

was possible to put on them. Stencilled placards containing information and directions were not difficult to make, and would be found very instructive to the public. An instance was given of an entry ticket for poultry containing much information as to size, age, weight, etc., of dressed chickens most suitable for export trade. Prize-lists needed revision frequently; varieties and breeds not suited for the locality should be struck off and worthy new introductions put on. Fair boards might find it to their interests to send their prize-lists for revision to Professor Zavitz, who, by his connection with the Co-operative Experimental Union, would be able to suggest varieties of fruits, grain and roots most suitable for the district. No prize should be given to grade males, and where grade females received prizes, classes should be separated. For instance, it was not well to offer prizes for best cow, disregarding the possibility that specimens of the dairy and beef type might compete for it; or for best pig, black or white. Some classification should be made where grades are shown.

Directors were advised to meet a few days before the fair, and to come early on the morning of the fair day, so that everything might be run on schedule time. Some fair boards had found it helpful in smoothing out difficulties to have directors, judges and invited guests take dinner together. It afforded opportunity for hearing and straightening out many tangles.

In the discussion, one delegate pronounced it all wrong to give as big a prize for a hen as a horse or for a sheep as a cow. Another agreed as to ruling out grade males, but said that in his district, where the production of milk for the city trade was a specialty, there was more interest taken in the proper crossing of breeds for dairy purposes than in pure-breeds. He thought prizes should be offered for grade dairy cows. On the matter of a Provincial Auditor and uniform system of books for societies, opinions differed. The question which was repeatedly raised in discussion was in regard to horse-racing at fairs. In August, 1904, the Department of Agriculture had sent out to all agricultural societies a circular, calling attention to the fact that such was illegal, and that directors by whose sanction it was carried on were liable to fines or imprisonment. This was construed by many to mean that the Government would prosecute offenders, and that the grant would be withheld from societies implicated. In consequence, many societies which had at the time arranged for races, cancelled them. In discussion, Mr. Cowan was pointedly asked again and again, "Did the Government mean to prosecute?" "No!" he answered, "as often as asked, 'That was left to individuals.' Would the grant be withheld? 'No.' Is horse-racing on show grounds forbidden? 'Yes.' Heads seemed to be thick; for a considerable time, the questions, accompanied by remarks which showed mystification, continued. Mr. Cowan in the end remarked, that he believed in the Eastern States they had gone to extremes, because there was no law forbidding horse-races at fairs, and that we had been restrained somewhat by the fact that here there was a statute against such.

The evening session was presided over by Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture. In his opening remarks he made reference to an agricultural show that had been held in Upper Canada as early as 1793. The shows had gone on increasing in number until now there were, perhaps, too many. He feared that prominent men do not, so much as formerly, meet at fairs and discuss the progress of the year. It is not so much of a social time as it ought to be. He spoke of having attended a show in the Rainy River District, which was small indeed, and exhibits few, but interest general and keen.

In Ontario no branch under the control of the Department of Agriculture bulked more largely than the Agriculture and Arts Societies, and none received so large a grant of public money. The sum of \$90,000

per year is divided among them, and he appealed to the representatives present to see that this was expended where it would do the most good. The time had come, and he believed they agreed with him, when the Agriculture and Arts Act should be remodelled, and he intended at the present session of the Legislature to bring in a measure to that effect. Some very cute attempts were made to draw from the Hon. Minister some information as to the provisions of the new act, but he prudently declined to be drawn.

H. B. Donly, of Simcoe, Norfolk Co., who was to have opened the subject of "School Children's Day at the Fair," not being present, the subject was discussed in a very interesting and instructive manner by those present, but as Mr. Donly was present the next morning and gave his address, we give a summary of it here, and put the discussion which preceded it after.

Mr. Donly said that at the Simcoe Fair they had a three-days' fair, and had found the second day somewhat lacking in interest. It was largely a repetition of the first, and the gate receipts were small. They had never had any special attractions, nor paid performers. They decided to try in the line of something for the children. It had not been easy to work up; it took three or four years, but interest grew rapidly at last. They got the co-operation of the public school inspector, which helped very much. They made no charge for children. All teachers who applied got tickets for scholars. Prizes were given for six events: 1st (all joined in procession through town, headed by band), for best attendance of school; 2nd, 3rd and 4th, for marching; 5th, calisthenic exercises; 6th, nature study—collections of grain and insects. In competing for best attendance, schools were classified into town, village and rural schools. In addition to the above there were prizes given for children's sports, running, jumping, etc. The day had been found pleasing and profitable.

Mr. Brown, of Dufferin Co., said school teachers got complimentary tickets, children paid five cents. Teachers were in charge of children. Another got children together at appointed hour, each one got a flag, had band procession. Parry Sound—Each teacher took charge of scholars, led them through buildings and explained exhibits. Prizes given to farmers bringing in largest families. No race suicide. One brought in fifteen. Barrie—Tickets for every scholar in forty schools supplied free to teachers; all want to come, so parents must bring them; it pays. Blyth—Two days' fair; expert judges hard to get; raise them. Prizes to children for judging fruit, naming varieties, etc.; wish to extend the work to stock also; great interest; crowd out objectionable features by introducing good ones. Erin—School section exhibits. In one school yard fifty-seven varieties of potatoes. Grain shown both in straw and cleaned; roots, etc. We have the only purely agricultural show in the Province. Delegate from Egremont, South Grey, promptly arose, and said that they had held a purely agricultural show for 38 years, and the last was the best. Prizes for children's performances had been given up, and prizes were now given for drawing and the like. One place where for years prizes for children's work had been given, added this year a procession. School Inspector Craig sounded a note of warning in regard to the extra burden laid upon teachers. Some, he knew, were getting tired of it. The discussion, which had extended beyond the allotted time, was brought to a close by Chief Johnston, representing the Six Nations Indians, whose show is held at Oshweken, Brant Co. Their society had existed for 39 years, and was still prosperous.

Supt. Cowan, before bringing on the views of fairs and fair buildings, with which the programme for the evening closed, gave what he considered three requirements of purely agricultural shows: 1st, they should be located in country places; if otherwise, attractions were put on to draw city or town people, and the farm-

ers were shoved back. 2nd, section should have good stock. 3rd, community should be responsive, and there must be a good board of directors, some of them hustlers.

On Thursday morning, after Mr. Donly's address, a delegate from East Peterboro' reported that they had children's collections of injurious weeds and seeds. Mr. Laidlaw, of Guelph, said that as much as \$200 had been given by their society in prizes for children. Besides competitions already mentioned by others, they had the naming of fruits, birds, etc., and manual training exhibits. Had no trouble getting children to come, though 10 cents was charged.

S. B. McCredie, Instructor in Nature Study, MacDonald Institute, Guelph, said that harm can be done by unduly emphasizing special prizes. The presence of children at the fair should not be considered merely as a drawing card, a means of advertising. The first thing to be considered was the welfare of the child, next that of the school. Nature study does not consist in making collections. Competition in these things is keen, and other work is neglected because of it. The most important thing at any show is the child himself.

The various secretaries of societies, who had been invited to bring their books and exhibit their methods of preparing and keeping entry books, failed to respond when called on by the President, but at a private meeting of secretaries alone, held at 1.30 p.m., great eagerness was shown in explaining and having explained the different methods in use.

Mr. Lee, of Highgate, introduced a resolution, to the effect that where a society by reason of distance from place of meeting and consequent expense, sends only one delegate instead of the two to which it is entitled, such delegate shall have the voting power of two.—Carried.

A resolution was brought forward to memorialize the Government to have the clause in the Agriculture and Arts Act, which forbids horse races at fairs, eliminated from the Act. In support of this, it was pointed out that at present directors of fair boards were liable to be prosecuted for doing what was done at half the fairs in the Province. Government should not have a law on its books and wink at its violation.

Mr. Price, of Aylmer, told how their fair had been raised from a low ebb in 1897 to a popular and successful institution, by the judicious use of races and clean special attractions. Their increased gate and grand-stand receipts had been more than sufficient to pay the cost of these attractions, and add to the amount spent in prizes for agricultural products. If a fair such as the one at Simcoe was succeeding without such attractions, he would not advise them being taken up, but at Aylmer they had profited by them. Arguments were not wanting on the other side, showing that horse races had an evil and lowering effect, and might be classed as immoral. One delegate earnestly warned against supporting the resolution, saying, "I like a horse race as well as any man, but I know, and you know, of fellows that have come to ruination through horse-racing." On being put to the meeting, though it was stoutly opposed by several, the resolution carried by an overwhelming majority.

A motion, asking Government to issue a uniform set of account books, to be used by all societies, was lost; likewise another, calling for the appointment of a Provincial auditor. A motion by J. M. McCallum, asking for the prohibition of lewd and immoral side-shows, carried.

The officers were nearly all re-elected, and are as follows: President, J. W. Sheppard, Cayuga; 1st Vice-President, Jas. Mitchell, Goderich; 2nd Vice-President, Mr. Laidlaw, Guelph; Sec.-Treas., Alex. McFarlane, Ottawa; Corresponding Secretary, H. B. Cowan, Toronto.

MARKETS.

Montreal.

Live Stock—Receipts fair for time of year. Exporters have been in the market buying up most of the good cattle as soon as offered. Prices range; 4½c. to 5c. for finest cattle, 4½c. to 4¾c. for fine, around 4c. for good, 3½c. to 3¾c. for medium, and 2½c. to 3½c. for common. Hogs, 7½c. to 7¾c. for selects, with occasionally a fraction more for specially nice stock. Sheep steady at 4½c., and lambs at 6c. Calves, \$3 to \$5 for ordinary, finest bringing as high as \$7 to \$9 each. Milch cows in good demand, and sales were made as high as \$70 each, in some cases, the range being down to about \$30 for common.

Horses—Evidently the glanders has been stamped out. Demand from out of town slow, but good demand from local sources, transport companies being ready to purchase considerable quantities. Prices are \$175 to \$225 each for coal-cart horses weighing 1,350 to 1,450, and for express horses weighing 1,100 to 1,300 lbs., \$150 to \$200 each; light-draft horses weighing 1,400 to 1,500 lbs., \$175 to \$225 each; heavy-draft horses weighing 1,500 to 1,700 lbs., \$250 to \$300 each; choice saddle or

carriage horses, \$300 to \$500 each, according to desirability, and old and inferior drivers, \$75 to \$125 each.

Butter—22c. to 23c. for good to fine creamery. Inferior grades of creamery sell as low as 21c., and dairy has a fairly-wide range at 18½c. to 19½c., according to quality.

Cheese—Asking prices, 13c. for finest, but buyers will not pay the figure. Sales of a few thousand have lately been reported.

Poultry—Merchants have been selling to grocers or butchers, in fair-sized lots, at 14c. to 15c. for turkeys, 11c. to 12½c. for choice chickens, 11c. for ducks and geese, and 9c. to 10c. for fine fowl.

Dressed Hogs—Fresh-killed abattoir stock, 10c. a lb.; country-dressed, 8½c. to 9½c.

Potatoes—Dealers offering .55c. to .60c. per 90-lb. bag for good to finest potatoes, on track; selling at 65c. to 75c., in jobbing lots.

Seeds—Market a shade firmer. Dealers paying \$6.50 to \$7.25 per bushel of 60 lbs., country points, for red clover; \$4 to \$6.50 for alsike. Timothy is \$2.25 to \$3.50 per 100 lbs. Flaxseed is \$1.20 per bushel, Montreal.

Hay—Steady, demand dull; \$8.50 per ton for No. 1 timothy, \$7 to \$7.50 for No. 2, \$6 to \$6.50 for clover-mixed, and \$5.50 to \$6 for clover, on track, here.

Hides and Tallow—The market continues on the easy side, and prices for beef hides are at the lowest point they have seen for some time past. Dealers paying shippers 11c. for No. 1 stock; 10c. for No. 2, and 9c. for No. 3, f. o. b., Montreal, and selling to tanners at ½c. advance per lb. Calf skins are very scarce yet, at 12c. for No. 1, and 10c. for No. 2 per lb. Lamb skins, also scarce, at \$1.10 each. Horse hides are at \$2 each for No. 1, and \$1.50 for No. 2. Rendered tallow is 4½c. per lb., rough being 1½c. to 2½c. per lb. Beef hides are beginning to show the grub.

Eggs—The market has had a few severe breaks recently. Fresh eggs, canned were quoted last week at 17c. Lined eggs are quoted about 12c., and selected at 14c. to 15c. Under the circumstances, it is impossible to quote definite prices, the grades being so different.

Grain—Stocks of oats are now large here, and prices are steady at 39c. store, for No. 4, in ear lots, 40c. for No. 3, and 41c. for No. 2. It looks as though prices were at the top for the moment, demand being so very dull.

British Cattle Market.

London.—Cattle are quoted at 11½c. to 12½c. per lb.; calves at 11c. to 12c. per lb.

Toronto.

LIVE STOCK.

Export Cattle—Demand brisk. Choice, \$4.60 to \$5.15; good to medium, \$4 to \$4.50; others, \$3.75 to \$4; bulls, \$3.50 to \$4, and cows at \$2.75 to \$3.50.

Butchers' Cattle—Picked lots, \$4.50 to \$4.75; good to choice, \$4.10 to \$4.40; fair to good, \$3.50 to \$4; common, \$2.50 to \$3; cows, \$3 to \$3.60; bulls, \$3 to \$4; canners, \$1.50 to \$2.

Stockers and Feeders—Demand for short-keep cattle and good feeders brisk. Short-keep feeders, \$4 to \$4.50; heavy feeders, \$3.85 to \$4.15; medium, \$2.50 to \$3.50; bulls, \$2 to \$2.75; good stockers, \$2.80 to \$3.50; rough to common, \$2 to \$2.75, and bulls, \$1.75 to \$2.50.

Milch Cows—Market active for good cows.

Calves—Quoted at 3½c. to 7c. a lb. Sheep and Lambs—Export ewes, \$4.60 to \$5.15 per cwt., and bucks, \$3.50 to \$4.50. Lambs, \$6.75 to \$7.15 for grain-fed, and \$5.50 to \$6.50 for mixed.

Hogs—\$6.75 for selects, and \$6.60 for rights and fats.

HORSES.

Unprecedented activity and an exceptional price ruling in regard to values have characterized the local horse market.