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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

PERMANENT CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE

OF ONTARIO.



HAMILTON:  
PRINTED BY GRIFFIN & KIDNER.  
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TO THE HON. CHAS. DRURY,  
*Minister of Agriculture.*

SIR,—I have the honor to submit herewith the proceedings of the first annual meeting of the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario, consisting of—

- I. A brief sketch of the Origin and Progress of the Institute Movement in Ontario.
- II. The Report of the Proceedings of the First Annual Meeting.
- III. The Order Paper for Next Meeting, and a List of the Institutes and their Secretaries.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

THOS. SHAW,  
Secretary.

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# THE PERMANENT CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO.

A BRIEF SKETCH OF

## ITS ORIGIN AND PROGRESS.

The Order in Council of the Ontario Government providing for the establishment of Farmers' Institutes was issued in 1886.

Without quoting the exact words in which this Order was couched, we may mention that it made them subject to the following conditions and regulations, which were to be complied with before the annual Government grant of \$25 could be obtained :

- (1) That one Institute may be organized in each Electoral District of the Province, exclusive of cities.
- (2) That each Institute shall be composed of not less than fifty members, who shall pay a fee of not less than twenty-five cents annually.
- (3) That there shall be an Executive, or Board of Management, consisting of a President, a Vice-President, a Secretary and Treasurer, and five or more Directors, and a majority of the Board shall be practical farmers.
- (4) That the Institute shall hold at least two meetings each year, in different parts of the Electoral District, for the discussion of agricultural subjects.
- (5) That a sum not less than the Government grant shall be voted to each Institute by the Council of the County in which the Electoral District is situated.
- (6) That a summarized report of the meetings held during the year be sent by the Secretary to the Minister of Agriculture.
- (7) That the Institute year shall terminate with June 30th.

It soon began to be felt by the members of the different County Institutes that no provision had been made for enabling the individual Institutes to act in concert, and therefore much that was done, valuable in itself, was lost from lack of centralization. The different links of one mighty farmers' chain had been forged, but the last great link was entirely wanting. The little tributaries of isolated effect must be gathered into one broad stream, the influence of which would be felt in all Ontario.

This desire took definite shape at a meeting of the Wentworth Farmers' Institute, held in the city of Hamilton, 26th March, 1887, at which the President, Mr. V. E. Fuller, Hamilton, directed attention to the various disabilities under which the farmers of the Province were laboring, and suggested that if a Central Institute were organized for the Province its influence must tend to remove these. On the motion of Mr. T. Shaw, the secretary, a committee, was appointed, with Mr. Fuller as chairman. Circulars were at once issued to the Secretaries of the various Farmers' Institutes then organized, asking them to send delegates to Toronto, on the 28th day of April, to organize a Central Farmers' Institute, if such a course were deemed expedient. Through the efforts of Mr. Fuller and Mr. Shaw, N. Awrey, M. P. P., and Dr. McMahon, M. P. P., the Ontario Representatives of South and North Wentworth, a grant of \$250 was obtained from the Hon. A. M. Ross, Commissioner of Agriculture, to pay in part the attendant expenses.

The meeting was convened in the Court House, on the date mentioned, and was a splendid success. Representatives from all parts turned out in force, brimful of enthusiasm. Mr. Fuller was called to the chair; Mr. Shaw was appointed Secretary. Mr. Awrey, M. P. P., addressed the meeting ably and urged the farmers to organize. Mr. Shaw read a paper on organization, which outlined the plan of action afterward adopted with a few modifications.

Organization was decided upon.

THE PERMANENT CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO was the name chosen. The representation was to consist of two delegates from each Institute throughout the Province presenting properly accredited credentials, and elected annually. Their expenses to be borne by the Institute sending them.

The objects of the organization were thus outlined:

1. To further the material interests of the farmers by encouraging and fostering education in relation to their calling.
2. To afford protection from all encroachments that may come from other interests of the commonwealth.
3. To encourage the growth of an improved class of live stock.
4. To foster the cheese and butter interests.
5. To extend and develop the fruit industry.
6. To conserve and secure the just rights of farmers in their relation to legislators, corporations and individual industries.
7. To secure better facilities for the transportation of farmers' produce, and by this means to extend our markets and open up fresh ones.

The officers of the Institute to consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and an Executive Committee consisting of ten members. The President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer to be *ex-officio* members of the same; these officers to be elected annually at each yearly meeting of the Institute.

The following officers were appointed:

President: V. E. Fuller, Hamilton.

Vice-President: J. Dryden, M. P. P., Brooklin, Ont.

Secretary-Treasurer: T. Shaw, Hamilton.

Executive Committee: James Murdoch, Yeovil; M. D. Willard, Morrisburg; F. Kosmack, Northcote; T. Crow, Chatham; D. Campbell, Nelson; A. H. Pettit, Grimsby; J. H. Woolley, Simcoe; J. Legge, Gananoque; J. Cochrane, Kilsyth; D. M. McPherson, Lancaster.

Important discussions were held on the following subjects: Railway Freights, The Butter Industry, Securing Purity in Fertilizers, and the Trade Question, although the meeting lasted but one day.

The discussion on the Trade Question culminated in the following resolution, which has since become famous:

Moved by Mr. D. J. Hunter, seconded by Mr. D. R. Ellis, and

"Resolved, That in the opinion of this Institute a removal of all restrictions in trade between the Dominion of Canada and the United States is desirable, either by reciprocity or otherwise, as may be agreed upon by the respective countries. In the event of fair reciprocity being unattainable, this Institute shall memorialize the Dominion Government to suggest to the Government of Great Britain the expediency of entering into a commercial union with her colonies in regard to food supplies, and of imposing a protective tariff against all foreign countries."

The motion, which was carried by a large majority, became the basis of the discussion of the subject between the first and second meetings of the Central Institute, during which period about forty of the Institutes declared in favor of unrestricted trade with the United States, and three against it.

Of the many resolutions passed, one recommending the appointment of a practical farmer who could devote his whole time to the work, as Minister of Agriculture, has already borne good fruit.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

—OF—

THE PERMANENT CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO.

The First Annual Meeting of the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario was held in the Court House, in the City of Toronto, February 21st to 23d, 1888. The President, Mr. V. E. Fuller, occupied the chair. The meeting was called to order at 11 a. m., when the minutes of the meeting of organization were read and confirmed.

As the space allotted us in the preparation of this report is very limited, we wish to state at the outset that what follows is only a digest of the proceedings of the meeting.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

After the reading of the minutes, the President gave the opening address, as follows ;

GENTLEMEN, DELEGATES OF THE VARIOUS INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO :

It is with the greatest pleasure that I see so large a gathering here representing the various Farmers' Institutes of Ontario. It has been claimed on some hands that the beginning we made here less than a year ago would end in smoke, and that while we had excited an enthusiasm which has prevailed in the outset, it would not unite the farmers in asserting their true position in this country ; one to which the wealth that they possess and the influence they could and ought to wield entitles them to. I did not share personally in that conviction, but, nevertheless, we have found some portions of the public press throughout the country who were sneering at one of the subjects discussed by this Institute, claiming such meetings were composed of those who were brought together through wire-pulling, and should not be looked upon as representatives of the whole farmers throughout this Province ; on the contrary, I claim that the Farmer's Institutes throughout Ontario embrace men of intelligence, men skilled in their calling, and composed of men as true as can be found anywhere in this Dominion. (Applause.) I would ask, who have built up and made the Province of Ontario what it is to-day ? Has it not been through the skill of the farmers and their success in the community ? If it be true that the farmers have the greatest interest at stake in this country, it is of vital importance that they should be considered, and as looking to the best interests of this Province as a whole, I claim beyond doubt that the farmers of this country occupy this position. (Applause.)

I do not know that it is necessary for me to dwell at very great length on what we have been able to accomplish in the past year. We have had but one year of trial, but I do say in looking around me here to day, and seeing a greater audience of farmers than last year, it is one of the greatest indications that this Permanent Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario will become one of the greatest factors for good in this country for all time to come. (Applause.)

I would in the meantime call your attention to the subjects that will be especially brought before you, not with the view of engrossing the whole time of this convention, but

rather as introductory to what we conceive are subjects that should be dwelt upon, and doubtless other important matters will also come up later on.

The Executive Committee have deemed it wise, first, to discuss the following:

1. The steps that should be taken by the farmers toward co-operation in the effort for the erection of an Agricultural Hall or building suitable for holding exhibitions of live-stock, sales of same, agricultural meetings of the various associations, etc., in the city of Toronto at an early day. Mr. Thomas Shaw was appointed to lead in the discussion.

Now, gentlemen, you are all doubtless aware that this subject has already engrossed the attention of the city council of Toronto. If they will look to the results that would follow from having an agricultural building suitable for the purpose of holding meetings for breeder's associations, public sales of stock, fat stock sales, holding dairy shows, the bringing together of large bodies of men, as in the case of the annual exhibition here, they would find that a great deal of money would thus be brought into their city. (Hear, hear.) They could give us a building that is worthy the name and ambition of this city. Toronto is becoming a central point in the Province of Ontario. It points with pride to its growth, to its ever increasing wealth that accumulates in the city, and which in reality comes from the farmers of this country. (Applause.) An exhibition building so arranged that halls could be provided for all classes of meetings; the holding of all sorts of exhibits, the holding of dairy shows, etc., would bring an amount of money into this city that would justify them in expending the amount they claim would be necessary to meet all the wants of the case, and the encouragement and growth of the city. I think this Institute has a perfect right to ask the city of Toronto to provide them with such a building, and if this city is alive to its own interests it will readily do so. (Applause.)

The second subject on the order paper is—

2. Under the head of Municipal Reform—the advisability of amending the present system of performing statute labor. Mr. James Cochrane to lead the discussion.

Now, gentlemen, so far as that is concerned, I believe that the idea of the Executive Committee is this: that statute labor, where the farmers of various sections are called upon to perform that labor, is not done with the precision with which it can be done where other systems are adopted. For instance, it is claimed where there is no proper officer having any control over those who are doing that labor, it is made a sport or play, and in many cases the men do not put in an honest, square day's work, such as they would if they were doing the work for themselves.

3. The advisability of asking the Government and President Mills, Guelph, to confer with the Executive in regard to devising some more complete system of carrying on work in the Institutes. Mr. John Dryden, M. P. P., to lead in the discussion.

I do not know what the views of the gentleman who will advocate this are, but I do know the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario is worthy of some larger and more liberal support than it is receiving from the Ontario Government. (Applause.) I have no hesitation in saying there is no body of men more worthy of support and encouragement; having no personal gain in view they meet together not to profit themselves—they meet together to learn practical experience from one another, or to gain knowledge how to increase the productiveness of the soil, and thereby benefit the whole Province. If anything will encourage the productive power per acre, I claim the farmers if they obtain that end, are entitled to the most generous support of the Ontario Government. I know of no Institute carried on with the same degree of success as one in Wisconsin. They engage one of their ablest members to see to all work that shall be done throughout the whole state. He obtains first of all the names of all the farmers where he has laid out his route. He is given for the Institute an annual grant of \$10,000. That enables him to engage the best talent, not only men who are versed in their calling, but who are themselves possessed of sufficient wit not only to make the meetings instructive, but to make them very pleasant for those who are there. I am told the only difficult question they have to deal with is how large a hall shall they obtain to hold the meetings in. This man travels about from section to section, engaging men to speak—men whose talents are known, and who are able to hold their own and defend the position that they have taken on any platform. Thus they travel about from town to town, and their meetings are attended by from one thousand to three thousand in each place. Gentlemen, contrast that with the work we are doing here. Of course their Institute is an old one, but at the same time

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they are so liberally dealt with they can reach the men and make their Institute a success, and I claim this Institute is entitled to treatment in the same way from the Ontario Government by a liberal grant.

Now, then, whether or not the Experimental Farm should be director of this, I would first desire to know in what way the Professors of that College could control the various Institutes throughout the country. It would be unreasonable to ask a large grant from the Government for a certain purpose, and at the same time cast aside the help of the staff of the college when they are willing to place their time at our disposal. If the Ontario Government has men who are appointed to deal with the subject in a proper way, by all means they should be accepted. I have had the pleasure myself, as a dairyman, of meeting Professor Robertson, and I say there is not a better and abler man to fill his place. He is to-day in Wisconsin; they have seen and know his worth.

4. The nature of the experimental work that is most desirable to have conducted at the Experimental Farm, Guelph. Mr. D. M. McPherson to lead in the discussion. I need hardly say anything upon this subject. Mr. McPherson's reputation is world wide.

Having passed upon those subjects which will be brought before you, permit me to say something with reference to the work of last year. Bear in mind, this Permanent Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario is a mere babe, as it were. We must gain experience before our work can be accomplished; we must add considerably to our numbers by establishing Institutes throughout this Province. I have conceived the best work we can do is to organize Institutes and show the farming community the desirability and the advisability and the necessity of falling into the ranks of the Farmers' Institutes, and thus increase their power and influence for good. We have thereby organized somewhere in the neighborhood of eighteen Institutes this year. There are, however, several electoral districts unrepresented yet, in which we desire to have Institutes established. We would ask you to use your best efforts to have those vacancies filled up, so that there may not remain a district where there is not a Farmers' Institute. You have read the circular our Secretary has addressed to the public press. Let us make it our effort, our earnest effort, to have Institutes placed in these districts, and in doing so we will not only help them, but help ourselves in this central body.

A work that was delegated to the Executive Committee last year was to have a representation of farmers appear before a railway commission appointed by the Dominion Government. It was especially arranged with the Secretary of that commission that the meeting should be held to hear farmers particularly upon their grievances. What the result of the commission is no one can know until the report is made public; but, I believe, some of the grievances of the farmers will be brought before the Dominion Government. I was especially thanked by the chairman of that commission for bringing before them the grievances of the farmers.

Those who were present last year will remember that we recommended that a Minister of Agriculture should be appointed to look after the agricultural interest of the Province. That such a step was not taken before is a matter of surprise to me. I am sure it is with satisfaction that we have all learned that the Provincial Government purposes having a practical farmer as Minister of Agriculture. (Applause.) What effect the action we took has had with reference to this matter, of course, is not for me to judge. But I do say, that I know that the Government of Ontario is only too glad to be strengthened by the resolution of the Institute in an action which they were quite ready to undertake, and if nothing else resulted from this meeting last year favorable to the farmers of this Province, that recommendation, and the fruits likely to flow from it, is a matter of no little importance. (Applause.)

A committee was also appointed to wait on the Government for the purpose of obtaining a grant to defray the expenses of this meeting. A grant of \$500, in place of \$250, was obtained, and I only hope by the same system of multiplication we may obtain this year a thousand dollars instead of five hundred. (Applause.)

Gentlemen, another subject that was delegated to your committee was Commercial Union, with the request that the resolution passed in this body approving of the same be brought before the various Farmers' Institutes throughout Ontario, for acceptance or rejection. Last year the meeting was convened simply by myself, as President of the

Wentworth Farmers' Institute, asking that the President and Vice-President of each Institute throughout the country would appear here as delegates so that an organization might be formed. It was thought best that the motion with reference to Commercial Union should be brought before each Institute if the Executive saw fit. The Executive Committee's return will show how many meetings have been held, and with the exception of three meetings the resolutions have been passed in favor of Commercial Union by the Farmers' Institutes, and that as a whole they have been passed almost unanimously. (Applause.) It has been with extreme regret that I have been unable to attend as many of those meetings as I desired to. I am professionally engaged, and have done honestly all I could to attend as many as I could, and where I have attended it has afforded me the greatest pleasure, because I am myself a farmer and entirely in accord with the favoring of Commercial Union or unrestricted reciprocity. The more I have looked into the subject, and investigated the mode of doing business in the United States and the wealth of that country, instead of weakening on the subject of Commercial Union, my desire to work for the cause has been strengthened and intensified. (Applause.) I know it has been claimed that these meetings were merely meetings of those who had been drummed up. Gentlemen, I characterize that as utterly unfounded. I tell you with reference to Commercial Union, wherever an expression of opinion has been given in favor of this resolution it has been honest, and by a greater majority of the farmers attending those meetings than any one can conceive. Because of inability to attend meetings, because I have been known to be a life-long Conservative, and because several organs of the party had declared against Commercial Union, it has been said that I was backing down on that question. I care not whether the Grit party or the Tory party declare against Commercial Union, I am first a Commercial Union man and second a politician. (Applause.) No party lines can tie me. Whatever influence I can bring shall be brought to bear in favor of Commercial Union to the very last. No, gentlemen, I do not think those who know my circumstances best would ever accuse me of shirking that question. I stand, as I stood before, in favor of it. I feel intensified and strengthened in that direction, and no man on earth can shake my belief that unrestricted reciprocity will bring prosperity to this country. Still, I feel that the discussion of this subject in Farmers' Institutes may lead to trouble and discord. If you will bear in mind the original paper that I had the honor of sending out, you will find I therein stated the following :

"All motions that in any way savor of, or have any bearing upon, political issues will be carefully excluded from the order paper.

"Realizing that a body of this nature can only be useful so long as it adheres to the objects for which it meets or is established, it will be the earnest efforts of those instrumental in convening the meeting to confine its scope to such matters only as actually relate to the welfare of the farmers of Ontario, and should this meeting result in the establishment of a Permanent Central Institute, to adhere to this principle throughout, believing that only through such a course can such a body be made permanently useful."

Gentlemen, while it may not be popular with you for me to state that, with reference to Commercial Union, I adhere to the principles I laid down there, I am bound in all honor and all conscience and anxiety for the future of the Institutes throughout the country, to say that I believe that in those Institutes that have passed and put on record, after due deliberation, their convictions with reference especially to this question, its further discussion will lead to discord, and on anything relating to the farmers' interests we should all be united. The result of keeping politics or a quasi-political matter under discussion in a collective body would bring about discord. This country is cursed with politics. (Hear, hear.) Every man looks at another through the eye of which political party he belongs to, or which political party the other man belongs to. I say it is the duty of the farmers of this country to look to the welfare of Canada first, and look to the welfare of political parties afterwards. You have been a tool in their hands. I do not care whether the Grit party or the Tory party take up Commercial Union, but let us not allow either of them to use us as mere tools. I am as thoroughly convinced as the day I wrote those remarks, that so long as we devote ourselves to the subject of how the farmers of this country can best increase their influence and wealth, we have a subject upon which we can all agree, and in which there is no necessity for bitter feeling or antagonism. (Applause.) I have always pointed out that the subject of Commercial Union was not

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political one, but before our next meeting it will be a political issue. This is one of the greatest subjects that has engaged the attention of Canada. (Applause.) Sink your preference for that and confine your meetings to subjects and questions that are not quasi-political. I do not desire anyone to cast aside Commercial Union, but keep it within the proper bounds. Let there be other organizations formed for its discussion, where the matter can be discussed, and prevent any dissension in the Institutes, and equally as well bring about the desired result.

There is another subject that I would desire to draw your attention to. In our High Schools and higher grades of education there should be a larger amount of agricultural chemistry taught. I believe the Ontario Government is taking steps in that direction. Farming should be more of a science; farming should not be a drudgery. A man should be able to begin farming with sufficient education to make it a pleasure, and if this were accomplished, farmers' sons would not flock so much to the cities.

A great deal of discussion has taken place within the last year, as to what relation the various classes of each industry bears to the whole community, and whether or not the farmers have so great an influence upon the weal or woe of this country. I presume we are now passing through a stagnation of business that has never been equalled since 1859. I know that all sorts of reasons have been ascribed. I think if you will look at the results in the yield of crop per acre in Ontario, the actual decrease in farm products, taking into consideration the amount of land that is under cultivation, on the basis of the last annual crop returns, we have raised sixteen million dollars less than during the average of the previous five years. In this we have the best illustration of whether or not the weal of the farmer means the weal of the whole country. Some of you doubtless remember that I claimed that the wealth of the Province of Ontario was all owing to the welfare of the farmers; I claim as I claimed last year, that good crops mean wealth to the whole community, and that poor crops mean poverty and retrenchment throughout the whole land. (Applause.) Then, I say the farmers of this country are entitled to the most serious consideration of the legislature of this country, that what will benefit the farmers ought to and must have the best attention of those who are responsible for the government of the country. It has been with unmixed pleasure that I have noticed that the farmers are awakening to the necessity of united action, and that they are being shown that they can mould the future of this country through legislation if they desire to do so.

I warned you last year that in asking for legislation, you should only ask for what was right and reasonable. I adhere to that still, but I say if we can unite the farmers outside of political bias, outside of political parties, then, I repeat, if sound judgment prevails with such a body of farmers, we can attain whatever our wisdom desires, because we are the strength and wealth and future of this country. (Loud applause.) Gentlemen, let all join in this good work by giving up all prejudice and self seeking, let the one desire be to lift up our brother farmer, in whatever position he may be placed, and in whatever way we can benefit him. Let our utterances in this convention be moderate. We are here to discuss what is for the benefit of the farmers. Let each man speak on behalf of the whole farming community, and if we do, the baby (the Institute), passing into the growth of manhood, will be of strong and healthy growth, and I think the country will be largely benefited by this Institute. (Applause.)

After the President's address, ALD. G. F. FRANKLAND, who had been commissioned by Mayor Clark to extend a welcome to the delegates on behalf of the city of Toronto, was introduced to the meeting and delivered an address. He said:

MR. PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN:

I agree with your President in regard to the great prosperity you bring to this city and this country, and a great nation can be completely under your control if you are only faithful and true to one another. The city of Toronto is recognizing this at the present time, not only for the city's interest, not only for the development of the city, but also for your own interest, and I hope to live long enough, though I am getting to be an old man, to see you farmers more prosperous than you are. I have been agitating for some time to have an agricultural hall in this city. (Applause.) To be not only a hall of agricultural associations, of farmers' institutes, but that it should be a place of recreation for you

people, where you can walk about with as much freedom as in your own barnyard. I do not like to have Mr. Shaw write here to find out where you can find a building suitable to discuss the questions that are as important to this city as to you. The City Council ought to assist in preparing a great and capacious building, to be called the "Agricultural Hall." I do not want you to beg for it; I only want you to show that you need it, as I have tried to show.

I am not going to take up your time. I am here as the representative of the Mayor, to bid you cordial welcome to this city. I do trust that in connection with the agricultural hall you will take such steps, that we can shortly bring it to pass, that we can have a bureau of industry, live stock sales, etc., etc., all in this one building. I have attended a great many agricultural shows, and for years I have been amongst all grades of farmers, not only in England but in Scotland, and I have never seen better cattle than I have seen in Canada. We ought to do away with the scrubs, that rob you and eat all your feed, and give you no return for it. (Applause.)

Alderman Frankland was then, on motion of Mr. J. Dryden, M. P. P., invited to take part in the deliberations of the meeting.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Business was resumed at 2.30 p. m.

The Secretary reported on behalf of the Committee on Credentials, that 86 delegates were in attendance, representing 49 Institutes. Several additional delegates arrived the following morning.

### DISCUSSION ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

D. M. McPHERSON, Lancaster—Instead of having the question of Commercial Union taken up at the ordinary meetings of the Institutes, I think it would be much better to have a special meeting called by each Institute, for the discussion of the subject at large.

THE PRESIDENT—I wish to make myself understood on Commercial Union. While I have advocated that any Farmers' Institute that has passed on Commercial Union and placed itself on record, should not continue that work as an Institute, but take any other steps outside the Institute they may see fit to carry on that work, I say that any Institute that has not passed upon it, should go on and pass resolutions, until every Farmers' Institute in this Province has declared Yea and Nay, so that a perfect record shall be had of each on that subject.

F. BIRDSALL, Peterboro—My opinion is that our Farmers' Institute meetings will go to pieces at once if we lose time in discussion at political meetings.

D. R. ELLIS, Kimberley—I very much approve of the remarks of the President advising us to discontinue introducing this Commercial Union question into regular meetings that should be taken up in discussing questions purely agricultural. In the Institutes we should leave that question in abeyance now.

T. KELLS, Vandeleur—What is there so smutty about Commercial Union? What is there so small about it that it cannot be discussed by the different representatives of this Institute here? If this question relates to what is best for this country generally, then to discuss it is the best we can do.

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DAVID WILSON, Chatham—Mr. President, I heard you express yourself in a fair, open manner, upon what you believed was right in connection with Commercial Union. I may differ with you upon that subject, and perhaps I do, but I am sure no man who knows you as well as I do, and your father before you, would say that you would make it a party question. Now, gentlemen, I think those who are acquainted with what I would call the circumstances of Commercial Union will be agreed that this is just the very place to discuss it. If it were discussed here plainly, what would be the need of bringing it back to our County Institute? Do not mix politics in the discussion of it.

THE PRESIDENT—One speaker asked me why I made such observations, and if there were anything smutty in Commercial Union, or why it should not be discussed? I say by all manner of means let every Farmers' Institute discuss and pass upon it, but sooner or later, if that agitation is kept up in the Institutes, it will end in dissension and wreck to the body. If we were to bring up this question again, I know we would lose some of our strong men. Party lines are so finely drawn that a man will for party purposes swear that black is white and white is black. I may say without egotism that I brought this Institute into life, and if you will look at the future that is before you, and to what I conceive we can accomplish, and the grand work we can do for this country, again I say this Institute will be wrecked if we continue to discuss any subject that is based upon or relates to the politics of this country.

J. F. MALLORY, Cobourg—I have no objection to reciprocity or free trade, and the only objection in our country to Commercial Union is the name. They call it reciprocal free trade. We might perhaps give it some other name. I would do almost anything to keep peace in the family.

J. CRAIG, Woodstock—I deeply sympathize with the expressions which came from other lips in regard to the exceeding desirability of promoting unity in the operations of Farmers' Institutes in the Province of Ontario. I think it would be far better to hold one or two meetings in the riding to discuss this question. I want to know where the dividing line is to come in, so that we will not discuss questions over that line.

After remarks from other delegates, it was deemed advisable that other business should be proceeded with, and that the discussion be postponed for the present.

#### STATUTE LABOR.

MR. JAMES COCHRANE, Kilsyth, read a paper on the question of statute labor. We give only a summary:

This is a delicate question for a farmer who has not at his command all the enactments in reference to it. A law so permissive in its character, and which allows of so many different modes of application, calls for a personal knowledge of nearly every township in the Province, before one can know which system is most prevalent.

We have an admirable municipal code taken as a whole, but a very expensive one, and any reform that will add to its efficiency, without increasing the expenditure, should be welcomed by every lover of his country.

It must have been evident to many of you gentlemen long ago that the statute labor tax should either be abolished altogether, or some scheme devised whereby those persons paying the tax in labor would be compelled to give value in work to the amount of the tax levied. The answer which many give to this is, that Township Councils have the power to commute the statute labor tax for any sum not exceeding \$1.00 per day in lieu of such labor. I have yet to hear of the township municipality which has adopted such legislation. Laws permissive in their character are often a dead letter, as township councils know very well that an increase in the money tax, such as would be made by the adoption of this system, would overthrow them at the next election. Commutation is not the proper remedy, or it would have become general long ago.

I am not quite sure whether the present Act gives municipal councils power to perform statute labor on the plan I am about to propose; but I am quite decided that so much permissive legislation in relation to this subject is of no value.

If you want to find out how eight hours work came to be considered a day's work, you will have to go back to the Statutes of 1844. We are still performing statute labor as our fathers did then. There is still a path-master for about every 800 acres of land.

There are still from 50 to 150 men over-seeing the road, according to the size of the township. In some road divisions the work is well and faithfully performed, and in others little or next to nothing is done, and the men who do the least work always give labor of the poorest quality.

I would suggest that the law in reference to statute labor be amended and consolidated with a positive instead of a permissive enactment, and in effect as follows:

1. That no road division in any municipality shall be of less extent than 10,000 acres.

2. That the Council shall appoint one Road Commissioner in each such division.

3. That all statute labor shall be performed under said Road Commissioner, and in any part of the road division which he shall direct, yet so arranged that every person shall have an opportunity to perform his labor at the place nearest his residence where work is being done at the time. The commutation now derived from non-resident lands, and from those who would prefer to pay cash in lieu of work, would go towards paying the Commissioner.

It has been common under the present system for repairing roads, when any considerable piece of work was to be done, for the path-master to wait on the council and apply for a grant of money, which has led other path-masters to do likewise. In this way much money has been misapplied.

Our own township contains 40,000 acres, has 56 road divisions, and an average number of 26 days' labor to the division, or a total of 2,016 days. Under the scheme have submitted, instead of 56 men, with perhaps as many plans of road-making, there would be but four, and they all working under one plan, laid down by the Council or the Engineer.

Mr. Cochrane enumerated several additional advantages that would flow from the adoption of this plan.

#### DISCUSSION ON MR. COCHRANE'S PAPER.

H. BRUCE, Paisley—Our mode of doing this work is a relic of the past that has come down to the present time, simply because our attention has never been called to the absurdity of the whole arrangement. It leaves us about 25 cents out of every dollar of value in which municipalities have statute labor. Men plough up a piece of road and leave it bad travelling for the balance of the year. Providing the amount of days were levied on the people in dollars, it would make better roads and bridges. This would do the whole work. I would propose that the Legislature should be asked to wipe that section with regard to statute labor off the statute books, and do away with it altogether. It should disappear whenever the stumps go out of a township.

D. WILSON—I propose this with reference to statute labor, that we have an amendment to the Act giving the council power to compound the same for three years. Then you would not have a hill here and a hill there. You would be able to grade a road sufficiently to carry water off. Let the work be done under the eyes of those who are interested.

R. CULLIS, Cobourg—The work would be very apt to be done where those commissioners reside, and would have direct reference to that part of the country. I fear on that account there would be a great amount of wire pulling.

J. WASHINGTON, Goderich—I am inclined to agree with the gentleman who introduced the subject. Those gentlemen who have opposed the paper, should, I think, give us some feasible plan to remedy the acknowledged difficulty.

After a motion by Mr. Copeland, to place the supervision of road-making in the hands of commissioners, an amendment by Mr. Kells to make it imperative in municipal councils to commute the statute labor to 50 cents per day, the money to be expended by commissioners; and an amendment to the latter by D. Wilson, to the effect that the law remain as it is except that a competent overseer be appointed in each municipality to see that pathmasters do their duty, the motion of Dr. Patton, St. George, carried, which asked that the previous resolutions be now tabled and considered one year hence.

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## DISCUSSION ON LIENS.

MR. JAMES McEWING, Drayton, introduced the subject relating to a form of note used by certain manufacturers, giving them a lien on the farms of individuals to whom they sold machinery. Mr. McEwing spoke in strong terms condemning the practice. The discussion led to the following motion :

Moved by W. H. Pettit, seconded by J. A. Langford, that this form of note, having reference to the lien on farmers' land for machinery sold by some manufacturers, be handed by Mr. James McEwing to the Vice-President of the Institute, Mr. Dryden, M. P. P., and that he be requested to attend to legislation on the same in the House. Carried unanimously.

## REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The report of the Executive Committee was then read. It is as follows :

*To the Officers and Members of the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario :*

GENTLEMEN,—The Executive Committee beg to tender the following report :

At the meeting of the organization of this Institute, held on April 28th, 1887, a number of the Delegates thereof, whose names are recorded in the minutes, volunteered to appear before the Railway Commission, on a day to be fixed upon, to give evidence in reference to the necessity of a readjustment of rates and classifications of railways, so far as relating to the farmers. At the request of our President, the 17th day of May was fixed upon, when the parties above referred to were heard by the Commission. It is believed that the results were beneficial, particularly to those engaged in the transit of fruit.

A copy of the motion passed at the same meeting, relating to the appointment of a Minister of Agriculture for this Province, was duly forwarded to the Provincial Secretary. Your Committee are much pleased to notice that the recommendation then made is soon to be adopted by the Government.

As the grant of \$250 donated by the Ontario Government to defray the expenses of delegates attending the meeting of organization was found insufficient for this purpose, they were paid 50 per cent. on the expenses incurred, and a request was forwarded by the Secretary in terms of the resolution relating thereto, asking the several Institutes to defray the balance.

Three several meetings of the Executive were held during the year: the 1st on April 9th, 1887; the 2d on August 4th, 1887, and the 3d on January 30th, 1888.

At the first of these meetings it was decided that a synopsis of the proceedings of the meeting of organization be sent to the several Institutes then existing, including the resolution in reference to reciprocity in trade with the United States, and a request on behalf of your Executive, that said resolution be brought before the Institute at its first meeting, and a resolution passed in reference thereto, confirming the action of the Central organization. This was done, with the result that so far as has been ascertained, forty-three Institutes have sustained the action of the Central organization, three passed resolutions in opposition thereto, and thirteen have not taken a vote, some of the latter not having been long in existence.

At the next meeting it was decided that each Institute shall defray the expenses of its delegates to all annual and other general and special meetings of the Central Institute. The several institutes were forthwith notified of the same. It was also resolved that the president and secretary be authorized to take steps to have Institutes established in each electoral district of the Province where none now exist. In terms of this resolution circulars were issued to the several local members of the ridings referred to, and to other individuals of influence, asking them to take such steps as might seem best to them to forward the work. Letters were also sent to the press with the same intent. The results are that some eighteen Institutes have since been organized. There are still twenty-five or twenty-six districts without an Institute.

The following resolutions were also passed :

1. That this Executive Committee do now proceed to take steps to form an organization in each electoral district or county in which Farmers' Institutes have declared by vote in favor of unrestricted reciprocity or Commercial Union, with a view of promoting the same between Canada and the United States.

2. That a circular be addressed by the President and Secretary to the different individual Institutes which have declared in favor of a removal of all restrictions on trade between the United States and Canada, asking them to take steps to have all the farmers within the territory of each canvassed at the earliest possible moment to ascertain their views in reference to the above question, and that suitable forms be furnished them by the Secretary for this purpose.

This was done, and in the circular containing a copy of those resolutions the Institutes were urged to take prompt action. Each Institute was at the same time furnished with blank forms of a declaration, to be used in obtaining the signatures of those who were favorable to the objects set forth in the resolutions. As no time was fixed upon for collecting the results of this work, we are unable to say anything definite in regard to them.

In accordance with a resolution passed at said meeting, four thousand copies of the paper read by the Secretary at the organization of the Central Institute were printed, and one hundred copies sent to each of the Institutes.

At the meeting of the Executive, held on January 30th, 1888, the President, Vice-President and Secretary were appointed a committee to ask of the Ontario Government such sum as they may deem sufficient to defray the expenses incurred by the Central Institute. This Committee waited upon the Hon. A. M. Ross, and obtained a grant of \$500.

The President and Secretary were instructed to continue their efforts in the organization of new institutes, where these do not now exist.

#### ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

##### RECEIPTS.

April 28th, 1887, To amount of grant from Ontario Government..... \$250 00

##### DISBURSEMENTS.

April 28th, 1887, Expenses incurred with meeting for organization....	\$15 31
" " J. Eastwood & Co., books for Secretary and Treasurer	2 00
" " Griffin & Kidner, printing and stationery.....	22 25
" " Postage to date.....	17 23
" " Expenses of Delegates to meeting of organization, pro rata.....	190 10
" " Cash.....	3 11
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	\$250 00

LIABILITIES: Account of Griffin & Kidner for printing, from June 25, 1887, to February 14, 1888..... \$44 45

(For the Executive Committee)

Hamilton, Feb. 20, 1888.

THOMAS SHAW, *Secretary.*

On motion of Dr. Patton, Mr. Wm. Cowan, Galt, and Mr. G. Copeland, were appointed a committee to audit the books of the Treasurer.

On motion of Mr. D. Wilson, the order of business was so amended as to provide for the discussion of the question of railway and ocean freights.

The President read a letter from the Hon. A. M. Ross, inviting the members of the Institute to join in a contemplated visit to the Experimental Farm on the morrow.

The motion of Mr. M. Bogart, Napanee, prevailed, in the face of a first and second amendment, that the invitation be accepted, and the thanks of the meeting tendered by the President to Mr. Ross for his kind offer.

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## EVENING SESSION.

The chair was taken by the President at 7.30.

The attitude of the Institutes in relation to Commercial Union, or unrestricted reciprocity between Canada and the United States, was the first question discussed.

Mr. D. Derbyshire, Brockville, moved a resolution confirming the action of the Institutes in reference to this question, and asking that its discussion cease when it becomes a party question in the Legislature. This motion was afterwards withdrawn in favor of a second amendment by Mr. J. McEwing.

THE SECRETARY—I agree with Mr. Derbyshire in so far as this motion is concerned. I have felt from the first that the time was coming when this question would in all probability have to be taken out of our Institutes. I believe that if this Institute passes that motion, all the Institutes should be advised to discuss it no more. I think the Institutes have no reason to be ashamed of any action they have taken in this matter. It must have been patent to every person that it was very largely supported by Conservatives as well as Reformers. The day is approaching when it will be a party question. Then, I hold that it will be imprudent, it will be wrong; yes, I hold that it will be disastrous to the Institutes, and when it reaches that stage it should be taken out of the Institutes at once. I think this resolution makes the line of demarcation clear and definite.

T. L. JONES, Burford—I think that this meeting should not take up this question. I think we would derive a great deal of benefit if we would confine ourselves to the question of agriculture. It seems to me there is a large amount of influence brought to bear here on this question. I am opposed to its discussion here.

Messrs. T. Kells, Vandeleur; J. B. Ewing, Dartford; D. Campbell, Nelson; F. Malcolm, Innerkip, and J. Craig, Woodstock, followed in the order named.

Mr. A. W. Peart then moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. F. W. Wilson: That while this Institute is in favor of the fullest possible measure of reciprocity between Canada and the United States, any scheme not compatible with British connexion and Canadian interests cannot be entertained by it.

Moved in amendment to this amendment by Mr. James McEwing, seconded by Mr. G. E. Mowbray, and resolved, That this meeting again desires to place on record its strong appreciation of the value to this country of unrestricted trade or commercial union with the United States, and we fully endorse the action of the Institutes which in the past have discussed the subject, and passed resolutions favorable thereon, and it is of the opinion that so soon as it is introduced into the Dominion Parliament, and becomes a party question, its further discussion in the Institutes should be discontinued.

Messrs. N. McFadden, J. Cochrane, F. Birdsall, D. B. McLennan, G. Copeland and J. Nickerson, continued the discussion in very animated terms. Mr. McEwing's amendment carried by a vote of 61 to 13.

### THE ERECTION OF AN AGRICULTURAL HALL.

This paper was read by the Secretary. The exact statement of the subject reads, "The steps that should be taken toward co-operation in the effort to secure the erection of an Agricultural Hall in the City of Toronto."

We can find room for but a few quotations. The writer illustrated the inter-dependence of the different interests of the commonwealth by reference to the ancient fable of "the body and its members."

"In every commonwealth the body is the most important interest. In Ontario that interest is agriculture, hence the urgency of the necessity that this stomach of the nation be well ministered unto by the members of the body. If the merchant of the city and the

artizan of the workshop, the lumberman of the forest, and the shipper on the lake, the manufacturer of the factory, and the miner in the wilderness, are all agreed as to the wisdom of keeping the body well sustained, it will not fail to send every one of them in return the most vigorous pulsations of prosperity. On the other hand, the very moment they commence to play at the greedy game of grab, they shall indeed weaken the body, but by a retributive law, from the effects of which there is no escape, they will just so far weaken themselves."

"But while the relation between the body and each of the members is most intimate, that relation is relatively closer and more important in the case of some of them. The relation between the eyes and the body is closer than that between the body and the toe. Of the former class of relationship and inter-dependence is that between the city and the country. It may be compared to the over and under currents of the Straits of Gibraltar, by which the waters of the Mediterranean are always kept in perfect equilibrium as to saline properties and volume. There is a steady outflow of the goods of the manufacturer to the country, and a steady inflow of the farmer's products into the city, and the prosperity of each depends upon the equilibrium sustained by the volume of these respective currents. Let the current of the outflow exceed that of the inflow, and there follows a toppling amongst the houses of the wholesale merchants all along the line, the manufacturer's wheel runs more slowly, and the ominous "to let" is soon read in many windows. On the other hand, when the inflow increases, it begets renewed prosperity in every avenue of trade, so that the strength of this trade through whatever channel or channels it may come, is very largely the measure of the prosperity of the city. It follows, then, that any measure that is likely to increase the productive capacity of our farms should not be viewed with indifference by the people of any city; but when the benefits to one city are largely in excess of those to other cities, and when the efficacy of such measure is largely dependent on the action of the people of that city, the indifference on their part would surely be a grievous mistake."

"During recent years Toronto has grown great amongst the cities. What is the secret of that greatness? Her commerce. Whence came that commerce? By the accident of suitable location. What sustains that magnificent wholesale trade? Why, the farmers of Ontario more than any other class. Every one of these converging lines of railway is but a feeder of Toronto by the Lake. An independent tributary carrying down the sands of the farmers' gold, and pouring it into one receptacle—Toronto. If Toronto, then, is to maintain a steadily increasing greatness, there must be a steadily increasing growth in Canadian agriculture. No citizen of Toronto can afford to be indifferent as to how many pounds of butter and cheese are made, or to the number of horses raised or cattle sold, or to the millions brought in by our egg trade every year, for just as sure as the gold of England and the United States goes into the pockets of the farmers, a proportion of it finds its way into this city, and sooner or later it jingles on the counter of the merchant, or in the pocket of the artizan. This great city, the wholesale trade of which is, I suppose, more than that of all the other cities of Ontario combined, is just to that extent interested more than they in the prosperity of agriculture."

"Our most respectful suggestion at this moment is, that this Institute, representing as it does all classes of the farming community, appoint a committee with large powers, to confer with those already appointed by the city, and by the Board of Agriculture, in the hope that as a result of their conferences, we may soon be provided with a building in the City of Toronto for holding our annual and other meetings, of which Toronto and the farmers and all Canada may be proud."

The President, Vice-President and Secretary were appointed a committee to further the object sought by the writer of the above paper.

The meeting was then adjourned until Wednesday, 22d February, 7.30 p. m.

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## WEDNESDAY EVENING SESSION.

The Institute was called to order at 7.30 p. m., the President in the Chair.

### PAPER ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

This paper was read by Mr. Charles Lawrence, Collingwood, and here, too, we can give but extracts:

"Agriculture is the art of cultivating the earth so as to make it more fertile, and the object and protection of this art is to make a given portion of land produce useful vegetation in the greatest quantity of the best quality, with the least possible expense."

"The slow progress which farmers have made is to be ascribed to a want of education on the part of the cultivators of the soil, and the ignorance of the intimate connection that subsists between agriculture and chemistry. A good farmer will know how to choose and prepare his seed, how to prepare his ground in the most effective manner for its reception, and at what time, and under what circumstances, all the operations belonging to his profession, ought to be performed."

"The present system of education is wrong; it is ruining farmers in two ways—first, by taking money out of our pockets without giving full value, and second, by robbing us of the best of our sons. About one-third the taxes we pay are for education, while the tendency of the present imperfect system is to draw our best sons from the farm. The reason is, the reading lessons, instead of treating of agriculture, treat of explorers, warriors, and sailors, whereas our sons could learn to read as well if reading about the composition of the different kinds of soils, what they are adapted to grow, and when the crop is grown how to harvest it, and after it is harvested, what results will be produced when fed to different kinds of stock."

"Would it not be more interesting to farmers' sons to read about who improved the different breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs, and how this is done; and to farmers' daughters to read about the improved system of butter making, also how to make a good loaf of bread?"

"I would propose to make it compulsory to teach agriculture in all our Common Schools and Collegiate Institutes, which would prepare pupils for a higher education at Guelph, if circumstances would permit."

### DISCUSSION OF THE PAPER ON EDUCATION.

MR. DERBYSHIRE, Brockville—I appreciate a great deal of the sentiment expressed in this paper. Mr. Lawrence must have taken a great deal of pains to prepare such a paper. Yet I must disagree with some points with reference to the educational system in this Province. I think we have the best system in the world. I notice the Minister of Education is preparing a means of teaching agricultural subjects. I am satisfied at the same time that the farmers have not appreciated the college we have, the grand educational institution at Guelph; having a staff of teachers of whom there are none better in the world. (Applause.)

G. E. MOWBRAY, Oshawa—I congratulate the writer of the paper. I understand our children, instead of reading about sailors, would be reading about soils. It would perhaps be advisable to teach a course of mechanics in the manufacturing districts, and in rural districts a course of agriculture.

J. B. EWING, Dartford—I quite agree with a great many points in the paper. If we cultivate our land and take five hundred dollars from it, the country is the richer for it, and

in other walks of life where a man makes a hundred dollars some citizen may be poorer as a result.

HENRY BROWN, Paisley—I think our educational system is not the best that could be devised. It has come down to us from the time when farmers and mechanics were supposed to need no education at all. No persons but doctors, lawyers, bankers and note shavers and ministers get an education under the present system, and that is the reason the farmers are as they are. When our sons get above the common school and go further, they are bowled out.

G. COPELAND, Hespeler—While I am free to admit the system of education is a good one, it can be improved. We should by some means link the public schools with our agricultural college, then the college would better reach the farming communities. This would bring forth a class of agriculturalists such as we are in need of.

D. WILSON, Chatham—My children went to the High School; they are not here to defend themselves, but David Wilson is here; he will not allow a stigma to be cast upon his children because they went to the Chatham High School. I say it is necessary to get a good education, and, if necessary, send them up to what we saw to-day, the college at Guelph.

It was then moved by Mr. G. Copeland, seconded by Mr. A. W. Smith, "That in the opinion of this meeting the effectiveness of the Agricultural College at Guelph would be very greatly increased by the establishment of intermediate schools of agriculture, with the object of preparing students for the College, and a number of such schools would better reach the masses, and furnish a large number of students for the College at Guelph."

Moved in amendment by the Secretary, seconded by Mr. J. Craig, "That this meeting approves of the contemplated introduction of an elementary text book on agriculture into our common schools, believing that its judicious use will assist materially in the proper education of the boys of the farm at a very impressible period, and will prove a substantial aid in preparing them for entrance at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, which we would commend to the earnest consideration of farmers, as a suitable place for giving their sons a more complete education in the science of agriculture." The amendment was carried.

#### PAPER ON EXPERIMENTAL WORK.

Mr. D. M. McPherson, Lancaster, read a paper on "The experimental work that it is most desirable to have conducted at the Guelph Agricultural Experimental Station."

"Experimental work is all important to the farmer in the way of assisting him in making a greater success of his calling. As the science of farming is wrapped up in hidden laws and unknown principles, these laws and principles can only be discovered by repeated experiment."

"The proper experiments to be carried on at the Guelph farm, or any other place, should aim at discovering laws and principles and their practical and economical application to the wants of the farmers of this country. The aim should be to cheapen the cost of production, and to increase the value of that which is produced, in short, to increase the profits of farm work."

Mr. McPherson then dwelt at length, orally, on the nature of animal and plant life, the part they play in the economy of nature, and the advantages of being able to analyze soils, recommending that the results of experiments at the College should be given to the farmers through the medium of the Institutes, which would have a tendency to increase the membership. He then submitted the following list of subjects as suitable for experiment at the Guelph Experimental Farm.

- 1.—How to make Farmers' Institutes more popular and instructive, and thus educate the farmer in the needs of his calling.
- 2.—How to make the College popular and appreciated by the farmers of Ontario, so as to largely increase the attendance of students.
- 3.—How to devise the best course of studies suited to the wants of farmers' sons.
- 4.—How to accurately analyze the constituents of soils from all parts of the country.
- 5.—How to make soils fertile at the least possible cost, where land is overcropped.

- 6.—How to feed cattle most economically for growth, and also for beef and milk production.
- 7.—To ascertain that feed which is best suited to the domestic animal, which at the same time leaves the most valuable excrement for plant food.
- 8.—To ascertain the most suitable temperature at which stock should drink water.
- 9.—The best system of stable ventilation.
- 10.—How to increase the quality of butter and cheese.
- 11.—To ascertain the cause of red rusty spots in cheese, with a view to their removal.
- 12.—How to simplify the testing of milk at the butter or cheese factory to determine its true quality and condition.
- 13.—How to devise a simple system of crediting each dairyman with the actual value of the milk, which shall prove a more equitable system of milk credits other than by weight.
- 14.—How to give the entire farmers of this country the advantage of all results of useful experiment as carried on at the College.

After some discussion it was decided by motion that the experiments suggested in Mr. McPherson's paper be presented to the Faculty of the Ontario Agricultural College for their consideration, and the carrying out of these as they may deem advisable.

It was also agreed that the subject of "Municipal Reform with reference to the assessment of property affecting the farmer," be put upon the order paper.

The report of the Nominating Committee was then read. It recommended that the following be appointed as the officers of Institute for the ensuing year :

PRESIDENT.—V. E. Fuller, Hamilton.  
 VICE-PRESIDENT.—J. Dryden, M.P.P., Brooklin.  
 SECRETARY-TREASURER.—T. Shaw, Hamilton.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

James Cochrane, Kilsyth.	T. Lloyd Jones, Burford.
D. M. McPherson, Lancaster.	A. Rawlings, Forest.
A. H. Pettit, Grimsby.	G. Copeland, Hespeler.
D. Campbell, Nelson.	G. E. Mowbray, Oshawa.
W. J. Roy, Tyrone.	S. Kitchen, St. George.

AUDITORS.—Thos. A. Good, Brantford ; W. Cowan, Galt.

On motion the report was adopted, when the Institute adjourned to meet at 9 a. m., on the 23d.

THURSDAY MORNING.

February 23d, 1888.

Mr. John Dryden, M.P.P., spoke on "The advisability of asking the Government and President Mills, Guelph, to confer with the Executive in regard to devising some more complete system of carrying on the work of the Institutes."

He said : I desire to say that I think that all will agree with me that the work that has been done already by this Institute has been of great value indeed. The Institutes of which this is the centre, have all been brought into more prominence since the starting of this body. Its interest should never grow less ; it should be fostered and encouraged in every possible way. A great many farmers have not yet been reached. Some farmers are accidentally drawn into the meetings of those Institutes, and we have heard them remark

that "I would not miss that meeting for anything. I learned more in that meeting than I thought it possible to learn." I find it my own experience in dealing with them, and we have got a great deal of work to do in opening up Institutes. Get the farmers interested in the meetings, and they become the best advertising medium you can have. If you have live men in each neighborhood, you will find very little difficulty in keeping up the interest in the meetings for all time to come. Unfortunately, some men get at the head of the Institutes who do not take the trouble, or perhaps for one reason or another neglect or are indifferent to the meetings, and, as a consequence, they lag and perhaps die. Teach them to assist and help themselves. We often find that in the carrying on of our business our work is retarded by outside organizations; we come in contact with the great railway corporations, etc. Those organizations, you are aware, endeavor to take a little more toll from us as our produce is passing away to the market. If such things as these do occur, I claim that we want to hold ourselves at liberty to speak out on these matters. (Applause.) I think those subjects are quite proper to take action on. Political organizations may take action entirely at a disadvantage to us. I agree with the doctrine of not discussing party questions, but then I hold that there may be questions which will be for our benefit, and we ought to be ready to discuss them. Plenty of questions need much discussion all over the country, and we need the machinery to bring their attention before the various Institutes. I think when we have a college and good professors, it is quite right that the professors should go around the country and give the farmers the benefit of that knowledge, especially where they cannot attend the College, but unless you send for help you will not get it. There should be some oversight from this Institute in the matter. This central body should gather strength from all outside bodies. Some local institutes do not need any help at all. This central body should watch that the weak ones do not die out. Cling together; we are already realizing that it is to our own advantage to be united, and we realize that there should be a closer relationship. Let us impart knowledge to one another; assist each other. When I help you to the place I occupy, I am lifting myself higher. Have confidence in each other, and do not be suspicious of one another. We cannot afford to allow any interest in this direction die out. Where no institutes exist, we ought to take such steps as are necessary to bring them into existence. This Institute should take such action as to enable our college authorities to give us the best advantage of their experience in the direction indicated. I am sure you will all see the necessity of it. I do not want to break the connection between this central body and the College, but this Institute should have something to say about what subjects should be discussed, in order that we might not lose the influence already gained. I have drafted the following resolution, which I now move:

*Resolved*, That this Institute expresses the opinion that it is in the interest of the work undertaken by it, that the authorities of the college should confer with such officers or officer of this Institute as may be appointed for that purpose, in reference to the subjects which should be presented at the various Institutes for discussion, and also as to whom, in their opinion, it may be desirable to request to present them, the Executive to appoint such officers.

Mr. Lawrence, the seconder of the resolution, spoke in favor of it. He said Institutes should be organized in the different school sections.

**THE SECRETARY**—Instead of establishing so many Institutes throughout the country, as has been suggested, I think we should devote our time to perfecting those we have already established. The day may come when we may feel the necessity of having a large number of Institutes; perhaps one in every school section. We are all aware that our present system has done much good, but not nearly so much as might have been accomplished in all instances. I think we should be very careful as we go, to fortify the ground already gained. I favor dividing the Province into two sections, and have a series of meetings held in each consecutively and simultaneously, and I am satisfied that some responsible person must be appointed to supervise the work, if the Institutes are to do the work expected of them in the most effective way.

The speaker then moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. D. Derbyshire, "That this Institute, recognizing the great value of the county Institutes as educators of the farmers, and hence the importance of having them well attended and sustained, recommends that a suitable person be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture, after conference with the Executive of the Institute, whose whole time shall be devoted during the six months of the

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year, ending with March 31st, to the advancement of the work of the Institutes, by way of arranging a system of meetings and supply of speakers for them in some orderly succession, the said officer to confer with the Secretaries of the Institutes in arranging for such meetings."

After considerable discussion the amendment was withdrawn, and the original motion was carried.

Mr. A. Rawlings moved, seconded by Mr. T. Raynor, "That the Minister of Agriculture be requested to have a sufficient number of the Reports of the Experimental Farm for the past year struck off to furnish each member of every Institute with a copy." Carried.

Mr. H. Baum moved, seconded by Mr. D. Derbyshire, "That owing to the increased work of this Institute, the Ontario Government be memorialized by the Executive Committee to increase the grant from \$500 to \$1,000."

The Auditor's Report was next presented. It reads:

Your Auditors beg to report as follows:—We have examined the Treasurer's accounts, and have found them correct, showing that up to the closing of the same, there is a balance on hand of \$3.11, but, with printing, expense of meetings of the Executive Committee, and the expense of holding this meeting, there are claims against this Institute of about \$200 yet unpaid.

We also find that the Secretary has done a large amount of work for which he has received no remuneration, and are sorry that the funds will not allow him to be fully compensated for the work he has done, but would recommend that he be paid the sum of \$150 in recognition of his services.

(Signed) W. COWAN, }  
G. COPELAND. } Auditors.

## DISCUSSION ON RAILWAY AND OCEAN FREIGHTS.

LED BY MR. D. WILSON.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN:

I gladly take this stand for the purpose of calling your attention to this important subject. It is a subject in which we are all interested. If you keep cattle and find a good market for them, there is nothing, in my opinion, more profitable. In the year 1879 I thought I would go to the Old Country with cattle and see what that market was like, as I had not been there for thirty-five years. I corresponded with several steamship owners and found the lowest freight was six pounds, five shillings per head. I paid accordingly \$842.93 from the time I left home until I arrived in Liverpool. This exorbitant rate was paid on twenty-three head of cattle. The result of this was I could not raise cattle and export them, nor could I recommend anyone else. I was going out of a Canadian port in a British ship, and went in on the same tide with British vessels carrying American cattle at one pound, five shillings per head. Is that fair to Canada? Is that the way to build up Canada? Eighty per cent. of the American ocean freight is carried by British ships, and I hope that all Canadian freight is carried by British ships. When you compare the action of those shipowners it is not very creditable towards them, and I think you will concur in that opinion. Some influence should be brought to bear upon the railway companies and ship owners to give us more reasonable freight rates. I think we should memorialize the Dominion Government to interfere in our behalf. There is six months of the year that we are debarred from shipping by water, and we cannot send by the long rail route to Halifax, so that many of our cattle are tempted into the United States and killed as American cattle in England. We want our cattle to go to England as Canadian cattle.

H. BROWN, Paisley—It is all right for Mr. Wilson to bring this matter before the meeting, but he should remember that there is a great difference since he shipped cattle. The Cattlemen's Association has been formed since, and they pay \$25 a year into it. They control a fund amounting to a great many thousands of dollars, and are capable of bringing any amount of pressure to bear. Any member of the association can travel on any line of railway in Canada at one cent per mile. To-day the Canadian shipper has just as good a chance as the American shipper.

JOHN NICKERSON, Simcoe—While discussing this question I think we should not forget horses. I have had considerable experience in fattening cattle, and find that it takes

no more to raise a colt than a steer, and he will bring two or three times the price. You can raise good horses as cheap, and we want cheap freight on them.

T. RAYNOR—Does the Cattlemen's Association get better rates than other men?

MR. BROWN—Yes, they do.

MR. RAYNOR—Well, why don't we organize and get the same thing?

MR. BROWN—That is a different thing. Shipping cattle and raising cattle are two different businesses. They do it every day in the week the whole season round.

E. A. POWERS, Port Hope—I think we make a mistake when we ask the cattlemen to make rates for us. We should make our own arrangements. We should take some steps independent of the cattlemen, and ask for fair rates.

J. F. DIX—If we will form a combination like the cattlemen we will have the same expense to bear. I must differ with those who say we don't benefit by the arrangements of the cattlemen. I would move that we leave this question in the hands of the Cattlemen's Association, because they have already done much in that direction.

D. B. MCLENNAN, Lancaster—If we have any respect for ourselves, we should be careful what we are asking for, and see that the Government has power to grant us what we want before asking for it.

J. WASHINGTON, Goderich—We cannot as farmers, as producers, place our products in the British market. It requires capital and skill to place them there in the best condition. If there are producers who would like to ship their produce, and get the greatest advantage by it, there may be a few who do, let them secure the best rates honorably. I think we should take some course that would not interfere with the cattlemen's organization, from which we get considerable gain at present.

J. CRAIG, Woodstock—The Dominion Government have no more right to dictate to the Allan Line than I have. (Hear, hear, and applause.)

D. R. ELLIS, Kimberly—We ought to be very cautious in taking this vote; we are meddling with a dangerous subject. We should look out and not ask legislation until we understand more about it. I am satisfied this discussion will do good. It will bring the subject before the people and Government of this Province.

Moved by Mr. D. Black, seconded by Mr. F. Raynor, "That this Institute take steps to have the present law so amended, that the outside rate for passenger travelling by rail will not be more than two cents per mile."

Moved in amendment by Mr. D. Wilson, seconded by Mr. J. B. Ewing, "That it is the opinion of this Institute that the subject of railroad and steam freights is of so much importance that a committee be appointed to draft a petition to the Dominion Government, praying that action be taken to equalize railway and ocean freights on live-stock, horses, and other farm produce."

It was then moved by Mr. L. E. Annis, seconded by Mr. T. M. Whiteside, "That the question be tabled for the present." Carried.

#### MUNICIPAL REFORM IN REFERENCE TO ASSESSMENT.

This subject was introduced by Mr. J. Cochrane, whose motion "That the bill now before the Legislature for the exemption of farm stock from taxation, receive the approval of the Institute," was lost, and one moved by Mr. T. Good, asking that the question be sent down to the Institutes for discussion, and brought up at the annual meeting next year, was carried. As the bill has since become law, such action will not be necessary.

#### CLOSING RESOLUTIONS.

Moved by Mr. D. Derbyshire, seconded by Mr. G. H. Cook, "That the Executive Committee be instructed to continue their efforts to have an Institute established in each electoral district where none exist." Carried.

Moved by Mr. W. J. McAlpine, seconded by Mr. A. Rawlings, "That the Executive Committee be instructed to request the Ontario Government to have the papers and discussions thereon during our convention, reported in their annual Agricultural Reports, and that such committee endeavor to obtain for the members of the various Institutes copies of such reports." Carried.

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Moved by Mr. F. W. Wilson, seconded by Mr. D. R. Ellis, "That this Institute desires to place on record their satisfaction at the announcement made by the Ontario Government of its intention to appoint a Minister of Agriculture, and still greater satisfaction that such Minister will be a practical farmer." Carried.

Votes of thanks were then passed with entire unanimity, to the Warden and County Council of York, for granting the free use of the council chamber to the Institute during its three days session; to Alderman G. F. Frankland and Mr. J. Blevins, City Clerk, for their kind efforts in securing the use of the building; to the city press for the ample reports given of the business transacted, and to the Chairman for the able manner in which he presided over and conducted the business of the meeting.

The meeting then adjourned at 12.35 p. m.

### ORDER PAPER.

The following is the Order Paper, so far as completed, for the next annual meeting, which will be held the first Tuesday in February, 1889:

1. The advisability of doing away with Township Shows.
2. Railroad and Ocean Freights; introduced by Mr. A. McD. Allan, Goderich.
3. The Question of Statute Labor; introduced by Mr. James Cochrane, Kilsyth.
4. The Erection of an Agricultural Hall in Toronto; introduced by Alderman G. F. Frankland, Toronto.
5. Rendering the Work of the Farmers' Institutes more Effective; introduced by Mr. T. Shaw, Hamilton.
6. Shall we Build a Silo?; introduced Mr. V. E. Fuller, Hamilton.
7. Agricultural Education; introduced by Mr. G. Copeland, Hespeler.

At the last meeting of the Executive Committee held in Toronto, July 27th, the President and Secretary were appointed a committee to receive any other subjects for discussion at the annual meeting, from the Institutes, together with the name of the delegate who shall introduce it, but such subjects must be handed in on or before 1st December next.

# LIST OF FARMERS' INSTITUTES IN ONTARIO

WITH SECRETARIES FOR THE YEAR 1888.

Electoral Division.	Secretary's Name.	Post Office.
Addington.....	M. C. Shorey.....	Centreville.
Brant North.....	H. M. Nixon.....	St. George.
Brant South.....	Thos. A. Good.....	Brantford.
Bruce Centre.....	Wm. Bowes.....	Pinkerton.
Bruce North.....	John Douglas.....	Tara.
Bruce South.....	James A. Lamb.....	Walkerton.
Brockville and Elizabethtown.	B. Loverin.....	Farmersville.
Dufferin.....	Geo. Island.....	Orangeville.
Dundas.....	W. A. Whitney.....	Morrisburg.
Durham East.....	W. H. McCallum.....	Dale.
Durham West.....	A. H. Brentnell.....	Orono.
Elgin East.....	J. C. Dance.....	Kingsmill.
Elgin West.....	Daniel Black.....	Iona Station.
Essex South.....	D. W. Canfield.....	Kingsville.
Frontenac.....	E. Ritchie.....	Inverary.
Grey North.....	Thos. Gordon.....	Owen Sound.
Grey South.....	Wm. Irvine.....	Lam lash.
Grey Centre.....	J. T. Graham.....	Vandeleur.
Glengarry.....	W. J. McNaughton.....	Lancaster.
Grenville.....	Edward Keelar.....	Maitland.
Haldimand.....	Thos. Bridger.....	Cayuga.
Halton.....	Wm. Clements.....	Milton.
Huron East.....	Wm. Bishops.....	Brussels.
Huron West.....	C. G. S. Naftel.....	Goderich.
Huron South.....	Robert McMordie.....	Kippen.
Kent East.....	A. J. Campbell.....	Thamesville.
Kent West.....	E. S. Dyke.....	North Buxton.
Lambton East.....	J. Osborn.....	Wyoming.
Lanark North.....	Jno. Steel, jr.....	Binnies' Corners.
Lanark South.....	G. Oliver.....	Perth.
Leeds South.....	Freeman Britton.....	Gananoque.
Lincoln.....	R. W. Gregory.....	St. Catharines.
Lennox.....	Marshal Bogart.....	Napanee.
Middlesex East.....	J. W. Bartlett.....	Lambeth.
Middlesex North.....	S. P. Zavitz.....	Coldstream.
Monk.....	D. C. Holmes.....	Wellandport.
Norfolk North.....	F. L. Culver.....	Waterford.
Norfolk South.....	Albert Gilbert.....	Simcoe.
Northumberland East.....	J. B. Ewing.....	Dartford.

Electoral Division.	Secretary's Name.	Post Office.
Northumberland West.....	R. Cullis.....	Camborne.
Ontario North.....	G. B. Miller.....	Uxbridge.
Ontario South.....	J. A. Carswell.....	Oshawa.
Oxford North.....	Jno. Craig.....	Woodstock.
Oxford South.....	M. S. Schell.....	Woodstock.
Peel.....	J. Pickering.....	Brampton.
Prince Edward.....	T. Raynor.....	Rose Hall.
Peterboro East.....	Jno. W. Clark.....	Norwood.
Peterboro West.....	F. J. Bell.....	Selwyn.
Renfrew South.....	Geo. McIntyre.....	Renfrew.
Simcoe West.....	W. A. Furlong.....	Nottawa.
Simcoe South.....	H. B. Jeffs.....	Bondhead.
Stormont.....	Robert Vallance.....	Osnabruck Centre.
Victoria West.....	James Keith.....	Lindsay.
Victoria East.....	Wm. Thurston.....	Bobcaygeon.
Waterloo South.....	W. S. Cowan.....	Galt.
Wellington East.....	Dr. H. P. Yeomans.....	Mt. Forest.
Wellington West.....	James McEwing.....	Drayton.
Wellington South.....	W. J. Cockburn.....	Aberfoyle.
Wellington Centre.....	George Wright.....	Elora.
Wentworth.....	E. Morden.....	Niagara Falls.
York East.....	Erland Lee.....	Stoney Creek.
York North.....	T. M. Whiteside.....	Ellesmere.
York West.....	R. W. Phillips.....	Newmarket.
	R. L. Crawford.....	Richview.

