the spread of dairying, hog and cattle feeding, the corn crop becomes more and more the reliance of the Canadian farmer; hence through the eastern and northern sections of Ontario, throughout Quebec and elsewhere, comes an increasing demand for early and reliable seed corn, which south-western Ontario is peculiarly well adapted to supply. In combination with other grains, such as oats, barley, and the by-products of wheat, it is well-nigh indispensable to the feeder, and thus plays its part in sustaining soil fertility. A glance at the imports of Canada discloses at once the imperative need for corn for feeding purposes, and the possibilities of expansion. In addition to something over 900,000 bushels for distillation, we are actually importing from the United States some 10,000,000 bushels, valued at \$5,500,000 per year, while a far larger quantity than is now fed could be utilized with profit. The opportunities for the corn-grower are, therefore, almost limitless, and as Prof. L. S. Klink, of Macdonald College, so clearly indicated at the sessions of the Essex convention, the pathway of progress is along the line of improved seed, and better methods of culture and crop handling. What can be accomplished was very aptly illustrated in a paper by T. S. Bigger, of Walkerville, on the achievements of corn-growers' associations and corn clubs in the United States. Through such agencies the quality of the seed and the profits of the Wisconsin corn crop have been transformed from a yield of 20 bushels per acre in 1901 to 41½ bushels in 1907, and in the addition of about 20 bushels per acre to the annual crop from practical

But this is the century of Canada, and the Canadian farmer's turn has come in the evolution of things. He is getting busy about corn along the Lake Erie counties, and the first exclusive corn conference and exhibition of this country held at Essex proves it.

The magnitude, earnestness and enthusiasm of the gathering was a revelation to the people. They had not dreamed of it. To think of spending four days talking and looking at corn seemed incredible. No such display of corns, yellow and white, dent and flint, was ever seen at once in Canada before, and this, too, without any special preparation last autumn, for the idea of holding the show did not take shape till the present winter, so growers had to select from the stocks on hand. The Ontario Colonization Department have requested the use of part of the prize-winning corns to send as an exhibit to England. H. Walker & Sons, who contributed \$100 to the prize-list, desire a portion of the exhibits for a display. A proposal which met with great favor was to reserve a big exhibit for the Toronto and London exhibitions next fall, and the Ontario Provincial next winter.

For the next show, corn-growers will all be on the alert in the fields. In all there were no fewer than 295 entries, including 45 for the single-ear championship, and 37 in the judging competition, with over 2,000 ears shown by 113 exhibitors, though the prize-list was necessarily limited in the initial effort. But the attendance was the remarkable feature of the event. The forenoons were devoted mainly to a sort of judging school, conducted by Prof. Klink. The three or four long tables, extending down the hall of the big municipal building, were lined on each side with men, young and old, intently studying the types, maturity, vitality, color, shape and general characteristics of kernels and ears spread before them. From 150 to 200 were engaged in this work, while in the afternoons the auditorium was packed with from 400 to 500 persons, listening to and sharing in the practical discussions of the programme, lead by Prof. Klink and Prof. Zavitz, of the Ontario Agricultural College, who discussed rotations and clover, upon the great value of which he laid special emphasis as a means of improving the fertility and mechanical condition of the soil. Prof. Klink's intimate knowledge of

corn-growing and the corn plant, and his lucid and common-sense presentation of the subject, captured the audience. Again and again men were heard saying: "Well, I never dreamed there was so much to learn about corn."

The interest aroused in the cornfields next summer, coupled with the work of the Ontario Corn-growers' Association, inaugurated at the meeting, will, in ten years' time, at a reasonable estimate, add millions to the value of the corn crop. One could not wonder then that when J. A. Auld, ex-M.P.P., Dr. J. W. Brien, and other speakers, paid tribute to A. McKenney, B.S.A., the Essex County representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, to whom the credit of the convention is due, their remarks were received with enthusiastic applause. During the couple of years Mr. McKenney has been in the county he has acquainted himself thoroughly with its conditions, and has this season an enthusiastic agricultural class of 18 young men in the Essex High School, who shared in enjoying the benefits of the convention and exhibition. In studying the possibilities of agriculture in Essex and Kent, Mr. McKenney became seized of the conviction that the immediate key to the situation was progress in corn-growing, and the splendid rally and exhibition was the result of his courage, enthusiasm and hard work. When at the Thursday afternoon session he suggested the formation of an organization to crystallize the results of the gathering and perpetuate the work of improvement, the proposal instantly met with an approving reception, resulting in the election of officers and a directorate, representing the different municipalities. The annual membership fee was fixed at 50 cents, and a very large number availed themselves of the privilege before the convention closed. The objects of the association are to secure better methods of growing, selecting and caring for seed corn, improvement of varieties, holding an annual convention, giving instruction in judging, issuing certificates good for three years to expert judges, publication of information, and the organization of local clubs. The annual meeting will be held during the annual convention and exhibition. Membership is open to anyone interested in corn. Candidates for certificates must take the course of instruction at the annual convention. In later issues of "The Farmer's Advocate" a report will