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The

of Farmers' Institutes and Farmers' Clubs.

Contemporaneously with the meetings of the Ontario Women's Institutes, the Beekeepers' Association, the Horticultural Association, and various other bodies which met in Toronto during the week of the Horticultural Exhibition, representatives of the Farmers' Clubs and the Farmers' Institutes of Ontario held a conference of four sessions in the Capital City. Many of the active spirits of these organizations from various parts of the Province were present, and, while all the leaders were not able to come, there were no lukewarm enthusiasts forward, so that the hundred to one hundred and fifty that attended the meetings made good use of every moment. They were essentially experience meetings. Institute speakers, secretaries, presidents and organizers brought forward their disappointments of the previous year for airing and curative treatment; men who had found new and profitable methods of working presented them for the The men of benefit of their fellow workers. vision and discernment in attendance at the meetings could readily sort out from the many ideas presented numerous splendid suggestions for their incoming year's work.

OPPORTUNITIES.

Superintendent Putnam, in the opening address of the conference, admitted the failure of the Farmers' Institutes in getting hold of the people generally, and of the young people in particular. He pointed out the splendid advantages of the local clubs, which, in their frequent meetings and interchange of ideas have a force beyond the regular Institute, and illustrated it by the great success of the Women's Institutes. Putnam emphasized the tasks of increasing production, improving farm life, and regulating the markets, as amongst the things which Farmers' Institute workers must aim to accomplish. operation must be exercised, if farmers will obtain the full advantage of their investment of capital, labor and thought. All lines of knowledge must be called into service by producers to a greater extent; the specialist's contributions to knowledge must be turned to practical account. Local organizations must spring up everywhere in the country to contribute to permanent improvement of the communities. The work of the experiment stations and the colleges must be diffused by demonstrations into every These are the tasks which, until they are done, are the most urgent needs before Institute workers

Frank D. Ward, a prominent Institute worker from Batavia, N. Y., in his address upon the work of the Institute, brought out many valuable He emphasized the fact that Institutes should always instruct, and that this must be done by arousing the interest of the people and maintaining it. Unless Institutes make men and women better people, and broaden and enrich their lives, they fail. Pointing to the benefits of Institute work in New York State, he stated that the Institutes had raised the average annual yield of the dairy cow 40 per cent. for the entire State. Like many other men at ite conference, he emphasized the importance of the Institute lecturer being a practical, successful vork-A party of leaders of rural education from the Southern States visited the last of the convention, some of them making short but strikingly strong addresses.

INSPIRATIONS.

The most inspirational session of the conference was that held in conjunction with the other societies in Convocation Hall, on Toronto University Campus, and addressed by Deputy Minister of Agriculture, C. C. James, and President Falconer, of Toronto University. Mr. James, after outlining the trek of the population from the country to the towns, pointed out the glaring failure of the Men's Institutes in their duty to the country school. Addressing himself particularly to the women's organizations, he pointed out their task of developing and building the home, in the country, the village and the town, and putting all on an equal footing, and the task

of remaking the rural school. Dr. Falconer, with the strength of earnest conviction, carried his; audience from the pettiness of ommercialism to the broader, deeper, basic thing which must be sought in all such work as the Institutes are doing. His address was grand its simple strength, and inspirational beyond telling. He pointed out the necessity of per manence in the development of a sturdy, indeandent thinking people; our homes should be rmanent things; we should take pride in them; house should be built not to sell, but to re on there as a home; a home of beauty is an set that cannot be valued in dollars. He exenes, as a permanent center from which we and

The Conference of Representatives our kindred will influence mankind. He said: "The interaction between comfort and morality is very subtle; it is much easier for a boy to be moral when well fed, comfortable, having a good home, and a mother he is proud of and loves. Probably the most-valued point among the many valuable points made was that life is tolerable and enjoyable in so far as one has variety of interests; that it is not in the giving of better markets to the people, or telephones or autos, but by adding interest to their life, that we make people happy, and that interest should lie in the work before them for their doing.

The Hon. Jas. Duff, Minister of Agriculture, addressed one of the sessions, emphasizing the splendid future lying immediately before the Province. He pointed out what was being done in the way of experimental flocks to restore the status of the sheep industry of the Province, and assured the heartiest appreciation of the importance of the agricultural problems, and the cooperation of the Government as far as in its

Crop improvement was treated thoroughly in power lies. a paper by Prof. C. A. Zavitz, of the O. A. C. He pointed out that frequent changes of seed was not necessary for crop improvement, but rather that this should be accomplished by selection. This selection should be of the seed, and of seed from the entire plant growing in the field. quality of the seed is of great importance. Varieties must be studied by the producer, that the best for his conditions may be obtained. Zavitz showed the advantage of seed selection by quoting the results of experiments carried on at Guelph in comparing plump vs. shrunken seed, well-matured vs. immature, sound vs. unsoundall of which showed the advantage of care in selecting seed. He then discussed hybridizing and breeding operations, and their value in cropimprovement, pointing out the many problems that have yet to be solved.

SPLENDID SUGGESTIONS.

While the older Institute workers were admitting the failure of "old-line" policies in getting hold of the people; the discussions introduced by the District Representatives of Agriculture and the Farmers' Club leaders were of another stripe. A. D. Campbell, from Dundas County, told of the success of the live-stock-judging courses; of how in little villages as many people turned out to these as appeared at the O. A. C. short courses; how they were intensely interested, and always wanted the work continued. He showed that such work, without any doubt, was interesting the young men, and the old men as well. They were learning by actual experience, were acquiring new interests, instead of being presented with voluminous talk. I. F. Metcalf duplicated the story with orchard work. H. C. Duff, of Peterboro, and J. H. Hare, of Whitby, showed how readily the people were co-operating in poultry work, and how successful such work was with It is proving the entering wedge of imthem. It is proving the difference proved methods in poultry production. people are learning by practical doing. Hart, Galt, told of the formation of twelve live Farmers' Clubs that are working in his county, improving the roads, the schools, the crops, bringing in telephones, bringing a new life to their communities. A. McKenney, of Essex Co., and Ross Huff, of Kent Bridge P. O., showed how farmers were practicing in seed selection, and caring for their corn crops, and making from 5 to 25 bushels more per acre than they used to make. These young men are doing things. They perhaps took about ten minutes each to give their addresses, but they were full of optimism, e hearts of the people, and they are already getting results. Institute managers and secretaries who have gone home without being impressed by the work of these young men have missed procuring the touchstone which will bring success to their work. Deputy Minister James, in a second address,

brought out forcibly the truth that the day for talking is about over; that demonstration work must hereafter take the place of the old method of hiring a hall, getting the people in, and then presenting a rattling good speaker, and after him

There were other good talks made, but space another.

precludes a further reference to them. A motion, that the organization of Farmers' Institutes urge upon the Government the advisability of making a special branch in the Department of Agriculture to forward the Farmers' Club movement, was unanimously carried.

Railway Passenger Rates to the Winter Fair.

From all stations in Ontario, Kingston, Sharbot Lake, Renfrew, and west, but not west of Azelda, the railways have granted the low rate of single fare for return tickets to the Ontario Winter Fair, at Guelph. These tickets will be on sale each day from Saturday morning, December 3rd, until Friday night, December 9th. They are good for the return journey any day up to and including December 12th, 1910.

Canadians Discuss Institute Problems Abroad.

At the fifteenth annual meeting of the International Association of Farmers' Institute workers, held in Washington last week, Canadians figured rather prominently. Geo. A. Putnam, Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes in Ontario, in his presidential address, emphasized three desiderata: (a) Increased production; (b) a better home and community life in the rural districts; (c) a lessening of the all-too-wide margin which now exists between the prices received by the producer and the prices paid by the consumer. Local demonstration of improved methods was recommended as an effective means of accomplishing the first of these aims, and co-operation to accomplish the latter, especially along poultry, dairy and fruit-growing lines. Another notable address was that of C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, who endeavored once more to bring home to the resident of the city and town the fact that, whatever helps the farmer to larger production and larger life, necessarily contributes to the prosperity and uplift of the whole community. The possibility of adding two or three hundred million dollars yearly to our rural income surely makes this a big problem. The foundation courses upon which this great wealth is to be built are plain and simple: (1) Drain the soil; (2) sow only the best seed; (3) carefully protect and store the products of your fields or orchards; (4) feed these products only to profitable stock; (5) put the finished product on the market in the best

All this line of development looks so simple, and therein is one of the greatest difficulties. is easier to build a Dreadnought than an agricultural college.

Helping our farmers to larger production and to larger life can be justified only on the ground that thereby we are contributing to the prosperity and uplift of the whole community.

Lotus Fields' Ayrshire Sale.

At the Lotus Fields' sale of Ayrshire cattle, at West Berlin, Vt., on November 10th, advertised in "The Farmer's Advocate," some handsome prices were realized, some of the highest being paid by a Canadian, William Hunter, Maxville, The imported three-year-old bull, Bargenoch Bonnie Scotland, sold at \$1,600 to John Showin, Cleveland, Ohio, Mr. Hunter being the runner-up. The ten-weeks-old heifer calf, Jean Armour 2nd, whose picture, with her dam, appeared in the Nov. 3rd issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," was taken by Mr. Hunter at \$1,000, and the two-year-old heifer, Howie's Cream Pot, (imp.), the Scottish champion female of 1910, fell to the same buyer at \$1,000. The next highest price was \$725, for the eight-year-old Dalfiddle Fibbie 3rd (imp.), purchased by Chase & Beeman, Brandon, Vt. The average for the 37 head sold, including 14 bull calves, was \$236.

Advertising Our Apples in Belgium

Following is a copy of a letter received at Ottawa from Wm. Hutchison, Canadian Commissioner at the Brussels Exhibition. It was addressed to Dairy and Cold-storage J. A. Ruddick, and referred to a shipment of 150 boxes, forwarded during the first week of October

"We have received the shipment of apples,

and can assure you they are a fine lot. "By the numerous complimentary remarks received as to the quality of the apples, I am satisfied Canada has made a big advertisement; besides, it will enable these people to know the difference between the apples received from us and those that are offered for sale by the merchants The fact of the mathere as Canadian apples. ter is our fruit exhibit has been very popular with the people, which has been taken advantage of by the trade, who, no matter where they buy their stock advertise it as Canadian, adding, these apples are the same as are on exhibit in the Canadian Pavilion.'

F. C. Nunnick, District Representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture at Alexandria, Ont., is to join the Toronto office staff of the Department about December 1st. N. D. McKenzie, B. S. A., Galt, Ont., has gone to take up the district representative's work in Glengarry County. Mr. McKenzie graduated in 1909 from the O. A. C., and, after graduation, took up the management of a 1,500-acre farm in Michigan. Such practical experience should be of splendid value to him in his work with Rastern Ontario farmers.