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Report of the Proceedings

OF THE

SECOND ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

Permanent Central

Farmers' Institute

OF ONTARIO.

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REPORT OF THE PROCEEDINGS

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To THE HON. CHARLES DRURY,
Minister of Agriculture,

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

- 1st. The Report of the Second Annual Meeting.
- 2nd. The Order Paper for Next Meeting, and a List of Institutes and their Secretaries.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

A. HAMILTON PETTIT,
Secretary.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
PERMANENT CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE
OF ONTARIO.

The Second Annual Meeting of the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute of Ontario, was held in the York County Council Chambers, in the City of Toronto, February 5th, 6th and 7th, 1889. In the absence of the president, Mr. A. H. Pettit, of Grimsby, occupied the chair. The meeting was called to order at 11 a. m., when the minutes of the First Annual Meeting were adopted as read.

The following change of by-law relating to representation was adopted:

That this Institute shall be composed of two delegates from each Institute throughout the province, who present properly accredited credentials, and who shall be elected annually by their respective Institutes; as also a delegate or delegates from any association or organization whose avowed object is solely the advancement of agricultural interests, and who may be invited to send a delegate or delegates by the Executive.

The following committees were then appointed:

On nomination of officers—Messrs. D. Derbyshire, F. Kosmack, Thos. Kells, J. Cochrane, T. L. Jones, M. Pettit, T. Shaw.

On credentials—Messrs. D. Campbell, J. McEwing, S. B. Gorwill.

On new business—Messrs. J. A. Law, C. Lawrence, J. K. McMichael.

The secretary then read the treasurer's report, which was received and referred to the auditors.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

TO THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE PERMANENT CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO:

Gentlemen,—The committee beg to tender the following report:—

During the Institute year there have been held three meetings of the Executive Committee. The first on the 23rd Feb., 1888; the second on 27th July, 1888, and the third on the 22nd Dec. of the same. At the first of these it was decided that Mr. John Dryden, M. P. P., Brooklin, be appointed to fill the position called for by the resolution appointing an officer to confer with the authorities of the Agricultural College with reference to the carrying on of the work of the institutes; that the president, vice-president and secretary be a delegation to wait on the Commissioner of Agriculture and ask the Government to increase the grant to one thousand dollars, in accordance with the motion of the annual meeting, and that in the opinion of the committee the salary of the President be \$300 for the present year. The Committee waited upon the Hon. the Commissioner of Agriculture, but did not succeed in obtaining a larger grant than that indicated in the last annual report of the committee, viz., \$500.

At the second meeting the president, vice-president and secretary were instructed to wait upon the Hon. Chas. Drury, and to ask a grant of \$1000 to defray the expenses of this Institute for the balance of this year and the year following. The minister, when waited upon, acceded to the request of the committee.

The secretary was appointed to make what arrangements he could with the Minister of Agriculture in reference to printing the proceedings of the last annual meeting. As a result a digest of the same was prepared by the secretary, prefixed with a historical summary of the origin and work of the institutes, and 4,000 copies printed and forwarded to all secretaries reporting the membership, in sufficient numbers to give one copy to each.

A resolution was passed asking the Government to appoint Mr. Shaw, of Hamilton, to the vacant chair of agriculture at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

At the meeting of December 22nd, it was decided to recommend to the annual meeting the desirability of appointing a substitute chairman to conduct the meeting, in case of the absence of the president on committees, or otherwise.

The following change of by-law, relating to representation was proposed:
 "That this institute shall be composed of two delegates from each institute throughout the province, who present properly accredited credentials, and who shall be elected annually by their respective institutes; as also a delegate or delegates from any association or organization whose avowed object is solely the advancement of agricultural interests, and who may be invited to send a delegate or delegates by the executive committee."

The order paper for the annual meeting was also arranged.

Soon after the last annual meeting, a circular was issued by the secretary to the press, in localities where institutes did not then exist, explaining the objects of the institutes, and urging the farmers to take steps and organize. Letters were also written to the members of the provincial parliament in those sections, asking their co-operation. As the result, twelve new institutes were organized, viz., Algoma, Frontenac, Monck, North Perth, South Perth, Russell, Centre Simcoe, Stormont, North Waterloo, Welland and West York, the secretary being present at the organization of nearly all of these. There are now seventy-one institutes. The districts yet without them are Algoma East, Carleton, North Essex, North, East, West and South Hastings, West Lambton, West Middlesex, Muskoka, Parry Sound, Prescott and North Renfrew—12.

ABSTRACT OF TREASURER'S ACCOUNT.

RECEIPTS.

Feb. 23rd, 1888—To cash balance from previous year	\$ 3 11
April 22nd, 1888—To cash grant from the Ontario government	500 00
Feb. 1st, 1889—To cash forwarded by treasurer	247 14
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	\$750 25

DISBURSEMENTS.

May 5th, 1888—By cash paid Butcher & Young, stenographers, reporting proceedings of last annual meeting	\$ 44 00
" " By cash to secretary, salary of previous year	150 00
" " By cash to Messrs. Griffin & Kidner, as per account, printing for 1887 and 1888	44 45
Feb. 2nd, 1889—By cash, Griffin & Kidner, as per account for printing for 1888 and 1889	29 25
" " By cash, Live-Stock Journal, postage as per account rendered 1888 and 1889	47 99
" " By cash, postage, stationery and telegrams	2 01
" " By cash, expenses of executive committee, 1887 and 1888	132 55
" " By cash, salary of secretary-treasurer for 1888	300 00
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	\$750 25

Guelph, 4th Feb., 1889.

(For the executive committee)

THOS. SHAW, Secretary.

On motion it was resolved that Mr. Geo. Wright, of Elora, be appointed auditor in place of Mr. Cowan, who was absent.

The meeting then adjourned at 12 a. m., to be called again at 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Business resumed at 2 p. m., President Fuller in the chair.

The auditors' report was then received, which is as follows:

We, the undersigned auditors, beg to report that we have examined the books and vouchers of the treasurer of the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute and find them correct. We also find a balance due the treasurer of \$247.14, for which no provision has been made. All of which is respectfully submitted.

(Signed) THOS. A. GOOD, }
 GEO. WRIGHT, } Auditors.
 W. COWAN }

Moved by Thos. A. Good, seconded by Geo. Wright, that the auditors' report be adopted. Carried.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN, DELEGATES OF THE VARIOUS FARMERS' INSTITUTES OF ONTARIO:

I can assure you that it is most gratifying to see here to-day so many representatives of the various Farmers' Institutes throughout this province. It shows conclusively,

so far as outward evidence is concerned, that the subject we took up here with some trepidation a little less than two years ago, so far as one can judge, has been established on a firm foothold; and, with the prospects of a continuation of interest in the work we undertook then and the good that will result therefrom, is stronger and stronger from year to year as we progress, and the question now before us is not whether we can get a good representation at this convention but where is the place that will hold them all without we curtail the number that must attend here. It has been contended, as I stated last year, that the farmers cannot be united in one body, that they cannot be held together without internal dissensions arising among them, and that the effort to make one body which should speak for the farmers of this province was an ineffectual one, and it was unnecessary to attempt it and endeavor to keep them together for any length of time. I spoke last year of the babe that had been brought into existence, but I speak now of the childhood that has sprung into existence in this institute, and I hope to see it grow to full manhood with all its strength, united as one body for the good of the farmers of this country, and when I speak for the farmers I speak for the whole Province of Ontario. Whatever will be for the good of the farmers is for the good of the province. It is one of the brightest aspects of the future to find you so anxious, so ready, to take hold of the good work as one man, to push it forward to completion and to put agriculture, as far as you can, upon its proper foot-hold as one of the noblest professions that man can be engaged in. (Applause.)

I say the question is not whether or no the farmers' institutes throughout Ontario shall die, or whether they shall progress, whether they shall be united in one body as representatives of the whole, and whether that body can or cannot make its way felt. That is beyond peradventure; the time is past for that. Our motto is "Onward." Our motto is "Proficiency to the highest extent that we can reach." Our further motto is "Justice to the farmer, justice to those who have made this country what it is, and who have been the back bone and upon whose shoulders rest the welfare and the future of this country." (Applause.)

Now, gentlemen, we have at the present time seventy-one farmers' institutes, representing, in round figures, 5,000 farmers, and I say it, without fear of contradiction, that the members of the farmers' institutes throughout the province represent the most progressive, the most intelligent, and the deepest thinkers of all the farmers that we have on the face of the earth. (Applause.) Our work, however, so far as the farmers' institutes and their organization is concerned, is not completed. We have unrepresented twelve electoral districts, and not one of us should rest contented until those twelve are brought into our fold, until those twelve can feel the influence that the farmers' institutes must and shall exercise throughout this province, until we have every electoral district as a farmers' institute, each one sending to this body its representation so that the good work may be completed, and I would ask your most hearty co-operation to this end, so that we may complete the work we have set out to do. Those who have borne the brunt and the burthen of the establishing of farmers' institutes, those who have done this good work are worthy of the very greatest credit. It is a work of love; it is not a work of self-aggrandizement; it is not a work of profit to the individual who undertakes it. It is done with the sole and earnest desire to see each one taught to do the best they possibly can in the interests of the grandest profession that we have in this province, agriculture. To accomplish the ends we have in view it is absolutely necessary that the best talent that can be attained should be placed at the head of each institute. Everything depends upon that life that can be thereby instilled into each meeting, and with an apathetic chairman you will find apathy prevailing all through. Therefore, when you are choosing your executive officers and especially your president of each individual institute, take well into consideration the fitness of the man for the position, because upon him will largely depend whether or no meetings are a success or a failure. We all know how hard it is to incite the farmer to the benefit that will accrue from co-operation, from mingling together, from discussing topics bearing upon agriculture. Each man, as a rule, is imbued with the idea that he knows all there is to know about agriculture and he does not want to be taught by any book worm. That idea cannot prevail; the times will not permit it. The times are advancing in every other branch of industry throughout the whole world and are the farmers to stand

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back? Are they to say that the modes adopted by their grandfathers are good enough for the present day? Why, gentlemen, it is perfectly ridiculous. Such a resolution will only make them cease to be a benefit to themselves and to the community of which they form a part. It is, therefore, most gratifying to find the evidence on every side of the steady growth of sentiment in favor of farmers' institutes. As I have stated, the principles of the farmers' institute and those they desire to instill are not in any shape or form selfish, on the contrary are philanthropic, and it is most gratifying to everybody concerned to find so large and so influential a deputation here to-day. Now, it may be said—what is the object of our meeting together, what was the object of forming this farmers' institute, the central body, and what we hoped to accomplish? I have already said that the welfare of this country form the back bone of it. I have already stated that the welfare of the farmer means the welfare of the whole country, and that the reverse means disaster to this province. We have only to look and see how far the prospects of crops are concerned, how far the prospects of the crops throughout the world influences that particular locality where they are either in a flourishing condition or in the reverse; then, if that be so, and it is beyond a question of doubt, farmers really are, especially in a new country like this, the very back bone of it, upon them and upon their welfare rests the welfare of the whole community, and I say it beyond any question of doubt equally strongly, that the farmers' interests have been the most neglected of any class of the whole community. (Applause.)

This organization was formed to bring together the farmers' institutes, to strengthen them and make one central point to which they could come, one central point that will see that these farmers' institutes throughout the country were maintained; that it was the desire that there might be some body through whom the influence, through whom the wants, through whom the requirements of the farmers of this country might be laid bare to the public. Now, gentlemen, the public press, the public, and even politicians, have seen and felt the strength of the farmers' institutes throughout this country. I wish it was in my power to leave out the politicians, and in doing so we leave out the worst element in our institutes, namely, politics. Why can't you discuss matters bearing upon your natural interests and leave to one side politics. I, myself, as president of this institute, have been obliged in the interests of the farmers, according to my judgment, in the interest of agriculture to take a position directly opposed to my own political allegiance and my own political descendants. That I was prepared to do and that I am prepared to do so long as I have any connection with this institute; that I am prepared to do for the general good of the whole farming community, and if the whole farming community would as religiously ponder upon the different works that are laid before them upon agriculture with the same degree that they read and digest all matters bearing upon politics, this country would become one of the greatest countries, so far as agriculture is concerned, on the face of God's earth.

Now, gentleman, as some slight token of what influence the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute has obtained in this country, I would like to point out to you the fact that we took a very strong position with reference to the desirability of the Ontario legislature appointing a practical farmer for Minister of Agriculture. That was ably backed up by other organisations representing farmers throughout the country, and whether it be the effect of what was done by us or whether it be the effect of what was done in other bodies, although we naturally claim it for ourselves, at the same time the result is there, a practical farmer has been appointed as Minister of Agriculture—a gentleman who has the interests of the farmers thoroughly at heart, a gentleman who knows the needs and wants of farmers, who is prepared, according to his own statement made to me, to see that the interests of the farmers in this country, as large as it is, should be properly represented and that other branches of industries throughout the country shall not swallow up the receipts that the government get of this country, and that a proper proportion shall be devoted to agriculture, (applause), a gentleman who has shown that he has a deep interest in the welfare of the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute and who is, I am satisfied, prepared to go the length that the facts will warrant him. We are yet a young body and I think you will find in the Minister of Agriculture a man ready at any time to meet all reasonable demands that he can properly lay before his colleagues, and a man whose heart and soul is also in all you are doing.

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The executive committee of the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute asked that a practical farmer should be appointed to the position of professor at the Agricultural College to take the place of Professor Brown. In asking that we were fortunately backed up in our request by one whose name would be received throughout the whole Province of Ontario, and in fact throughout the whole Dominion, in a spirit that could be nothing less than comment, namely, our worthy secretary, Mr. Shaw. (Applause.) If any man has ever labored for the welfare of the farmers of Ontario, that man has been Thomas Shaw, now Professor Shaw. I do not say that the action taken by the executive committee alone resulted in the appointment of Mr. Shaw, but, be it as it may, we were the ones who moved in that matter and the result was he was appointed.

The report of the executive committee is before you and you have all doubtless read it. We started out with a grant from the Ontario government for \$250. For last year's work we obtained \$500. For this year and part of last year we have been promised \$1000. Now, gentlemen, we asked for \$1500 in place of \$1000, and we took a bold stand that unless we were granted \$1000 we would take nothing. If the farmers as represented in the farmers' institutes of Ontario are not entitled to receive from the treasury of Ontario \$1000 for their work, we decided we would take nothing and appeal to the farmers' institutes and to their liberality to their cause to carry this work on, whether the government would do so or not. I must say that I have always been opposed to receiving any aid from any government, because the government represents a party. I have always claimed the farmers' interests should be irrespective of any political party and they should not be under the disadvantage of receiving their means from any government, be it Grit or Tory, and I hope to see the day the farmers will, of their own accord, be able to hold these meetings and carry on the work of the central organization without feeling they are under any obligation to anybody whatever. But I think we may be thankful to the Minister of Agriculture for granting us \$1000, but he has not reached the stage where he has appreciated our worth. I think on the contrary we have got to ask for more, and I feel, with the growth the farmers' institutes are making, that we are entitled to have more, and I know as a united whole we can get what we are justly entitled to, if we only have enough persistence in it.

The government also granted our request that the proceedings of the annual meeting should be printed. They have been printed and have been distributed. The object of that is that the records of this institute may be preserved. It is in its infancy yet; its usefulness has not yet been discovered; it has only been put forward as a means to an end of uniting the farmers or to obtain good for them. And it is absolutely necessary that the records and the future of the growth of the institutes should be preserved. The government has granted the request of the executive committee in that respect and hereafter our reports will be printed by the government. You have noticed a change in the by-laws, which reads as follows, (By-law No. 2).

We received a communication from an agricultural body requesting us to act in consort with them, and asking that delegates might be appointed to attend our meeting. Gentlemen, that shows clearly the strength and the growth this body has made, its recognition at the hands of those of the fact that the Central Institute has become a body of influence, that that influence is for good, and I hope yet to see the Central Farmers' Institute not only merely composed of representatives from the various institutes throughout Ontario but composed of representatives of every organization, be it what it may, that has its main object advancement of the agricultural interests of Ontario. You are worthy of it, gentlemen, the institutes are worthy of it, and let us extend the most liberality possible towards the advancement of that end, never leave hold of the fact that you are the representatives of the farmers' institutes, but, on the contrary, that our arms shall be open to receive all who have the avowed object of the advancement of agriculture, that as one body of representatives from all the various organizations throughout the country that "in strength is might" and that if that might is tempered with justice, justice will prevail for us.

Now then, in accordance with the act of the executive committee, invitations were sent to the Eastern and Dairyman's Association of Ontario, the Creamery Association, the Shorthorn Breeders' Association, the Ayrshire Breeders' Association, the Bee-Keepers' Association, the Ottawa Experimental Farm, the Fruit Growers' Association,

and the Dominion Grange, and each body has signified to our worthy secretary their desire to participate in this meeting and their intention to send representatives. Among the matters that will be brought up before you and discussed is the following a paper by Mr. Shaw. I understand he will advocate in his paper the appointing of some one under remuneration, whose duty it will be to see that speakers are provided for the various meetings being held throughout the country, where their services are required; to so endeavor to arrange the meetings throughout the winter season that these gentlemen, as they travel throughout the country, may have their dates so fixed that they will be able to accomplish more in a given time than would be accomplished in any other way.

I referred last year to the benefit that had accrued from the work that had been done in the State of Wisconsin on a somewhat similar plan. There the state grants to farmers' institutes no less a sum than \$2500 a year. We cannot soar to that, gentlemen; we have got to cut our coat according to our cloth, but, if the work of the farmers' institute is to progress as it should, then we want some person whose sole duty it shall be at certain periods of the year to see that speakers are provided, that the institute meetings are so held that these people can do the most work in a given time, by having the meetings properly arranged.

You have all heard the name of W. D. Hord, who has worked in the interests of dairying in the State of Wisconsin for a great number of years. He was the man who was mainly instrumental in organizing farmers' institutes throughout Wisconsin, and so great has been his work that the farmers insisted upon him being their candidate for the position of governor, and he was elected by the farmers of that state, for whom he had worked so well and so long. That shows what one man's work is, and it shows further that the farmers have within their hand, within their power, if they can only lay aside their political bias, to dictate to any government, to any set of people, what their needs are and what they will have and what they must have. (Hear, hear.) I wish I could convince you farmers of the desirability of uniting for your own welfare, and not to keep a set of men, be they Grit or Tory, in office for the purpose of taking out of your pockets the hard-earned dollars and cents that you have earned. If farmers could be thoroughly imbued and sincerely imbued with the idea that they would unite on a man, let him be who he may, that has worked for their interest, who is sincere and honest in what he says, then I should consider that the province of Ontario had made one of the greatest strides it could possibly make and that she had advanced 50 years ahead of her time.

Now, gentlemen, I am afraid this is the last time I shall have the pleasure of addressing you from this chair. Circumstances over which I have no control compel me to take that position. You are all doubtless aware that I have met with reverses, reverses which compel me to begin anew my life, reverses which compel me to devote whatever energies I have in the advancement of any one particular thing to which I may devote my attention. I cannot for that reason have my time or my thoughts distracted from what I have on hand by the necessity of giving attention to anything connected with the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute. I have felt for the last year, and in fact for the last year and a half, I have been prevented from doing as much good as I would have desired to have done for the institutes. I desire in justice to agriculture to say one thing. It has been stated that my Jersey interests was one that was disastrous to me, but I would say it is not directly nor indirectly owing to my connection with agriculture that my present difficulties exist. In the five years that I was able to devote myself to the breeding of live stock my profits were the most profitable. My profits were larger than anything that I have been engaged in, that my profits from that source were greater than many men have attained to in a life time. I have no desire to go into personal matters, but I simply do this in justice to agriculture. I have heard this comment made as bearing upon the fact that a man continuing as a breeder of live stock is sure to meet with disaster, it does not matter how much money or enterprise he may put into it, and for that reason I mention the fact.

I would impress upon my successor the desirability of keeping within limits and endeavor to keep the institutes within proper bounds and limits, let them keep, so far as they possibly can, away from political questions, keep from asking at the hands of any

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body or any legislature, or any party that can be in any way or any form be considered as class legislation, what is reasonable. Simply endeavor to advance the interests of agriculture as a whole. Just so surely as that line is followed, just so surely will this central institution grow in strength and in every way that all desire to see it and that years will be added to its strength, and, with this strength, ability to accomplish all that we ever hope it will accomplish. It is also unfortunate that we have to loose our treasurer. You all know what his worth has been. His has been a step upward which has caused his retirement, and mine has been a step downward. but at the same time, gentlemen, while I say to you that I shall be under the necessity of retiring from among you, I hope it will not be for many years. I bespeak the same generous sympathy to my successor that you have granted to me. (Applause.)

Messrs. T. Lloyd Jones, Burford, Col. Campbell, Nelson, Mr. McFadden and Mr. Drayton complimented the president upon his very able address, expressing very much regret that he was compelled to withdraw from his present position and hoped that he would see his way clear to remain yet another year, as he had filled that position so ably; it would be a difficult task at the present time to replace his equal they feared.

Moved by W. Cowan, seconded by P. Mahon, that the president's address be left to a select committee composed of Messrs. Laidlaw, Brown, Jones Campbell, Derbyshire and the mover to report this evening. Carried

Resolved that Mr. A. H. Pettit be appointed substitute chairman to take the chair in case the president or vice present were not present at the meeting.

Moved by T. L. Jones, seconded by C. Lawrence, that each speaker on any question be allowed five minutes and no longer unless the meeting expresses a wish to the contrary. Carried.

The following communication from Mr. Thos. Shaw was then read :

TORONTO, February 5th, 1889.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE OF ONTARIO :

Gentlemen,—As you are aware, I have been secretary of this institute since its organization, April 28th, 1887. During that period I have tried to do my duty to the farmers of this country, but am painfully sensible of the imperfect way in which this was done. While I feel that it was my duty and privilege to serve the farmers of this country in the capacity of secretary of this institute during the period referred to, I feel it equally a duty now to tender my resignation as secretary and treasurer of this institute, owing to recent changes of which you are all aware. I am very pleased at the same time to reflect that this step is not likely to place me in a position to serve the farmers less, but rather more, in another sphere well worthy of the highest efforts of any individual whatever his capacity.

Signed, Thos. Shaw.

Moved by D. Derbyshire, seconded by H. Brown, that the resignation of Prof. Shaw be referred to the committee on the president's address, and to report this evening. Carried.

Prof. Shaw, of the Agricultural College, Guelph, read a paper on rendering the work of the farmers' institutes more effective.

RENDERING THE WORK OF THE FARMERS' INSTITUTES MORE EFFECTIVE.

Effective work is the measure of the utility of any organization or system of organizations. Numerical strength is often accepted as the standard of success, but it is a gauge that is not always reliable, although in the popular estimate it is usually accepted as such. It is not the volume of water alone that determines the capacity of a water-wheel, but rather the structure of the wheel itself, and the rate at which the water runs. So, the power of the institutes for effective work depends more upon their capacity for this work and the direction that is given to this capacity than upon their numerical strength. Rather give me ten resolute men properly equipped for work and calmly determined to do it, than one hundred not so equipped and indifferent in regard to its performance. Hence arises the unmeasured importance of having the work of the institutes carried on so exactly consonance with the dictates of the highest wisdom of the age, that their power for good shall be made to act and react beneficially on the farmers of this Canada of ours in the greatest degree possible.

When the first institute was organized in the autumn of 1886 the relative interests of the Farmers were darkened with thick clouds which blackened their sky with portentous omen, between the narrow rifts of which but few glimpses of sunlight might be seen. The grange had arisen in its might and with ever increasing volume had rolled on in its work of reformation until it broke its power, like the pursuing squadrons of brave men at the field of Waterloo, by attempting too much, but not till it had taught this Canadian farmer that he was an entity in the Canadian common-wealth and that the struggle to get and to maintain his rights was not a forlorn hope. Amid the tumult of the combined forces that were leagued in purpose, if not in entity, of interest to hold him by the throat until wounded and bleeding and very faint, they would leave him lying in the highway between Jerusalem and Jericho.

The grange was the good Samaritan that came along and carried him to the inn, pouring oil and wine into his wounds, and who told the host to care for him until it came again. But being long coming there was great danger that the unfortunate man would die. While lying in that inn, the other material interests continued to make common cause against him. Their combinations filled the land and while thus, helpless, they preyed upon his substance, and were agreed to keep him in a lingering condition, though most solicitous that he should not die, for in such an event a hope of their gains was gone. His wounds thus reopened were beginning to corrode, when the Institute at that critical moment came along, and, through a rigid observance of the prescriptions thereof, he is likely soon to be restored to the full vigor of an over-flowing strength. That promise is soon to give him first place amongst the first three. Our fundamental object has shown out clearly like a beacon on a hill, reflected against a sombre sky, as the outcome of the work of the Institutes since their first inception, that is the education of the farmer, and every additional meeting of the individual Institutes that is held in Ontario furnishes additional evidence of their rich adaptability for this purpose, and of the shrewd sagacity of the legislatures who made their organization possible and eminently practical. But this our object supremely important as it is, was found inadequate to the farmer's needs. The want of protection from unfair encroachment was keenly felt by the farmers, and the work of the individual Institutes as first conceived fell short of this, hence the reason for the existence of the permanent Central Farmer's Institute of Ontario, and hence the steps that were taken to make it what it is—the great mustard tree beneath the branches of which every other organization relating to the farm, on having for its object the promotion of the farmer's interests, may find ample repose.

The individual institutes were in themselves doing an excellent work, the outcome of which ultimately must have been organization for self protection, on the broad principle that educated mind can never rest satisfied with anything less than equal chances. Even a mouse will oftentimes fight bravely for her right to live, why then should Canadian Yeomen fed by our general soils, and made strong by the fresh air of unrivalled breezes show less spirit than the mouse of the meadow?

The organization of the Central Institute conserved the latent forces of the individual Institutes, and, like a mighty lens concentrating scattered rays of light and heat, they have so converged the rays of individual Institute power, that, it is even capable of softening obdurate legislation, when that august body the Legislature happens to be placed in the focus of the lens. The corner stone upon which the Central Institute rests is laid in the mortar of equity and moderation. Its ultimate object is to conserve and secure the just rights of the farmer in his relation to legislators, corporations, and individual industries, and to afford protection from all encroachments that may come from other interests in the commonwealth. This is the Magna Charta of its operations, richly laden with the promises of equal privileges to the Yeomen of this country, which cannot but develop into full fruition, if Canadian farmers remain true to the institute, which is but a synonym for remaining true to themselves.

The great ultimatum then of the individual Institutes is to scatter the light of a higher education in relation to farm operations, the outcome of which will be material gain, and of the Central Institute to concentrate the power which this growth engenders, not for purposes of aggression, but of dignified and reasonable self defence. With two objects so beneficent intertwining themselves like a wreath of laurel into all the operations of the Institute, it does not require any supernatural degree of perceptive power to behold the victory inscribed on her banners, in the unveiled future, all along the line.

But this happy realization most ardently wished for by all true sons of the soil, can only be attained by the wisest utilization of the powers of the institutes. The noble charger bounding along the highway accomplishes nothing of benefit to man, without a rider upon his back. A machine is valuable only as it does effective work at the expenditure of a minimum of power, and all the power expended in driving it to no purpose is not only lost, but is a positive waste. Apply this test to the individual Institutes as at present carried on, and we will find a considerable waste of power.

The Institutes now in existence embrace a membership of about 5000 at the present time, why may they not include a membership of 50,000? At present the average in attendance at the meetings is about 100 Yeomen, why may it not be from 300 to 1000? In Michigan and Wisconsin meetings are not unfrequently held when 1000 Yeomen and upwards are present. Now what is done by Americans in Wisconsin and Michigan, I am quite sure may be done by Canadians in Ontario.

The same talent that will suffice to instruct an audience of 50 farmers will suffice to instruct an audience 500 of the same, and the gentlemen whose services are secured will spend not one whit more time, nor will they require to travel one mile further in the performance of the latter duty, than in discharge of the first. In this we behold a waste of expenditure of power that cannot be justified providing it can be remedied, and I hold that it can. If one were running a mill capable of grinding one thousand bushels a day, but for the lack of generating power in the boiler, he would not be considered a wise man who neglected purchasing another boiler. But if at the same time he could attain his purpose with the old boiler, by a more judicious distribution of power, through the adoption of some simpler and cheaper devices of power conservation, he would be more unwise still if he neglected to do so. Now this is the case precisely with the working of the institutes. Modification is wanted in the mode of working them that will lead to the utilization of the energy that is now expended upon them to the greatest possible extent.

It is not encouraging when two or three capable speakers journey it may be two hundred miles each to attend an institute meeting to find about fifty farmers only in attendance, and some of these deplorably behind time, as is sometimes the case, when, by a different method of convening it, the attendance would have been at least three hundred.

Again while an inefficient secretary never succeeds in getting a good meeting, an inefficient chairman is just as likely to spoil one, so that some regulating influence is evidently necessary to correct those evils.

The remedy we propose is this; let some live man of good executive ability and good mental

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qualifications and attainments be appointed to take charge of supervising the practical work of the institutes in all Ontario. Let him arrange for holding one or two, two day meetings in every riding in Ontario having an institute during the winter season. Let this be done through co-operation with the secretaries of the institutes, and by the adoption of a system of advertising not necessarily expensive, that will secure a large attendance. Let him secure one of two or more persons of superior attainment in the various lines of practical agriculture to address those meetings in a regular succession, calling in at the same time all the aid of local talent that may be found available and of use. Let him either preside as chairman at those meetings himself, unless satisfied that the duties of the chair will be efficiently discharged by the ordinary incumbent. In this way there need be no difficulty in giving instruction to five farmers, for every one who receives it now, at ordinary meetings, and at no greater financial outlay; for those who speak or read papers at the meetings will not have much expense in journeying between the various meetings which may be called contiguous and in regular succession, until the whole country is thus covered; enough will be saved in this way to pay the salary of such superintendent, with the incalculable additional advantage of having reached a much wider circle, with the enlightening rays of a higher agricultural knowledge.

According to the present arrangement, the success of the meeting viewed in the light of attendance, relies almost wholly with the secretary and president, though affected some by the apathy or earnestness of communities. Where these officers are live men the meetings are sure to be measurably successful in their attendance, but where tainted with fossilism in any degree, they are just as sure to be ill-attended. Now if large and enthusiastic meetings may as well be convened as dying and dead ones, it is surely to the interest of the institute to secure the former, and to render impossible the convening of the latter. The staff of the Ontario Agricultural College has rendered good service to the institutes in the days that are gone, and President Mills deserves every praise for the unsparing efforts he has put forth in directing the labors of the professors in this respect, and in co-operating with institute workers throughout the province to render the influence of the various meetings more far-reaching and more beneficial. But I am much mistaken if the time has not come for a change of relations here. While the work of the professors thus engaged had been very beneficial to the institutes, their absence from lectures during three weeks of January is undoubtedly injurious to the interest of the students of the college. From the 23rd of December to the 23rd of January the students must remain at the college or somewhere else and pay their board, or go to their homes; oftentimes quite impracticable, owing to distance, during which time they are wholly without lectures. Would it not be better in every way to have only say ten to twelve days vacation at the close of the Christmas term, and lectures go on in January, closing at the end of May and not at the end of June as at present. The month of January is beyond all comparison ahead of June for purposes of study, and the month of June is just as far ahead of January for purposes of farm labor. Let the students then be allowed to attend lectures and to assist with the work of the farm in June, when help is so much required at home. The professors cannot so effectively instruct the sons of our yeomen if called upon at the same time to engage in the work of instructing the parents elsewhere, the students themselves are almost to a man opposed to it, and they are surely in a position to judge correctly as to how their interests are affected.

This need not of necessity involve the loss of the assistance of the professors at the institutes. One of them may be detached for three weeks at a time for institute work, and relieved by another at the end of that time, and this may be continued until all have spent an equal amount of time at institute work as at present, with the difference that the work would extend over the whole winter, and that there would be no serious break in the lectures. The institutes would lose nothing and the college by working the professors only a little harder would undoubtedly gain.

It is my firm conviction that the time is fully ripe for action in this matter, and especially so as the institutes are placed under a director, for then it will not be so necessary to divert the attention of the college professors from the great work they have on hand.

Mammoth picnics may be held in connection with the various farmers institutes in the month of June, when the matrons and the maidens of the farm are present with their lunch baskets in a beautiful grove on a lovely day in June, there is sure to be a crowd whether of those who admire them or of the hard hearted stoic fraternity who professedly do not. Somehow they do get there and thus an excellent opportunity is afforded of dispensing useful information, though it should be dealt out in tiny morsels in nice little speeches, and the chance is too good to lose of swelling high the membership on the principle of the badge selling and badge wearing system. Why may not the liberated professors of the college attend these meetings quite frequently if my proposal is adopted in reference to the change of the college term.

Seeing then that we have a machine in the farmer's institutes beautiful in simplicity, and tremendous in its capabilities, an instrument that if properly managed is capable of dispensing rays of educational light to every farmer in the land, and of drawing a protection robe long enough to encircle all the farming interest in the province, and of forging a protective shield behind which every one of them may flourish in safety without danger of molestation. Let it be the aim of every delegate at this convention, and of every farmer in the province to have it so perfected in its workings that it will accomplish a maximum of achievement at the expenditure of the minimum of effort.

Let the necessary changes be made only after due deliberation, but let them be made if they are necessary, without any of that foolish veneration for the things that are, simply because they are. We have a splendid machine if but rightly controlled by a judicious engineer. Let the right man be sought out and placed in charge of this the most magnificent agricultural locomotive in all Canada. Give him the right of way and remove all obstructions so that just on time he may bring this express train of progress to the desired station.

Messrs. Pringle, Glazebrook, McPherson, Ewing, Clarke, Mahon, Laidlaw, Graham and Martin took part in the discussion on the paper read by Mr. Shaw as follows:

MR. A. PRINGLE—That the work of the farmers' institutes ought to be rendered more effective is certain. That the farmer is not as wide awake to his own interests as other classes. The farmer is not only loaded above all others with taxes and sundry other burdens, but is ignorant as to how to get the load off his back. This he has mostly yet to learn, and the learning must precede the unloading, for mark you till the farmer himself casts the burden, no politician or philanthropist will lift it from his back for him. That the institute is one of the places to learn the process. At last we have got to this laudable length, to organize and meet like other classes. We are only seeking light and our natural economic rights. In conclusion would move the following resolution, seconded by Mr. Aylesworth, that,

Whereas the farmers' institutes of Ontario are primarily intended to benefit the farmer, not only by promoting their material interests and prosperity, but by enlightening them and thus bringing them up to the business level of other classes; and whereas the surest and shortest road to this goal is through the knowledge and enlightenment which result from investigation and discussion of the various questions, economic as well as agricultural, which are vital to their success and prosperity; and whereas one of these vital and fundamental questions, the question of commercial liberty, which is not a question of paltry partyism, but a great economic question, is now practically excluded from our institutes, which is a pusillanimous confession of weakness on our part; therefore, be it resolved, that while it is right and proper to exclude partisan politics from the institutes, no pertinent, economic or fiscal question vital to the farmer ought to be excluded, but, on the contrary, ought and shall be eligible for discussion and investigation by any institute which may so decide by a majority vote.

PRESIDENT FULLER—I oppose this motion as calculated to produce dissension deleterious to the institutes, as the discussion of Commercial Union was evidently aimed at. If Mr. Pringle does not withdraw the motion, I will be compelled to rule it out of order, as not pertinent to the question before the meeting,

This motion was finally laid on the table.

Moved by W. F. Clarke, seconded by H. Brown, that the thanks of the institute be given Prof. Shaw for his paper, and that the suggestions embodied therein be referred to a committee of five, to be nominated by the Chair. Carried.

Messrs. D. Derbyshire, D. M. McPherson, A. H. Pettit and W. F. Clarke were then appointed by the president as said committee.

Moved by E. Morden, Welland, seconded by John A. Law, that in the opinion of this institute the work of the several institutes would be much more effectively carried on by the appointment of a suitable person to supervise their work with a view of increasing their effectiveness, who shall devote sufficient time to this work and whose salary shall be provided by the Ontario legislature. Lost.

EVENING SESSION.

Business resumed at 7:30 p. m., President Fuller in the chair. Mr. L. Woolverton, editor of the Canadian Horticulturist, Grimsby, read the following paper on

CO-OPERATION OF THE FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION OF ONTARIO AND THE FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

For some time past I have been advocating closer sympathy and co-operation between the different branches of work which come under the care of the Department of Agriculture. And now that we have a Minister of Agriculture who takes a deep interest in furthering every movement which fosters the prosperity of our Canadian farmers, what may we not hope for in the near future? Nothing, I am sure, short of the elevation of the farmers to a position of affluence and respectability, equal to, and perhaps surpassing, that of those who are engaged in the so called learned professions.

One of the grandest movements of the day for accomplishing this end is the establishment of farmers' institutes for the education of farmers in scientific agriculture. The Agricultural College is doing a grand work for the young men of Ontario, but to diffuse education still more widely we must carry it to the very doors of the farmers and meet them where they will feel free to question what is said, if it is not in accord with their own experience, and this is exactly the work of the farmers' institutes.

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The Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario has been trying to accomplish the same end, but, of course, limiting its attention to the cultivation of the garden and orchard and the care of the wood lot. For thirty years we have been meeting two or three times a year in the various parts of Ontario, collecting and disseminating useful knowledge on these subjects, and I claim that in that time we have stored up in our annual reports and in the pages of our useful journal, the Canadian Horticulturist, a vast amount of useful information, just such as every farmer should be in possession of. Yet, although we have grown in numbers from a membership of about a dozen to over two thousand, still our two or three meetings each year are wholly inadequate for the rapid diffusion of that knowledge among those who are not members of our association, and who consequently do not receive our report.

I am aware that many persons will argue that the farmer should devote himself entirely to some one line of agriculture, and to that only. I grant that such a plan might tend to bring about the highest state of perfection in the agricultural profession, yet mixed farming will often be found the most expedient, giving returns from one department when others fail. I claim that in very many cases farmers are so situated that it would pay them, from a purely commercial point of view, to take up some one line or other of fruit culture. Personally I would prefer that all farmers would wholly avoid this line of industry, and leave it wholly to those who, like myself, have devoted their whole farms to fruit culture, and make a specialty of it only. No doubt that, on the whole, such a division of labor is most advantageous; farm crops and fruit crops often come in conflict and one or the other must suffer neglect. Nevertheless, a farmer may be situated near a good market for fruit purposes, or he may have ground so well adapted for garden crops that an acre devoted to small fruits, vineyard or orchard, may net him more ready cash than twice or thrice that amount of land in an ordinary field crop. In such a case, all that he lacks in order to make the most of his ground is to have reliable information concerning the best varieties to purchase, the proper culture of the plants or trees, and the best method of handling and marketing his fruits.

Even for home uses only, I claim that every farmer should have a fruit garden of liberal extent, so planted as to give a bountiful supply of fresh fruit of various kinds for the use of his family in every month of the year. This is no impossibility, for it is quite possible to have luscious pears on the table for dessert during nine months of every year, and small fruits in succession for at least four months of the summer, and by a proper selection of varieties to have the health-inspiring grape, fresh and plump, during eight months of the year.

Now such particulars as these are those to which our Association has given the closest attention and which we are endeavoring by every means at our disposal to make public, in accordance with the object for which it was originally formed, as is set forth in article 3 of our constitution, which reads as follows; Its objects shall be the advancement of the science and art of fruit culture by holding meetings for the exhibition of fruit and for the discussion of all questions relative to fruit culture, by collecting, arranging and disseminating useful information, and by such other means as may from time to time seem advisable.

It has been proposed to us that we dispose of at least one meeting of our Association proper, and in place of it that our directors, of whom there is one for each agricultural division of Ontario, should attend at least three meetings of farmers' institutes each year and give a paper or an address on such subject in practical fruit culture as shall appear best suited to the locality in which the meeting is held.

These subjects treated by our best practical fruit specialists, and accompanied by the usual cross questioning, at some fifty or sixty meetings of institutes every year will, I am sure, go toward advancing the fruit industry of our country, an industry the importance of which may be imagined when we note that according to the last report of the bureau of Industries, the value of the fruit exports of Canada in the year 1887 alone amounted to the sum of nearly \$1,000,000.

I may add that this plan has been experimented upon in a small way during the past month, and our directors, as far as they have gone out, have been most heartily welcomed by the farmers, who have taken a very lively interest in the subjects of their discourses.

Signed, L. WOOLVERTON,
Sec. F. G. A. of Ontario.

DISCUSSION ON MR. WOOLVERTON'S PAPER.

PRESIDENT FULLER—We ought to be very thankful to Mr. Woolverton, representing the Fruit Growers' Association for his kindness and consideration in coming forward and reading this paper.

W. F. CLARKE, Guelph—It is a lamentable fact that the great majority of farmers do not even raise fruit enough for their own family use. There are many reasons for this, but the chief reason is want of information on that subject. Many seem to despise fruit growing. It is worthy the attention of all farmers of any extent. I hope to look forward to the time when farmers will not only have enough for their own use but to put on the market.

DONALD CAMPBELL, Nelson—I may say I have neglected fruit. I grow enough for our own use but I know the majority of farmers pay very little attention to fruit growing and I think it would be better if we paid more attention to it. The thanks of this institute are due Mr. Woolverton for his very able paper.

PROF. SHAW—I think the Fruit Growers' Association has set the other associations a good example in the interests which they have shown in this matter.

Moved by W. F. Clarke, seconded by Donald Campbell, that the thanks of this meeting be tendered to the Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario for their offer of assistance in the work of the farmers' institutes, as set out in the paper of Mr. L. Woolverton just read, and this meeting desires to express their thorough appreciation of the benefits that will accrue to the farmers' institutes by such assistance. Carried.

PROF. SHAW—Mr. A. McD. Allan, who was to read a paper on Railway and Ocean Freights, will not be present owing to sickness in his family.

STATUTE LABOR REFORM.

This paper was read by Mr. James Cochrane, Kilsyth.

It affords me much satisfaction to learn that my paper of last year on Statute Labor Reform has proved of so much value in calling forth discussion and directing the attention of the farming community to a system which for many years has been a great source of loss to our country. In my last paper, I pointed out that the statute labor tax is intended to be paid with a hundred cents on the dollar, just as the tax for township or county purposes is intended to be, and actually is paid. Nevertheless the payment of this tax under the statute labor system of the present day is unjust to the honest worker and injurious to all. The result on the whole being that the cash collected from the people for making and maintaining the roads of our province is nearly as large a sum as if statute labor tax was imposed. The question which springs to our lips are: what is the cause, why is it so? The answer I have to give, after years of observation and experience is, small statute labor divisions, and, in consequence, too many road makers called overseers of highways, or pathmasters. I have reason to believe that every member of this institute that has to do with township municipalities will agree with me that the above is a correct answer to the question. It is when we come to the remedy that difference of opinion arises, and my only fear is, that like too many doctors prescribing for a sick patient, it may die of too much remedy. One man says abolish the statute labor tax altogether. My answer to that man is, the law has given that power to municipal councils years ago. Another man says commutation will cure it. Levy a commutation tax of 50 cents per day. My answer to that is, you have all the legislation you want. Councils can commute for any sum not exceeding \$1 per day. Still another says there should be an inspector to go around and see that every pathmaster does his duty. Well, your township council may appoint their engineer to go around on a tour of inspection, but it seems to me like locking the stable door after the horse is stolen. I have received a great many letters on the statute labor question since we met here last winter, and in nearly every case the law has already provided the remedy sought for. So broad in fact is the law in reference to statute labor that it may be commuted, compounded or abolished as I stated last winter. I am not quite sure but the law will permit of the scheme I proposed being carried out. I refer to the Municipal Act, R. S. section 521, sub-section 5, which provides that the council of every township may pass by-laws for regulating the manner and the divisions in which statute labor or commutation money shall be performed or expended. The only fear I have is that away back 40 or 50 years ago there may be an act which says S. L. divisions shall not be more than 1000 acres, just as eight hours was fixed as a days statute labor in 1844. I told you last year that commutation was evidently not the proper remedy, else it would have become general long ago, and for this reason a large majority of the farming community prefer to pay as much of their taxes in work as they can; and why, I ask, should this privilege be taken from them? For in seasons when crops fail or prices are low it is a great boon to a majority of farmers to have as much taxes paid in work as possible, more especially is this the case in townships which are paying heavy bonuses on railways. The honest man who gives value in labor for the full amount of his statute labor tax should not be compelled to pay cash instead of such labor, simply because others through a system which permits the careless or indolent to pay the tax with labor worth 25 or 50 cents on the dollar. Retain that which is good and amend the system of payment in labor, so that as much value will be obtained by its payment in money. The scheme proposed by me last winter will accomplish that object. I proposed that no statute labor divisions be of less extent than 10,000 acres and one road commissioner to each said division. This would give about 600 days to each commissioner, who could manage a gang of men and teams sufficient to put in 25 days' labor each day, and would give him 24 days continuously employed in road making; this, in a very few years, would make every road in the division good and no money tax would require to be levied for the maintenance of roads, except to pay the commissioners or for bridges. The work should be done between the 1st of June and 10th of July. It should also be the duty of the commissioner to see that the act relating to Canada thistles is enforced, also all township by-law in reference to fences on road allowance, obstructions on roads or bridges, to impound all animals running at large contrary to law, or the by-laws of the township. This is the officer that is so much needed to give effect to the by-laws of municipalities which for many years have been dead letters. It has been truly said of them that they were prohibitory laws which did not prohibit. Picture to yourself what the roads in many places are now, and what they would be if every man was compelled to put his fence on the line, his wood, stone and rubbish on his own property, as no doubt would be the case under commissioners with clearly defined duties.

Gentlemen, these are a few of the benefits and blessings that would be derived from the adoption of the system I propose. The most important are to be enumerated. For instance, township councils could pass by-laws approved of, if necessary, by a competent engineer, requiring all roads to be of a specified width between ditches and a standard grade for the road bed; thus uniformity would be secured and in a few years our roads would be a thing of beauty and a joy forever, and not only would we have more beautiful and better roads, but a saving would be effected yearly of from \$500 to \$1000, according to the size of the township.

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I would respectfully suggest that a committee be appointed of men that have had experience with the statute labor law as at present enforced, with instructions to draft a memorial to the provincial legislature now in session, praying the law in reference to statute labor be defined and consolidated in one act, and repealing all other acts. If the scheme that I have proposed meets with the approval of this institute, let the committee be instructed to memorialize the government to that effect. If any other scheme is approved of, let the committee be instructed to use it.

I will conclude by moving, seconded by Mr. E. Morris, that the executive committee be instructed to draft a memorial to the Legislature of Ontario. Praying that section 521, sub. sec. 5 of the Municipal Act be amended to read; but no such division shall be of less extent than 10,000 acres, that the council shall appoint one road commissioner for each such division, that all statute labor shall be performed under said commissioner and in any part of the said division, which he may direct, but so that every person so performing such labor will have an opportunity to do so at the place nearest their residence at which work is being done at the time such labor is being performed; also that a sub. section be added making it the duty of the road commissioner to enforce the act in reference to Canada thistles and other noxious weeds and all township by-laws in reference to highways and bridges and to impound all animals running at large contrary to law or the by-laws of the township, and further that the law in reference to statute labor be consolidated in one act and all other acts repealed.

This motion was finally lost.

DISCUSSIONS ON MR. COCHRANE'S PAPER ON STATUTE LABOR REFORM.

PETER MAHON, S. Wellington.—The clause in the statute to which Mr. Cochrane refers may be very clear to him but it is not clear to me. I think it is presuming too much to ask us to vote on that subject without clearly defining what those subjects really mean. I am not in favor of tinkering with the present system inasmuch as the last one is a very great failure. The township council are the proper supervisors of the road. It is a very unjust law that the laboring man on the assessment roll, who is working for a man that is on the roll for \$500 and up to \$750, has to work 2 days' statute labor, whereas his employer is only obliged to work 3. Again, the man on the assessment roll for \$1000 works 4 days, which is twice as many as the man who owns nothing. In the Township of Puslinch, County of Wellington, we have 58,000 acres and 120 pathmasters. 46 did not make returns and they represented 1,450 days' statute labor, and the council does not know whether the work was properly done or not. The legislature should abolish the pernicious system of making statute labor compulsory. We should not insist upon the legislature obliging municipal councils to appoint commissioners.

PETER SIMMONS, Lobo.—In our locality we want no change. All you want is a good live man in a road division and you will accomplish it.

D. McEWING, Drayton.—I do not see any necessity for adding to the expense and creating more municipal officers. There is a strong feeling at the present time that we are over-governed, that we have too many officers and that we ought to decrease instead of increasing. I do not think the people are educated up to that point that we would be justified in adopting that resolution proposed by Mr. Cochrane. We do not want road divisions in larger divisions. I oppose it because it is wrong in principle; it either goes too far or it does not go far enough.

E. MORDEN, Welland.—I think that the verdict all over the province is that this system of 50 years trial has proved a failure. In New York State they have a system very much like ours and they are getting tired of it. I shall vote for Mr. Cochrane's motion, if nothing else turns up, because it is a move in the right direction.

McFADDEN, Brussels.—I think it would be better to commute the statute labor to 50 or 75 cents a day.

R. RIVERS, Walkerton.—The present road system is a failure.

T. LLOYD JONES, Burford.—The paper presented by Mr. Cochrane is a very good paper, I do not agree with him in all but I do in part. I think it would be a very wrong act for any legislature to pass an act making it imperative on Municipal councils to do away with statute labor. Each Municipal council should have the power in their own hands to act as they think proper in this matter; they are the proper judges to know whether the roads are kept in the proper order or not.

THOS. A. GOOD, Brantford.—I do not think it would be fair to make the new townships pay money out of their pockets when they have not got it. Every municipality should have the power to do the work as they like. In Brant, an old settled county, it would be better to commute, but it would not be fair for all counties.

D. P. MCKINNON, Co Kent.—Until the people are sufficiently educated and the

public become sufficiently informed on the advantages to be derived, instead of performing this work in the different sections, to hand the money over to the pathmasters and let them employ the men and superintend the work or pay it in to the township treasury; I do not think there can be a law passed that is likely to give more general satisfaction than that which is on the statute at present.

Moved in amendment by Mr. McFadden, seconded by Mr. S. Copeland, that in the opinion of this institute, statute labor ought to be abolished and the labor of the roads be placed on a par with all other public works in the township. Lost.

Moved in amendment to the amendment by Mr. A. Pringle, seconded by Mr. Jno. Bogart, that for the present the law remain as it is, Carried.

Moved by Mr. P. Mahon, seconded by Mr. C. C. Webb, that in the opinion of this meeting the abolition of the poll tax in townships should be made permissive with municipal councils. Lost.

Moved by Robert McMardie, seconded by W. F. Clarke, that the meeting do now proceed to nominate a committee of five to whom shall be referred any agricultural matters that may in the opinion of this meeting require legislative enactment, and that such committee shall report to the institute what action should in their opinion be taken in such matters. Carried.

Committee appointed—Robert Wilkie, J. B. Aylsworth, Thos. Kells, Jno. Dryden, M.P.P., D. McPherson.

The nominating committee make the following report:

PRESIDENT.—N. Awrey, M.P.P., Binbrook.

VICE-PRESIDENT.—T. Lloyd Jones, Burford.

SECRETARY-TREASURER.—A. H. Pettit, Grimsby.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Thos. Kells, Vandeleur.

Prof. Thos. Shaw, Guelph.

M. Bogart, Napanee.

G. Copeland, Hespeler.

S. Kitchen, St. George.

Vallancy E. Fuller, Hamilton.

Col. Campbell, Nelson.

Jas. McEwing, Drayton.

David Barr, Renfrew.

D. Derbyshire, Brockville.

AUDITORS.—James Laidlaw, Guelph; Thos. A. Good, Brantford.

Moved by D. Derbyshire, seconded by F. Kosmack, that the report be now received and adopted. Carried.

MR. FULLER.—Mr. Awrey, you are president. I have received the hearty co-operation of the gentlemen present up to the present time and we are not ashamed of the work we have done. We have put as our motto, Progress Forward, and we have endeavored to follow it to the best of our ability. In committing it into your hands I feel I am leaving it in the hands of one who will carry out the objects we have in view. I ask at the hands of the members of the institute the hearty co-operation and the good will shown to me in the past and I hope that in the future the same harmony may exist between the chair and the body that has heretofore existed. (Applause.)

N. AWREY, M. P. P.—This is an honor that was to me totally unexpected; therefore I appreciate it the more. I am well aware that I am succeeding a gentleman who has devoted very great abilities in furthering the interests of the agriculturists of this province. It is true that I had a hand in the forming of the first institute in the province. I believe I was one of those who waited upon the government and asked that a grant be given towards the Central Farmers' Institute of this province, and I look upon this as most emphatically the farmers' parliament and I ask at the hands of my fellow farmers of this province, who really are the representatives of the farmers of this province, the same hearty support, the same courteous attention, the same ability to be displayed as has been in the past in discussing the questions which are of interest to the farmers of this province. I feel, as the president has felt in times past, that the farmers have too long been patient beasts of burden, they have been bearing largely the burdens of the Province of Ontario, they have been very patient under those burdens. All other classes of the community seem to have an organization. When they desire anything at the hands of the On-

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tario Parliament or the Dominion Parliament they take concerted action. Farmers seem to be a class of the community who are simply individuals with no adhesive properties. For the first time in the history of the farmers, you have to-day an organization that commands attention and respect from the hands of every legislative body. I expect in discussions that may take place hereafter you will exhibit a large degree of intelligence, and when you are discussing the question that you will speak to the point. I would suggest that our speeches be short and that they be full of ideas and fewer words, and when we discuss a question it should be one that is of some importance. That when we make a proposition, let it be a proposition that we can feel we need and something we have not had.

D. DERBYSHIRE.—I congratulate you upon the honorable position you are in. The committee had a hard task in selecting officers for this institute from the large number of intelligent people here. We thank the members for passing this report without comment.

The committee to whom was referred President Fuller's address reported as follows:

That the address of President Fuller was a masterly effort, alike worthy of the man and the occasion, every paragraph, every sentence pregnant with thought and suggestions that, if thoughtfully treasured and acted upon, cannot fail to have an elevating influence upon the future of the Ontario farmer and his calling.

Your committee would therefore recommend that the hearty thanks of this institute be tendered to the president and that a special committee be appointed to prepare a suitable address expressing our appreciation of the great services that he has rendered to this institute and to the cause of agriculture, and have the same tastefully engrossed and presented to President Fuller as a memento of his connection with this institute.

Moved by Mr. Cowan, seconded by Mr. Shaw, that the report of the committee be adopted. Carried.

The committee appointed to prepare the address to the retiring president were Messrs. Thos. Shaw, J. Laidlaw, W. Cowan, President Awrey.

The committee on credentials made the following report:

We examined those credentials handed in to us, but we did not receive a very large number of them.

The committee on new business made the following report:

We, your committee on the above, would respectfully recommend the following questions, viz.:

1. Market fees, introduced by E. Morden, Welland.
2. Legislative grants to central exhibition.
3. Toll gates a nuisance.
4. We deem it in the interests of the public to ask the Ontario legislature to enact such laws to further the protection of existing forests and to assist farmers in planting shade trees and wind brakes, introduced by Mr. M. Pettit, Grimsby.
5. Would it be advisable to increase the number of institutes in each county?
6. Would it not be advisable to make it compulsory to teach agriculture in rural school sections.
7. The naturalization of land, introduced by Mr. Gibson, of Huron.
8. That whereas at the last session of the Local House an amendment to the Municipal Act was passed exempting all live stock from taxation on the farm; be it resolved that Parliament be asked to further amend the act by exempting all agricultural implements of whatever kind used on the farm.

The report was then adopted and that so much of it as refers to legislation, to be referred to the committee on legislation.

The meeting adjourned at 10 p. m. to meet at 9:30 a. m., Wednesday.

WEDNESDAY MORNING SESSION.

Business resumed at 9:30 a. m., President Awrey in the chair.

Mr. G. F. Copeland, Hespeler, read the following paper on

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

In opening up this subject let us ascertain what we desire to produce, then we will look at the material to be used, and the process of manufacture will follow in natural order.

We wish our farmer to be a man in every sense of the word, "a good square man all round."

We must realize that he is a producer, that is, it is his business to take the raw material, which nature commits to his care and by utilizing the forces which she places at his command, he is to involve therefrom the basis of the supply of food and clothing for humanity.

He must know the limits of his calling so that he may concentrate his forces on his own affairs, while at the same time he must be intimately acquainted with the trades connected with and growing out of his own so that he may calculate to a nicety the effects of supply and demand in order to secure the just results of his labor, and yet not infringe on the rights of his neighbors.

He must be conversant with all the professions and callings that thrive or exist in his own country, inasmuch as the bulk of the legislation thereof by virtue of his numbers and wealth rests legitimately upon his shoulders; nay, more, as the legislation of a nation should guard its international rights, he ought to make the world the field of his study, and mankind the subject of his meditation.

Now let us look at the material from which this product is to come. I fancy I hear it said, "that's easy." You have it in the bright eyed, clear headed, light hearted, strong, robust boys that surround our firesides. That may be the case, and again it may not be, inasmuch as that is just the material from which to make an M. D., an L. L. D., a D. D. or in fact any other worthy individual, and each one of these is keenly bidding for the boys and it becomes a very serious question as to whether our farmers shall be selected from this choice stock or from the culls that are found to be too slow to have a chance elsewhere.

We cannot nor would we prevent the other callings bidding for our boys, but it is manifestly unfair that farming should be placed at a disadvantage in the contest and if such be the case we will work up the refuse, the sweepings, into farmers and the output will be the shoddy of the community.

The result of the selection in the past has certainly been against the farm, and if it can be shown that the field is a fair one, we must be content, but if not, we demand fair play and equal opportunities for our profession.

Our present school system is certainly calculated to educate the boys off the farm. Let any intelligent man, who knows nothing of the results of our school system, examine it in detail and I venture he will unhesitatingly assert that the whole plan is well arranged to turn out literary and professional men, but he will find nothing for the farmer.

We, as farmers, are very largely responsible for this element of weakness in our system, which to my mind is due in great measure to our determination to have cheap teachers, there being but comparatively few schools which offer salaries sufficient to maintain a family and provide for old age. This has had the effect of making teaching a mere stepping stone to some other profession, and the majority of our schools are taught by persons whose minds are occupied with roseate views of what they shall do in the future in some other line of life. These glowing ideas are very contagious, mistaken and one-sided though they be, and our boys become fired with like purposes and enter the High school only to be thrown into a whirlpool of similar thought and the companionship of young people, not one of which has a true conception of the hard work and disagreeable drudgery of the positions to which they aspire. Now add to this fact that during all this formative period of their lives agriculture has had no chance to present her claims, in fact her very existence has been ignored.

Again, the transient stay of these persons in the professions has made it expedient for them in self-interest to oppose the placing of agriculture on the list of subjects for our schools, as the preparation to teach it efficiently must of necessity consume a good deal of time. Now we should demand that the qualifications for teachers be such as to prevent its being used as a means of attaining some other profession, and we ought to be willing to pay the increased salaries necessary to remunerate teachers for their outlay in preparation. When we do this we will entrust our boys to men of mature mind who will take calmer views of life, and agriculture will have a fair start and will be abundantly able to hold her own in the race.

Another reason why many boys select against the farm is the fact that too many of our farmers seem to live in the past and move in old ruts, and are generally out of harmony with the spirit of the times, all of which is repelling to young men who are progressive and ambitious. Brethren, let us wake up and bestir ourselves. Let us see to it that we are abreast of the times and cultivate a spirit of progress and enthusiasm in our calling, such as will fire the hearts of our boys with a love for farm life and it will become enjoyable and attractive. We must begin to educate our farmers in very early life, in order that we may attain the best results. We, as parents, ought to begin the work as soon as observation and inquiry manifest themselves in our children. They naturally observe all that comes within their reach and at once begin to ask questions in order to extend their knowledge, and it is just here that we need to be willing to foster the spirit of inquiry and impart the information in such a way as to cultivate a love for nature and a desire to know the principles which govern their actions. Parents who treat their children thus will find they study the habits of plants, animals, birds and insects more readily than books, and often to greater purpose. This study of nature should be continued as our children enter the public school and no school can be said to be fully equipped which does not furnish ample opportunity for the study of the plants, insects and birds common to the gardens, farms and forests in its vicinity.

I know that I will be met with the objection that the boys will destroy the flowers and plants and frighten away the birds, but my own experience has been quite different. When you get them interested in these things they will suffer no interference with or injury to their friends, and these things do become not only their acquaintances but friends, and you have eliminated the destructive disposition from their natures.

Farmers should also have the same opportunities for securing higher education that other professions have in our High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. A course of study should be found there which would give our boys, and girls too, a good knowledge of botany and entomology, zoology and

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geology, while it completed their studies in English and mathematics. Such a course would leave the Agricultural college free to do its legitimate work in deeper researches in the natural sciences, and by a full course of experiments determining the correct application of the laws of nature to practical agriculture. As to the requirements for such a course as this; we should need a text book on agriculture, treating the subject in a popular style, imparting direct truth yet free from all technicalities and that "dry as dust" manner so common to books of this kind. It should ignore agricultural chemistry, and have no acquaintance with botany or entomology when dressed up in their scientific clothes and "Latinized walking sticks."

We should have to enlarge some of our school grounds, get them suitably laid out and planted with shrubs and trees, with plots for the cultivation of flowers and plants. Room would be needed within doors for a museum for the preservation of specimens of plants and insects. And then we would require teachers prepared to teach the subject in an intelligent and interesting manner.

Now let us look at the objections to such a course. Two of them will be raised by the farmers of this province. 1st, it is too expensive. 2nd, it is useless or at least unnecessary. In answering these we will reverse the order. We have a fine school system which is doing a great deal of good work but it is clear that it is not giving the majority of our youth the best preparation for their Life work, and any thing which tends to increase usefulness to the bulk of the people is at least advisable. No one will deny that a clear brain and well informed mind is necessary to the right direction of our muscular effort and the information should be along the effort. It is often economy to increase our present expenditure in order to obtain full returns from the whole outlay and that is our position in regard to education in this province. The increase, however, would not be so serious as many believe. Enlarging the smaller grounds is a small matter, and many of them ought to be enlarged or called small school pens. The specimens could be arranged in cases around the school room, relieving their nakedness and rendering them pleasant and attractive and furnishing a great deal of instruction.

Were the materials provided the scholars could make and fill them under the direction of the teachers and the work would be a decided advantage to those doing it. The equipment of the High schools would be somewhat more serious, but the expensive part, that of a laboratory for the proper teaching of agricultural chemistry, would be left to the college at Guelph, and is already provided and we can surely afford to keep it running.

Another objection is that it will be adding to an already overcrowded public school course. I would answer it would perhaps be well to crowd some of the present subjects out altogether, and again it provides a recreation that would be helpful rather than injurious. It will be urged that our teachers are not prepared to teach the subject, as no means of preparation has been furnished them. This will very soon work its own cure. Another difficulty in the minds of many is the procuring of a suitable text book. Well, if Providence will spare the life and strength and the Government ease the pathway of Prof. Shaw, even this mountain might vanish into air, as he has already clearly outlined the contents of such a book. But in my opinion the work must be the product of several minds, each a specialist in his own department.

Now I believe the Minister of Education and the Government would be only too glad to give us such a course, because from their standpoint they are well able to see the advantage to the country of an educated yeomanry. But with the farmers themselves objecting it is a very difficult problem indeed, and it is just here that the institute has a grand work before it, to remove the prejudice, enlighten the darkness and arouse the patriotism of Canadians until they will secure every possible advantage to the rising generation.

DISCUSSION ON THE PAPER ON AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

JAMES LAIDLAW, Hamilton.—I am in sympathy with Mr. Copeland's remarks in general and I do not see why education and labor should be antagonistic. The educated man ought to be and I think will be the intelligent working man. Education in the High schools has had a tendency to withdraw from the agricultural ranks the best of our young men. I know of no better way to give our young men education than through our Agricultural College, Guelph.

A. PRINGLE, Lennox.—I have so much objection to the school system that I never send my children to school. I believe home education is the best and the parents are the natural educators of their own children. The school system as it is to-day is calculated to lead the best of farmers' sons into the professions and other walks of life, and the fiscal system is to take what is left of the country.

J. SISSONS.—Our colleges and schools, after we run the boys through a certain course at common schools, are the great feeders of professions. When our boys leave the farm they very seldom come back to the farm. I don't know that it is altogether the fault of the educational system of this country that is the cause, but there is something that lies under the surface deeper than that. The remuneration derived from the farm seems to be almost too meagre in this world of high living and expenditure, and that is one of the principal reasons why our boys leave the farm. Many of the farmers cannot give their sons farms worth \$4000 or \$5000 and they say I want you to stay and work on the farm, and the question is how much he can make. The hired man on the

farm can get \$240 a year and board himself. This is inadequate to keep our best men on the farms. There is nothing before them in the way of making money, to get wealth as farmers. If we introduced the proper text books to show that there is something in farming we would keep them. We must teach the farmer's sons that there is respectability in farming. If we pull together, and do not have quite so much politics in everything we do, some of our sons may look forward to the time when they may fill the honorable positions of this country.

JAMES McEWING, Drayton.—I think that our educational system is a good one. If we showed a little more intelligence we would refrain from lamenting on the fact that so many of our boys take prominence in what is called the learned professions. So soon as we place the profession of farming in a position so that it will compare favorably in the matter of profit with the other professions there will be no difficulty whatever, in regard to the boys leaving the farm and going to the other professions.

H. GLAZEBROOK, Simcoe.—The school system of this country is at fault in this, there is a smattering of too many subjects. I think every boy should have a good, sound, English education.

REV. W. F. CLARKE, Guelph.—Our young men are not so much drawn from the farm as they are driven from the farm. The great mass of farmers educate their sons to dislike farming. I believe this institute consists of the more intelligent class and not of the ignorant behind the times class who so carry on farming, so regulate things at home as to disgust their sons of farming and drive them from it. You have got it in your own hands to make farm life attractive. There is no necessity now for farmers and their sons to be drudges on the farm, we have labor saving machines. Our farmers would be more progressive if they farmed more by the book and less prejudiced against book farming. There are thousands of farmer's wives who are literally murdered by over work. There is no use of your speaking that the education given in our schools or Agricultural College will mend this matter, it has got to be mended at home. Instead of having one Agricultural College, we ought to have two or three in the country, and ought to have an institution in every county, and the time will come when we shall have such an institution in every county throughout this province.

MR. CRAIG.—I agree with Mr. Copeland that an education does not merely consist in being able to say words of learned length, but fitting one to conduct the ordinary business of life. The tendency of the present system is to conduct the boys off the farm and I have experienced that myself. It is a disgrace to Canada that such a large rural population should be so represented in the rural schools in the subjects taught. It is not a question of what knowledge is worth, but the question is which is the most worthy of the farmer? The Agricultural College is largely literary in its work and when a boy goes there he should have the first principles of farming practically ground into him, for that is not the place to have the practice carried out. He should not be taught plowing there but should get that on his father's farm. I think Canada is slack in respect to agricultural colleges. In Germany they have over 200 of them. In Hesse, Darmstadt, there are 8 public colleges and a number of schools of forestry and gardening. Germany is the leading country of the world in agricultural science and literature.

D. KENNEDY, Peterboro.—The public school system should be made more efficient and it should not be necessary that you should send the boy to a college in order that he might be sent to an agricultural college.

D. DERBYSHIRE, Brockville.—The greater part of this discussion has been in the right direction. You must be sick of hearing people in this grand province of ours saying that we have not the best educational institutes in the country. Our system of education under the present minister of education is probably the best and most enlightened that there is in the country. I feel proud of the position which we occupy as an educational province. We ought not to say that the young men from the farm should not leave the farm. Why debar them from taking positions in our country. First put the boy through the common school and high school and then he has found out what will suit him, then let him choose a profession. If a farmer send him to the agricultural college there he will receive three or four years training for his particular calling, and then we will have an educated class of farmers who occupy their proper places in our legislature or any other they may be called upon to fill. Let us beautify our homes and make them second to no home in the country.

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THE PRESIDENT.—Doubtless you have all been interested in the able paper and the interesting discussion. While I admire the candour in which the gentlemen have discussed the question I regret in a measure they have taken false ground. No man is a worse man for having an education. It certainly broadens his view and makes him a better man and better able to cope with the difficulties of life even though he be a Master of Arts or a B. A. and even a Doctor of Divinity. Some of the best men we have and the most progressive men engaged in agriculture are learned men, men who go between the plow handles the same as we all do and take hold of the pitchfork and do their share of manual labor; several of the most progressive farmers in the world to-day are men who have graduated at our universities. I think we would not be any the worse farmers if we had the education of one of the professors of the Toronto University. We could bring as much intelligence to bear on the subject of farming as we can bring to bear now, and I am glad to see that the Minister of Education recognizes the fact that there has not been a text book introduced in our schools for the education of the farmer. I believe he has already instructed one to be prepared by two of the ablest men and practical farmers in the Province of Ontario, one is Prof. Shaw and I believe the other Prof. Mills, that will soon form part of the curriculum of our common schools.

Then we should make our homes the pleasantest spot on earth for the boys and as soon as we do that and give the boys an interest in what they are doing then they will close around the hearthstones and be the yeomanry of this province.

Moved by G. E. Mowbray, seconded by James McEwing, that this meeting desires to place on record its approval of the paper read by Mr. Copeland and strongly recommend that the Minister of Education do place a text-book treating on agricultural subjects in our rural schools. Carried.

Moved by R. Martin, seconded by George Murray and resolved that action is called for to curb the action of illegal combines instituted for the purpose of raising the prices of agricultural machinery and supplies and to centralize the manufactures thereof causing great inconvenience in the matter of repairs and otherwise. Referred to committee on new business.

Moved by Mr. Wm. Whalen, seconded by Mr. Gorwell, that the Permanent Central Farmer's Institute in session assembled apply to the Local Government now in session and ask them to amend the law now in force so far as it regards fines on patrons of cheese factories for the adulteration of milk, that instead of such fines or a part thereof being paid to the inspector or the informer and the balance being paid to the county or township treasurer; that the amount so imposed or settled, as the case may be, be paid to the treasurer of the factory in which such fine or settlement originated. Referred to the committee on legislation.

ADDRESS BY THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE.

HON. CHARLES DRURY.—Mr. President and gentlemen of the Permanent Central Farmers Institute I am very much obliged to you for your kindness in asking me to say a few words to you.

I congratulate you on your choice of president and I venture to predict under Mr. Awrey's presidency your operations will be eminently successful to yourselves and I believe to the interests which you represent. I see around me old friends who were associated with me in the Dominion Grange 12 or 13 years ago, and I must congratulate you gentlemen on the composition of this body. You represent the farmers of the Province of Ontario and I am glad to believe that your opinions whatever they may be will receive due consideration from the legislature of the province. The time has long since past when the opinions of the farmers of this province can be treated with indifference or contempt. All classes in this country recognize the importance of agriculture and I don't hesitate to say that you have here gathered together in this room, which I see is altogether too small for your proper accommodation, and which I hope will be remedied before you meet again, the most important representative body in the Dominion, and that whatever may be your opinions as represented by this meeting they will receive great consideration at the hands of the legislature of the province now assembled in Toronto. Every one recognizes that as a result of our improved educational system that we have now not only an independent and spirited but a well educated yeomanry and the opinions of the farmers are to-day reviewed in a very different way from what they have been in years past. I am glad to be able to tell you a fact, of which doubtless you are well aware, that the meetings of the institutes over the province this year have been eminently successful and from the reports I have received lead me to believe that there has never been a year during the past 4 or 5 years in which this institute work has been carried on where the meetings have been so well attended. There has been a greater willingness on the part of the leading farmers to come forward and to give their experience for the benefit of their fellow farmers.

In looking forward to the work which we hope to accomplish in this province in the way of farmers institutes I may say to you gentlemen I am asking the legislature to give us a little more money

this year. I believe that there is not a gentlemen in the house that will for a moment object to the increase that I am asking and I believe it is recognized that money spent in this way, if judiciously and wisely spent, is always money well spent. It will be for you to say how that money shall be spent and I have every confidence that you will spend it wisely.

I again express my pleasure at meeting you and seeing that this is the most largely attended meeting you have had, and I trust when you meet 12 months from now it will be even more largely attended; and that in this beautiful city you will be able to get a more comfortable and a more commodious room. (Applause.)

Adjourned at 12 till 2 p. m.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Business resumed at 2 p. m., the vice-president, Mr. T. L. Jones, in the chair. Mr. James McEwing, Drayton, read the following paper on

COUNTY COUNCIL REFORM.

I must say that I feel a certain amount of trepidation rising to address this Convention upon the important subject of County Council Reform. 1st. Because to judge from the remarks of quite a number of the delegates present, who addressed this Convention yesterday upon the statute labor question, it was evident that a large percentage of the delegates had had a lengthened personal experience in the municipal and county councils and know a great deal more of the difficulties and defects of the present system of municipal government by county corporations. 2nd. Because I probably occupy a rather different position in regard to the question than some of the others who have preceded me do in regard to their subjects.

I have not any particular pet project to advocate which would be a cure-all for the existings evils of the present system. Our riding Institute, thinking that this is a live question, concluded that it would be a good subject for discussion at the Central Institute meeting. Under the rule as laid down by the executive of the central institute, our institute, appointed me as the delegate to introduce this subject. This is the cause of my appearing before this convention to open this discussion upon the important question of county council reform.

The proposal to make any radical change or the reform of the present system of municipal government by that time-honored institution, the county council, will doubtless beget considerable opposition. This opposition may arise in part with those who are naturally averse to change of any kind, and think that the order of things which obtained their fathers time is sufficient for them. In part from those parties who occupy positions of comparative distinction or hold situations of profit under the present order of things, and in part and perhaps the greater part will arise from those municipalities which possess an undue power in the management of municipal affairs under the existing conditions perhaps in bygone years, when our municipal system was devised under the then existing conditions, it might be a necessary and equitable arrangement to each of the municipal meetings to form a county corporation for the management of certain matter relating to municipal government. Under the conditions existing at the present time the county corporation is rather a cumbrous and costly mode of transacting that business. Public opinion is becoming pretty well educated as to the necessity of a change of some kind in regard to county councils. As a result of this feeling witness the following resolution which was adopted by the Huron county council at the session held in January last.

Moved by Rollins, seconded by Graham, that in the opinion of this council representation in county councils is excessive. That such legislation should be provided, as to lessen representation; and that this motion be referred to the special committee to report on at the June session as to the best means of attaining this end.

Partly owing to the increase of population and partly to the extension of the franchise, county councils have become so large that they are unwieldy as well as costly, and as the present tendency of legislation is towards extending the franchise yet further, they are likely to become even more so at no distant day. County corporations are simply a co-partnership of certain groups of towns, villages and townships formed for the purpose of managing certain business connected with municipal government.

The principal business now devolving upon the county corporation is connected with the expending of certain moneys for certain purposes, said moneys being derived from and collected by the municipalities connected with the county corporation. Bearing these facts in mind it is only reasonable to expect that the parties to this partnership would possess a representation at the board of management in proportion to their interest in the business which is to be transacted. Such, however, is not the case, as the present system operates very unjustly towards the rural municipalities in regard to this. In some counties the urban municipalities elect from one-fourth to one-third of the members of the county council, and contribute only about one-tenth of the funds required to run the county municipal machine. Take the counties of Huron and Wellington as an illustration of how the present system operates in regard to this matter. Huron comprises 25 municipalities, sending 49 representatives to the county

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council. 13 represent urban and 36 represent rural municipalities. In 1887 the amount levied by county corporation, \$60,727.05; amount contributed by urban municipalities, \$4,912.40; amount contributed by rural municipalities, \$55,814.65; average amount for each urban representative, \$377.87; average amount for each rural representative, \$1,550.40.

Wellington comprises 21 municipalities, sending 38 representatives to the county council. 12 of these represent urban and 26 represent rural municipalities. Amount levied by county corporation, \$58,491.87; amount contributed by urban municipalities, \$5,292.66; amount contributed by rural municipalities, \$53,199.21; average amount for each urban representative, \$441.05; average amount for each rural representative, \$2,046.12. This would certainly appear to be a very one-sided partnership, and it is rather surprising that the rural municipalities here submitted to this state of affairs for the length of time they have.

The county councils being admittedly too large at present, there would be very little propriety in proposing to increase the number of representatives for rural municipalities in the county council so that they would possess representation in accordance with their interests. This would intensify one of the evils of the present system. There would also appear to be great difficulties in devising any scheme for the lessening of the number of representatives sent by urban municipalities. Such being the conditions of affairs and those difficulties in regard to amending the present system being admitted, it would appear that to a great extent the present system of municipal government by county corporations had outlived its usefulness. Perhaps it would be as well to reform it out of existence and to replace it with something that would be as efficient and more fair to the parties interested and much less costly to the taxpayer. If the county council as a factor in municipal management was entirely obliterated, a large amount of the business devolving upon and occupying the time and attention of the county councils would disappear with it, as that business is brought into existence wholly by and through the present system. If county councils as a means of managing municipal matters is dispensed with, it will be necessary to make some other provision for the transaction of the municipal business now devolving upon the county corporations. In so doing many difficulties will doubtless be encountered, but it is improbable that there will be any of sufficient magnitude to prohibit success in the undertaking. As a means toward that end the following suggestions are offered along the line in which it would be reasonably safe to proceed. 1st, that the provincial government take over the entire business connected with providing, maintaining and managing the gaols, courthouses, registry offices and such other offices and institutions as are provided and maintained almost exclusively for the use of government officials and used by them in the discharge of their duties as government officers.

Under the present system the county council occupy an anomalous position in regard to those offices and institutions. The council is expected to provide the funds necessary to build and maintain those offices and institutions, but they at any time are liable to be dictated to by the government or government officials as to what they shall or shall not do in regard to the maintaining or managing of those offices and institutions.

The provincial government being the party who is in reality responsible for the efficiency of those institutions it would certainly be more satisfactory, and better in every way for the government to assume control of the entire business connected with those offices and institutions. 2nd, that the management of the greater part of the county roads and bridges be returned to the municipalities in which they are situated. Quite a number of counties have expended a large sum of money, some years ago, in building roads to what was then the market towns. Those were almost a necessity at that time to those desiring to reach the market with their produce, and it was probably right and proper that the county as a whole at that time should bear the expenses connected with the undertaking. Now that the county is pretty well supplied with railways and market towns, and owing to the location of those market towns, those county roads are in many instances of very little importance to any but those which live adjoining them. The greater number of tax-payers of the county hardly ever use them and it is certainly an injustice to compel them to maintain those roads for the benefit of those who do.

Under the present system of management certain municipalities are compelled to contribute annually to the fund for maintenance of those roads a sum more than double the amount annually expended by the county for that purpose in that particular municipality. If the management of those roads was returned to the municipality in which they are situated and so maintained by the tax payers who are benefited by them, this would put an end to the injustice now perpetrated upon those parties who have to pay for but do not use those roads. The municipal councils are in a position to transact the business connected with the maintaining of those roads much more economically than the county councils do.

3rd, that two commissioners be elected for each riding of the county. That those commissioners hold office for a term of two years. That one of the commissioners for each riding be elected annually. That it be the duty of those commissioners to attend to and transact such county business as it might be injudicious or unwise to relegate to either the provincial government or to the local municipal councils. That those commissioners be paid at a fair and proper rate for their time expended in attending to that business.

The remark has been made and often repeated that this country is almost governed to death through possessing too many grades of legislators. These, varying in degrees of prominence and importance, form the ambitious municipal councillor up to the ancient politician safely ensconced in the Dominion Senate. This is often coupled with the remark that as a people we are also tremendously taxed. There may be more truth than poetry in both statements. If such is the case and any suggestions here offered in regard to improving our position in relative to both counts of the indictment should lead to any result, they will not have been offered in vain. By adopting such a scheme as is herein but faintly outlined, or if a better one should arise upon the ruins of this one, a considerable amount would annually be saved to the tax-payer and that would be accomplished without having to make a sacrifice of efficiency on the altar of economy.

Moved by Mr. Bogart, seconded by Mr. Allen Pringle, that the discussions on the papers hereafter to be submitted to this convention be limited to one hour. Carried.

Moved by Allen Pringle, seconded by J. B. Aylesworth, that while it is right and proper to exclude partizan politics from the institutes, no economic or fiscal question vital to the interests of the farmer ought to be excluded; but on the contrary ought and shall be eligible for discussion and investigation by any institute which may so decide by a majority vote. Carried.

DISCUSSION OF PAPER ON COUNTY COUNCIL REFORM.

Mr. BINNEY, Durham.—Each county should be divided into three parts and let each part be represented by three commissioners, and let each commissioner have a term of 3 years alternately.

Mr. GLAZEBROOK.—I say make the term longer, whether 3, 5 or 7 years, as each annual election disturbs business.

M. SISSONS—It will be a mistake if you attempt to move in the direction of wiping out county councils or of taking from them the power which they possess in reference to court houses and gaols. It is necessary for the county council to have control of the expenditure in connection with a great many of the county offices surrounding the court houses. I cannot give my consent to take from each municipality its right to be represented at the county council. I will say that our numbers are too large and might be reduced and give those municipalities that are represented according to the basis of equalized assessment on all money grants a proxy vote and if you do that you meet the difficulty.

Messrs. McFadden, Kosmac, Helan, Cochrane, Mowbry, Derbyshire, Col. Campbell and others spoke. Four or five of them advised the institute to leave council reform alone and confine its attention to agricultural matters. The question of abandoning the principle of representation by population roused diverse opinions.

Moved by H. B. Jeffs, seconded by Charles Lawrence, that the institute recommend to the legislature that county councils be composed only of one reeve from each municipality who shall vote on all questions of finance in proportion to the assessment of such municipality. Lost.

Moved in amendment by J. Laidlaw, seconded by W. L. Gordon, that the question of municipal reform be laid over for further consideration. Carried.

Moved in amendment to the amendment by Mr. Aylesworth, seconded by Mr. Allen Pringle, that in the opinion of this institute it would be better to let the county council remain as they are composed at present. Lost.

Address by Prof. William Saunders of the experimental farm at Ottawa.

He said that last autumn 150 acres of new land had been cleared at the farm and planted with 250 varied cereals to test their earliness, and the results would be given to the public as soon as analyzed and tabulated. These results, however, could not be expected in a very complete state for 2 or 3 years. He spoke of barnyard manure and said that experiments with corn and wheat showed that manure in a fresh or green state produced the best results. He spoke in a hopeful tone of the Nova Scotia farm. And any farmer applying could have any of the editions published as to experiments by writing to Ottawa.

Moved by W. Cowan, seconded by G. Murray, that this institute desires to express its sincere thanks to Prof. Saunders for his explanation of the experiments and work that is being done on the experimental farm at Ottawa, and express our pleasure that the department of agriculture have established experimental stations throughout the country thereby giving us the advantages of experiments that could not be carried on by private individuals. Carried.

Mr. S. Hanna ex-warden of Brandon, Manitoba, and Mr. Edwards, M. P., Ottawa valley, spoke of farming in that country. Mr. Edwards alluded in flattering terms the work of the experimental farms, and that the government grant to these farms should be three or four times what it was.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PAPER ON FARMERS' INSTITUTES.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND GENTLEMEN DELEGATES OF THE CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE IN SESSION:
We, your committee appointed to consider and report on the paper read by Prof. Shaw on Farmers' Institutes, beg leave to submit to your consideration the following recommendation;

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That a director of farmers' institutes for the Province of Ontario be appointed by the Minister of Agriculture or the provincial government, whose duties shall be to organize and systematize all requisites for the successful carrying on of institute work in the province, the starting of institutes in all sections of the province where they are not now in operation, the appointing of time of holding meetings best calculated for convenience of speakers and saving of expense, the assisting and supplying of necessary speakers needed to supplement local talent, the encouraging of all local talent to give expression of their theoretical and practical experience on the public platform, the systematical and economical providing of all necessary printing, and whose duty shall also be to co-operate with the executive of the Central Farmers' Institute pertaining to all matters for the promotion and welfare of institute work.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

(JAMES LAIDLAW, Chasrman,
(WILLIAM F. CLARKE.

Moved by James Laidlaw, seconded by David Nicholl, that the report of the select committee appointed to consider and report on Prof. Shaw's paper on farmers' institutes be adopted. Lost,

Moved in amendment by George Binnie, and seconded by George Leversage, that the report be received and the matter of appointing a general director be laid over until next meeting of the institute. Carried.

Some discussion took place on the report; the fear was expressed that the director being appointed by the government would be considered a political officer, and thus politics would creep into the institutes. Also that the present arrangement by which the professors of the agricultural college are available to address institutes is sufficient.

Prof. Shaw again explained the object of the proposed director. He believed the time was coming when such an official would be necessary. He held there would be economy in the appointment, in the increased efficiency of the work of the institutes. The day was coming, if it had not come, for the appointment and he did not wish to push it at that meeting.

The amendment was then carried.

Moved by D. Campbell, seconded by Geo. Copeland, that in the opinion of this institute it would be in the interests of agricultural education to have the lectures at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, continue during the month of January and close at the end of May, and the services of the professors at the institutes secured, one at a time during the period of institute work, if such an arrangement can be made after conference with all the parties interested, and that the said resolution be forwarded to the Minister of Agriculture.

The mover, seconder and Prof. Shaw supported the motion in brief speeches. The latter pointed out the advisability of the change. January was the best month in the year for study, and there was no month in the year when students were of more service on the farm than in June.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Prof. Fletcher, of the Ottawa Experimental Farm, then addressed the meeting. He urged the farmers to send samples of grain to the farm to be tested, and they would receive a reply within a week. He described the process of testing and that it was of great value to the farmer. They found that frosted wheat was not good for seed. He spoke of the waste caused by injurious insects. Also dealt with the question of forestry.

EVENING SESSION.

Business resumed at 7:30 p. m., Mr. T. L. Jones, vice-president, in the chair.

Moved by Mr. W. J. Patterson, seconded by Mr. Thos. Henderson, that, in the opinion of the members of the Wentworth farmers institute, it would be in the public's interest for the Ontario legislature to enact such laws as would encourage the protection of existing forests and further assist farmers in planting shade trees and wind brakes.

Mr. M. Pettit pointed out the rapidity of the deforesting of the province and

advanced arguments showing the disastrous effect of this prodigality with Ontario's forests, and pointed to European countries as showing the profit of tree-planting.

Messrs. Murray, Fitch and Morden urged the importance of the subject and heartily supported the resolution.

On motion the resolution about tree planting was referred to the legislative committee.

Prof. Saunders gave a short address on forestry. The importance of forests in their bearing on agriculture was, he stated, very great. Inundations of countries had resulted from the denudation of the soil. The soil at the roots of trees was of a spongy nature. Forests acted as reservoirs, so that copious rains were retained and given off little by little from the spongy soil. This was one reason for retaining forests. Another was the influence exerted by trees on winds. There was nothing more effective as a wind break than the limbs of the trees. Then in regard to the induction of rain falls, the quantity of moisture rising from trees into the atmosphere was almost incredible. That vast amount of moisture induced a condition of atmosphere that was conducive to rain falls, and there was no doubt that forests had an effect in inducing rain falls. So they would see that forests equalized the distribution of rain falls and increased rain falls during seasons when rain might be most important for the ripening of crops. Several questions were asked the Professor as to the best kind of trees to plant, &c., which were answered in the Professor's usual able manner.

The Hon. Mr. Drury spoke of the endeavors the government were making in the encouragement of the preservation of forests. Mr. R. W. Phipps was in the employ of the government in this behalf and he would shortly issue a report of a trip he had made through Europe; this report any delegate present might have sent him, if he would make application for it.

Prof. Saunders was again called on and talked on the subject, "How the fertility of the soil may be maintained." He referred to the causes wearing out the soil and the natural feeders of its fertility. The best fertilizer was barnyard manure. Sheep manure and swine were best, horse third and cow ranked last, although the value of the manure was dependent to a considerable degree on the composition of the food. The value of liquid manure he impressed upon his audience and urged them to make arrangements for its saving. Of the relative worth of green and rotten manure, he said experiments had shown that there was nothing to be gained by rotten manures. The importance of artificial fertilisers was acknowledged and while they were not beneficial with all crops there could be little doubt of their value on worn-out land. He concluded with a reference to the question of the sowing of frozen grain. There could be no doubt that badly frozen grains sown in the strong fertility of the Manitoba soil had grown good crops.

The Hon. Mr. Drury asked if any delegate present had experimented with the making of manure out-doors and under cover. In erecting the new buildings at Guelph it was his desire to have all the good things that were known to be good things, and, with a neatly turned compliment to the intelligence of the personnel of the institute, he asked them for the benefit of their experience.

Moved by Mr. W. F. Clarke, seconded by Mr. Geo. Leversage, and resolved that this institute hails with much pleasure the presence of Prof. Saunders, director of the Dominion experimental farms, and Prof. Fletcher, of the entomological and botanical departments; that it has listened with great interest to their addresses, and desires to express its appreciation of the work which is being done by these gentlemen and their associates, under the auspices of the Dominion government, for the promotion of agriculture. Carried.

The meeting then adjourned at 9:30 p. m.

THURSDAY MORNING.

February 7th, 1889.

The president in the chair.

Moved by Robert McMardie, seconded by C. M. Simmons, that a committee of

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five be appointed to report at this sitting of this meeting on the amount of salary to be paid to the officers of this institute, said committee to be named by this meeting. Carried.

The following committee were appointed; Mr. McMardie of Huron, Mr. Brown of Paisley, Mr. Laidlaw of Guelph, Mr. Simmons and Mr. Mowbray of Oshawa.

Mr. Dryden, M. P. P., read a paper on

THE DESIRABILITY OF DISCONTINUING TOWNSHIP SHOWS.

I suppose it will be an acknowledged principle that if the public funds are applied to any object that people have a right to inquire whether such object is in their interest and whether a corresponding benefit is being received. On this plea it may be admissible to ask what is at present being accomplished by the township shows. Most of us are conservative in dealing with matters of this kind. We are so accustomed to the annual gathering, so accustomed to the regular awarding of prizes, that we expect as a matter of course it will still go on and do not trouble to enquire whether any special good is the result.

Without at present attempting to decide whether these shows should continue to receive the fostering care and encouragement of government or not, I will say that in the Province of Ontario we have at present far too many competing exhibitions. For the masses of the people these smaller shows have degenerated into merely holiday seasons, affording the young people a means of recreation without the slightest evidence that they have any educative influence whatever. Indeed I shall not be speaking aside from truth when I say that all our exhibitions of these days partake largely of this nature. I do not know that we ought altogether to object to this feature, provided it be not carried to excess and that too much time be consumed which should be directed to other important matters. These shows are held at the season of year when in our climate time is precious, when the wasting or frittering away of two or three weeks means an actual loss in the next season's crop.

Doubtless these exhibitions are important but not of sufficient importance to warrant any unnecessary waste of time. Some of us go to one place and some to another, and still others try to go to all held within reasonable distance. Would not better results be reached by all agreeing to attend the same place, by concentrating our efforts and massing our forces more than at present. One or two days only would be consumed in this work instead of several as at present. Better prizes could be given, attracting larger exhibits, affording more minute and thorough comparison of products, and in every sense producing, so far as the general public is concerned, a better result. The larger town and city exhibitions, while catering to this demand for a place of recreation, do also furnish an opportunity for those who may wish to investigate certain lines of exhibits with the special view of acquiring information. At the smaller shows this opportunity can not be afforded because of the meagre display to be found there.

One difficulty experienced in dealing with this subject is found in the fact that the conditions in the different sections are so unlike. Time was when absence of railways or gravelled roads made it very difficult in all sections to reach places very far distant, so that, call your show township or county, it was after all merely local in character and represented the production only of the locality where it was held. In some sections this is all changed, twenty miles is now much more easily traveled than were five in that day. In other places nearly the same conditions described above now exist. If the country could be separated into two classes and so grouped together as to be, at all similar, then I should say in those sections where good roads and railways have brought the more remote portions together the township show has served its purpose, and its usefulness is gone, but in the other sections to discontinue it would leave large areas of country without any means of comparing their products whatever. Again we find in some counties, owing perhaps to the peculiar location of the county town where the county exhibition was held or it may be to the exertion and enterprise shown in the management of the township show, that the latter exceeds in variety and extent of exhibits, and in educative influence, the show for the whole county. In fact it becomes in that case the show of the county, while the county show itself degenerates into a merely local exhibition. These are anomalies which cannot be prevented but which make it difficult to say that that which is larger and better shall be dispensed with and the lesser still continued. After all the real point to be discussed and decided is whether the public money shall be divided into small sums to be competed for in the small groups convened in the township or whether it may not be given in larger sums to be competed for by those representing larger areas, thus bringing together a greater and more comprehensive exhibit and manifestly affording a better educative and stimulating influence to all concerned. There are those who argue for the continuance of the township show, because as they allege they cannot successfully compete at the larger exhibitions. Take away the annual township exhibit and you deprive them of the hope of obtaining a prize at all. Many of these persons have never discovered that any other object is sought than the awarding of prizes to a few competitors in the locality. They overlook altogether that the object in granting the public money in the form of premiums is so to educate and stimulate that the general production of the whole shall be improved and increased in value. If the granting by government of a small sum of money which may be expended so as in time to double the value of the animal product of a township or county, or increase the quantity and quality of the grain production, then the whole population must be interested in this expenditure, for it is adding material wealth in which all will ultimately share.

Now let us ask ourselves, does the present system accomplish this end? Is it not true that in many parts of the country very little interest is taken in the township show? You may secure comparatively a good exhibit, but, if because a larger is to be seen in an adjacent village, town or city, people refuse to attend, of what avail is your labor and expense? It may be that the bringing together, even in the small township groups, the different classes of animals is a factor in stimulating towards the production of better stock, but in most cases the prizes are so meagre that none are seen except those that happen

to be found in the immediate neighborhood and, as is too often the case, the same animals and articles presented by the same owners are seen year after year, until the very sameness destroys all interest.

I cannot omit to mention here some figures presented to the public in the last issue (Feb. No.) of the Farmers' Advocate. In reply to a circular said to have been sent to some of the leading farmers in each county asking for an expression of opinion as to the desirability of continuing the township show as at present constituted, answers had been received from nearly 200 persons. Of these 137 are in favor of continuance and 57 against, showing, so far as the answers have been received, a very large majority in favor of the township exhibition. One is naturally curious to know just who compose the two classes. Personal interest, or what is believed to be such, becomes the guide with many persons. The gathering together of a crowd however small is considered the essential thing with some who live in the village or town where the show is held. The opportunity for gain in whatever trade may accrue is too valuable to be lost, and so both hands will be held up for its continuance. Now it is not personal interest merely that we should consider in dealing with this matter but the public interest. Whatever will bring the greatest good to the greatest number should receive our approbation.

May I not suggest that in the main all our efforts have been directed towards the production of better live stock. A wide field is still open in this regard. But is it not worth while to encourage and stimulate more than in the past a better system of general husbandry? I know we have given prizes for bags of grain, samples of roots &c., but it is a lamentable fact that two bushels of prize grain may be and is sometimes picked kernel by kernel from among the veriest filth and rubbish. Is it not true that the finest exhibits in small quantities are sometimes presented by the most slovenly farmers whom no one would care to copy. Twelve prize winning roots may be shewn by a man who would be ashamed to exhibit his acres. Some favored spot heavily manured and constantly watered produces in excess of merit the average field crop of his less favored neighbor who may after all deserve more to be copied than the former. In a word what I wish to say is that our present plan is not the best to educate and encourage a better general production.

Suppose then that the public money now used by the township shows should be devoted through the county organization to giving prizes to be confined to each township for not the best bushel merely but for the best field of grain; not for the best dozen roots but for the best acre, compelling each man in making entry to give the manner of preparation for his crop for the purpose of publication in connection with the award of prizes. Suppose in addition prizes were given in each township and to be confined to such for the best managed farm, not allowing the winner to compete in his township a second time until after a fixed period, but allowing him to come into competition with the various townships of his county or group of counties, as the case may be, at stated periods. Would not the effect be marvelous in improving the general product of the farm? Would not the different farmers in each township vie with each other for this honor and so be stimulated to thoroughness in cultivation and carefulness in management, and would not the townships generally be filled with a laudable ambition to produce the best farm in the county?

Would not the very best results accrue from beginning to notice the best managed and best cultivated farm which would be within reaching distance to be seen and copied by all? One objection to the commendable operations of the Agricultural and Arts Association concerning this matter is the fact that so large an area is taken in in each group that the winning farms have never been seen by the vast majority at all. I confess that in my own district, although I travel about a good deal, I have never yet had the privilege of viewing the winning farm. We all know the powerful influence of an advanced, enterprising farmer in any community. Some of us could testify what inspiration we have received from witnessing with our own eyes the successful operations of some energetic thoughtful farmer in our neighborhood. When a better crop is seen growing on your neighbor's land than in your own field, self-interest impels you to inquire, how is this? Can I imitate these methods? And so when the imitation begins it is sure to continue, and as certainly as the falling pebble dropping in the quiet waters produces a ripple which ever extends its circle until the furthest shore is reached, so certainly will the influence of this one man continue to multiply itself until the whole community are directly or indirectly benefited. And so, Mr. President, without attempting to tear away this time-honored institution around which our affections gather as we think of past associations, I have suggested what it seems to me would be an improvement with the hope that the one may be dropped for the only reason that something better may be grasped.

DISCUSSION ON MR. DRYDEN'S PAPER.

MR. JAMES LAIDLAW.—I advocate the continuance of township shows on the ground that they form a good school for amateur breeders.

MR. C. LAWRENCE.—The continuance of township shows is not calculated to improve the breed of stock in the highest degree. That which was first class in the township show was only second or third class in the larger exhibitions.

MR. W. B. ADAMS.—I don't think they ought to be abolished. They are good stepping stones to better things. It would be a calamity to do away with them.

MR. BOULTON, Cobourg.—The farmer should have his township show if he pleases. Some townships have joined and concentrated their forces, but to the general principle of concentration I am opposed.

MR. A. C. GRAHAM.—The question to be considered is the largest amount of good to the greatest number. The township show is a benefit to the farmer.

MR. BIRDSALL.—It would be an injustice to do away with the shows in the back

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townships, but in the older parts it would be a benefit. I think they are held more for the benefit of the saloon keepers than the farmers.

Moved by James Johnston, seconded by John Pierson, that in the opinion of this institute the township show has in the past served a good purpose, and it deserves to be encouraged in the future, both by this institute and the government. Carried by 39 to 36.

Moved by Thomas Kells, seconded by D. R. Ellis, that in the opinion of this institute the grant of money from government be increased to riding societies. Carried.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE CENTRAL FARMERS' INSTITUTE:

Gentlemen,—Your committee on legislation respectfully report on the resolution introduced by Mr. Whelan asking to have the statute which imposes a fine on any person that sends impure or adulterated milk to cheese factories so amended that a part of the fine be paid into the treasury of such factory for the benefit of the patrons that in the opinion of your committee such an amendment of the statute would contribute very much to the advancement of the dairy interests of the province. Your committee therefore recommend that the executive committee of this institute take such steps as may be necessary to secure such legislation as will provide that one-half of the fine shall be paid to the factory, one-quarter to the treasurer of the corporation, and one-quarter to the informant.

Signed J. B. AYLESWORTH,
Chairman.

Toronto, Feb. 6th, 1889.

Mr. C. Lawrence, Collingwood, read the following paper on

PURE BRED SIRES.

By request of Prof. Shaw I have consented to prepare a paper on Pure Bred Sires, a subject that I am not able to handle with satisfaction to myself, but knowing the ability of this convention, it may be the means of furthering our greatest source of wealth and pleasure.

It is admitted that the sire is one half of the well bred flock or herd, and if so amongst the thorough breeds how much more so will he be when crossed on grades or scrubs; as it is a law of nature that like begets like. This shows us how careful we ought to be in selecting our sires; but it is a lamentable fact, and greatly to be deplored that many of our farmers will use a scrub and pay 50 cents for his service, while a pure bred sire can be had for \$1. In the present system of improved farming, there is such a connection between the cultivation of the soil and stock raising that the farmer who attempts to do the one without the other will make a poor figure at farming, or as the saying is, be below par. Consequently, if the fertility of the soil cannot be successfully retained without the stock raising, it will be of the greatest importance to feed such animals only as will produce the best results with the least possible expense; and how to accomplish this end should be our object and in no other way can it be done more successfully than by using pure bred sires.

A pure bred sire must be bred in a straight line with an object in view for many generations, so that we will be able to transmit his good qualities to his offspring; consequently pedigree must be taken into account. Now, financially speaking, what effect will this have on the revenue of this country? To illustrate it we will suppose a good grade 2 year old steer will cost \$30 and a scrub \$20, making a difference of \$10 in favor of the grade. There are about 1,928,638 cattle in Canada and say one-fourth are pure bred or good grades, what will the loss to the province be? It simply means \$14,464,790 lost by keeping scrubs, and it is generally admitted that a scrub will eat as much as a good grade, and when fattened fit for the butcher, the difference is fully one half. Now with these facts staring us in the face what are we to do? Would we not be looked on as having no regard for our fellow-men, if we would not try and provide a remedy, and the first thing we should do is to get rid of all scrub sires. How this can be done, I cannot say, but I would suggest that our government take the matter into consideration and make it a crime punishable by law to collect or charge a service fee for an inferior bred sire. It has been said to charge a license for all sires. This would do all right if nothing but pedigreed sires would compete. Some say what business has the law of the land to interfere in what kind of a sire I use? In reply I would say what business has the law of the country to make it compulsory to cut Canada with thistles; or what business has it to say, you must put up one-half of the line fence, or what business has it to say you shall do statute labor? For the welfare of the country this was done, and with the same object in view the other should not be left undone. The same principle that guides the breeder of pure bred stock, is applicable to the common stock of the country, but while every farmer will not be alike successful in stock raising, yet by a careful study of the art every farmer can improve his stock so that they will add greatly to his profit.

* PAPER ON THE ERECTION OF AN AGRICULTURAL HALL IN TORONTO.

BY ALDERMAN G. FRANKLAND.

My whole life has been connected with agriculture and the prime importance of it I have always recognized and have endeavored to impress it upon the authorities in Toronto. The city has had a good deal on its hands and I had to go very gently as to the erection of an agricultural hall. At one time I cherished the idea that I would have been able to build one myself but that has gone by and am therefore obliged to fall back on the city of Toronto, the farmers and the minister of agriculture. I do not think that the farmers should have to borrow a hall to meet in. I have obtained the promise that the old drill shed should be set apart for agricultural purposes as soon as the new drill shed was opened.

I will read some extracts from a letter of mine addressed to the mayor and city council last year. The country is the upland, and the city the inland lake. All the rills of production in the country flow towards the city, and the basin of its volume is only filled to overflowing when these are generous in their contributions. The citizen merchant of Ontario has greater reason for watching the clouds in summer than the farmer, for when the clouds withhold their aqueous treasures the farmer, unless in very extreme cases, has enough for himself, while he may have little or nothing for the merchant. Cripple the purchasing power of the farmer by one-half, and you cut off the merchants gains by one-third, for the urban consumers are but little more than one-third of the population. It follows then, that if the cities of Ontario are to flourish her agriculture must flourish first, and if her cities are not to flourish her agriculture must first languish. The cities with their trade and manufactures furnish consumers for the farmers' produce, and these, the consumers, increase in the ratio of the prosperity of the cities. If the purchasing power of the farmers is crippled through a shortage in price, he will just use so much less of the manufacturer's goods; if through a shortage in crop, he will have so much less to throw into the export arteries of commerce and of the imports he must use in a proportionate reduction.

Toronto has larger interests at stake than any other city in Ontario. It follows that its rulers and people should be more interested in the prosperity of the agriculture of Ontario than the people of any other city in the province. See what Ontario is doing. Of horses she possessed in 1886 no less than 569,649 head; of cattle, 2,018,173; of sheep, 1,610,949; of hogs, 860,125; of poultry, 6,968,915.

The dairy interests of Ontario in 1886, a year of much depression in business, with its 770 cheese factories gave a return of about \$5,892,219. The butter interest, from the 29 creameries exporting, summed up \$166,327, and this is an industry that is scarcely as yet beyond the threshold of its infancy. Relatively, the live stock interest, as compared with grain growing, is making rapid strides, since in 1886 the total value of this industry represented \$107,208,935, and the food grown for both man and beast represented only \$110,764,626, in the former instance a gain of 9 per cent. as compared with 1882, and in the latter a loss of 35 per cent. Again, the total exports of animals and their produce in 1886 from the whole Dominion was \$22,065,433, an increase of 7½ per cent. as compared with 1882, while that of all other agricultural products was but \$17,652,779, a decrease of 43 per cent. Ontario can turn out as good cattle as any state in the United States. In 1875 carcasses of cattle, sheep and hogs were to be had at from 3 to 4½ cents. The American war took off a large quantity of inferior meat. If there was an agricultural hall here you would come oftener and purchase in our city, and you would get ideas there and find what you wanted.

Moved by D. Derbyshire, seconded by Mr. Cochrane, that the thanks of this Central Farmers' Institute are due and are hereby tendered to Alderman Franklin for the deep interest and great energy he has always displayed in an eminent manner in the cause of agriculture, and especially in the erection of an agricultural hall in this city for the use of agriculturists of this great province of Ontario. Carried.

Moved by John Hannah, seconded by G. E. Mowbray, that the executive committee be and are hereby instructed to prepare standing rules of order and procedure for the government of the meetings of this Permanent Central Farmers' Institute, consideration of said rules of order to be the first business taken up by next annual meeting of this institute. Carried.

Moved by F. M. Casselman, seconded by D. Derbyshire, and resolved that the thanks of this Central Farmers' Institute be tendered to the Ontario government for having responded to its desire for the appointment of a practical farmer as Minister of Agriculture, and also for its readiness to foster with paternal care the various agricultural interests of the province. Carried.

Moved by James Cochrane, seconded by T. Lloyd Jones, that a committee, consisting of the president, J. Dryden, M. P. P., and Thos. Shaw, professor of agriculture, be and are hereby appointed to correspond and assist Alderman Franklin in bringing to a successful issue his scheme for the erection of an agricultural hall in the City of Toronto. Carried.

AFTERNOON SESSION.

Moved by Thomas A. Good, seconded by James McEwing, that this institute adjourn at 4 p. m. to meet again the first Tuesday in February, 1890. Carried.

Moved by D. Derbyshire, seconded by M. Bogart, that this Central Farmers'

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Institute do meet at Brockville next year, where proper accommodation and attention can be given this body according to its importance. Lost.

Moved in amendment by James McEwing, seconded by G. E. Mowbray, that this Central Farmers' Institute hold its meeting next year in the city of Toronto, provided the executive committee receive satisfactory assurance that the city of Toronto provide the necessary accommodation. Lost.

Moved in amendment to the amendment by James Cochrane, seconded by H. M. Casselman, that the next annual meeting of this institute be held in Toronto, provided a hall of sufficient capacity for our accomodation is provided, and, if not, that the executive be instructed to correspond with the mayor and council of Hamilton as to the accomodation that can be furnished by that city. Carried.

COMMITTEE'S REPORT ON SALARY.

The committee on salaries beg leave to report as follows :

1. That the members of the executive committee be allowed and paid all necessary expenses, actually incurred, in attending all meetings of said committee.
2. That under existing financial circumstances your committee would recommend that a salary of \$150 per annum be paid the secretary and treasurer.
3. The committee would recommend that the secretary-treasurer furnish a bond to the satisfaction of the president conditioned in the sum of \$1,500 for the due fulfilment of the duties of said office.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

ROBERT McMARDIE, Chairman.

Report adopted as read.

Moved by M. Bogart, seconded by T. Lloyd Jones, that it is the opinion of this convention that the annual grant to the provincial exhibition be withdrawn, recognizing the efficiency of the Industrial exhibition and the many central fairs throughout the province to meet the wants of exhibitors, that the necessity of a provincial exhibition no longer exists, especially since it ceases to pay expenses, showing clearly that its usefulness is gone; that a copy of the above resolution be signed by the president and secretary and forwarded to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture. Carried.

Moved by James McEwing, seconded by George Wright, that in future this Central Institute confine its discussions to such subjects as in the opinion of this institute would require legislation to remedy any condition of affairs complained of, such subjects to be decided by the executive committee. Carried.

Moved by W. J. Roy, seconded by T. L. Jones, that we deem it expedient that subjects of great general interest, of which many have sought for consideration here, be named and a list of them sent to the local institutes for discussion. Carried.

Rev. W. F. Clarke, president of the Bee Keepers' Association, spoke as to the results of that industry. That Canada was one of the best honey-producing countries in the world. That it was an easy thing by the aid of bees for a farmer to increase his income \$100 a year. It was a mistake to think that bees would work for nothing and keep themselves. Farmers should understand bees and get all the knowledge they could about them.

Moved by M. Morden, seconded by that application be made to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to have ten copies of the bound volumes of the reports of the Provincial Board of Agriculture and Arts, and of the reports of the Fruit Growers Association, Dairy Association, Creamery Association &c., sent to every local institute in the province. Carried.

Moved by Rev W. F. Clarke, seconded by Mr. D. Derbyshire, that the thanks of this Central Farmers Institute be tendered to the several railways for their courtesy in granting the delegates attending this Central Farmers Institute reduced fare. Carried.

REPORT NO. 2 OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE.

That they approve of the resolution moved by Mr. Kells, and seconded by Mr. Ellis, asking the Ontario legislature to increase the grant to the riding agricultural societies and beg to report in favor thereof.

We strongly approve of the resolution of Mr. Law, seconded by Mr. Lawrence, respecting the suppression of combines:

The first clause of this report not received, the second clause adopted.

Votes of thanks were tendered to the president, the warden and county council of

York for the use of their chamber, to Alderman Frankland for his efforts to secure same, and to the members of the press.

The meeting then adjourned after the hearty rendering of God save the Queen, at 3:30 p. m. till the first Tuesday in February in 1890.

SYNOPSIS OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

The executive committee met in Toronto July 2nd, and subjects submitted by the local institutes were considered, placed upon the order paper for discussion and forwarded to secretaries of the institutes with a request to forward any other subjects they might wish to submit at as early a date as possible. Rules of Order and Procedure to regulate the business of the annual meeting were considered.

Prof. Thos. Shaw was appointed a representative to confer with President Mills in arranging lectures for the several local institutes in Ontario.

The secretary was instructed to invite the following associations to send one delegate each to the next annual meeting of the Central Farmers' Institute, viz.: the Agricultural and Arts Association, the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, the Ontario Ayrshire Breeders' Association, the Clydesdale and Shire Horse Association, the Dominion Draught Horse Association, the Sheep Breeders' Association, the Eastern and Western Dairymen's Association, the Ontario Creameries Association, the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, the Ontario Bee Keepers' Association, the Dominion Grange, the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, the Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and that the name of such delegate be forwarded to the secretary not later than January 1st, 1890.

The second meeting of the executive committee was held in Toronto Dec. 3rd. Rules and regulations to govern the proceedings of the annual meeting were adopted and will be submitted in the executive committee's report.

The following subjects were added to the order paper ;
Millers' rates of exchange.

Can the exportation of store cattle to Ireland be made profitable?

Is it desirable to cultivate two-rowed barley for exportation to England.

On motion the secretary was instructed to extend an invitation to the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union to send a delegate to the next annual meeting of the Permanent Central Farmers' Institute.

ORDER PAPER.

What can winter dairying do for Ontario? To be introduced by Prof. Robertson, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph; supported by Mr. H. Nixon, St. George.

What effect have combines on the farmer? How can they be remedied? To be submitted by Mr. Clarke Wallace, M. P., Woodbridge, and Mr. J. Bain, M. P., Dundas.

Millers rates of exchange. By James Duncan, Drayton.

The desirability of a universal herd law for the Province of Ontario. Introduced by Prof. Thos. Shaw, of Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Can the exportation of store cattle to Ireland be made profitable? By J. R. Martin, Cayuga.

Is it desirable to cultivate two rowed barley for exportation to England? By T. M. Whitesides, Ellesmere.

Would it be advisable for the Province of Ontario to adopt the Torrens system of land transfer? To be introduced by James McEwing, Drayton.

Is it desirable that the Government introduce compulsory legislation for the consideration of the Ontario Parliament regarding the extermination of noxious weeds on public highways and private property?

Market Fees. Introduced by Mr. E. Morden, of Niagara Falls South.

ELECTORAL
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Brant S.
Brockville
Bruce C.
Bruce N.
Bruce S.
Carleton
Dufferin
Durham E.
Durham W.
Elgin E.
Elgin W.
Essex S.
Essex N.
Frontenac
Glengarry
Grenville S.
Grey C.
Grey N.
Grey S.
Haldimand
Halton
Huron E.
Huron S.
Huron W.
Kent E.
Kent W.
Lambton E.
Lanark N.
Lanark S.
Leeds S.
Lennox
Lincoln
Middlesex N.
Middlesex W.
Middlesex E.
Monck
Norfolk N.
Norfolk S.
Northumberl.
Northumberl.
Ontario N.
Ontario S.
Oxford N.
Oxford S.
Peel
Peterboro E.
Peterboro W.
Prince Edw.
Perth S.
Perth N.
Renfrew S.
Russell
Simcoe S.
Simcoe W.
Simcoe C.
Stormont
Victoria E.
Victoria S.
Waterloo S.
Welland
Wellington
Wellington
Wellington
Wellington
York
York

LIST OF FARMERS' INSTITUTES IN ONTARIO,

WITH SECRETARIES FOR THE YEAR 1899.

ELECTORAL DISTRICT.	SECRETARY'S NAME.	POST OFFICE ADDRESS.
Addington	J. B. Aylesworth	Newburgh.
Brant N.	Henry R. Nixon	St. George.
Brant S.	Thomas A. Good	Brantford.
Brockville	Bethuel Loverin	Athens.
Bruce C.	William Bowes	Pinkerton.
Bruce N.	John Douglas	Tara.
Bruce S.	James A. Lamb	Walkerton.
Carleton	R. Serson	Antrim.
Dufferin	George Island	Orangeville.
Durham E.	W. H. McCallum	Dale.
Durham W.	Benjamin Werry	Bowmanville.
Elgin E.	J. C. Dance	Kingsmill.
Elgin W.	Daniel Black	Iona Station.
Essex S.	D. W. Canfield	Kingsville.
Essex N.	N. J. Clinton	Windsor.
Frontenac	Alexander Ritchie	Inverary.
Glenarry	W. J. McNaughton	Lancaster.
Grenville S.	W. H. Thompson	Pittston.
Grey C.	J. L. Graham	Vandeleur.
Grey N.	Thomas Gordon	Owen Sound.
Grey S.	George Binnie	Bunnagan.
Haldimand	Charles Walker	Cayuga.
Halton	William Clements	Milton.
Huron E.	William Bishop	Brussels.
Huron S.	Robert McMordie	Kippen.
Huron W.	C. J. S. Naftel	Goderich.
Kent E.	A. J. Campbell	Thamesville.
Kent W.	Albert S. Dyke	North Buxton.
Lambton E.	Joseph Osborne	Wyoming.
Lanark N.	John Steele	Bennie's Corners.
Lanark S.	George Oliver	Perth.
Leeds S.	Freeman Britton	Gananoque.
Lennox	Marshall Bogart	Napanee.
Lincoln	Rolland W. Gregory	St. Catharines.
Middlesex N.	Archibald Campbell	Parkhill.
Middlesex W.	Angus McTaggart	Appin.
Middlesex E.	Thomas Baty	Wilton Grove.
Monck	Dilly C. Holmes	Wellandport.
Norfolk N.	Frank L. Culver	Waterford.
Norfolk S.	H. Glazebrook	Simcoe.
Northumberland E.	J. B. Ewing	Dartford.
Northumberland W.	R. Cullis	Camborne.
Ontario N.	G. B. Miller	Uxbridge.
Ontario S.	John A. Carswell	Oshawa.
Oxford N.	F. S. Malcolm	Innerkip.
Oxford S.	M. S. Schell	Woodstock.
Peel	D. E. Smith	Churchville.
Peterboro E.	J. W. Clark	Norwood.
Peterboro W.	John A. Davidson	Peterboro.
Prince Edward	Samuel N. Smith	Demorestville.
Perth S.	P. S. Armstrong	St. Marys.
Perth N.	William Keith	Listowel.
Renfrew S.	John Park	Renfrew.
Russell	W. H. Craig	Russell.
Simcoe S.	H. Beverly Jeffs	Bondhead.
Simcoe W.	W. A. Furlong	Nottawa.
Simcoe C.	G. C. Caston	Craighurst.
Stormont	Robert Vallance	Osnabrock Centre.
Victoria E.	William Thurston	Bobcaygeon.
Victoria S.	James Keith	Lindsay.
Waterloo S.	William Cowan	Galt.
Waterloo N.	Allen Shants	Waterloo.
Welland	E. Morden	Niagara Falls South.
Wellington C.	George Wright	Elora.
Wellington S.	W. J. Cockburn	Aberfoyle.
Wellington W.	James McEwing	Drayton.
Wellington E.	Dr. H. P. Yeomans	Mt. Forest.
Wentworth N.	Joseph Stephenson	Freelon.
Wentworth S.	Erland Lee	Stoney Creek.
York E.	T. M. Whiteside	Ellesmere.
York N.	R. W. Phillips	Newmarket.
York W.	R. L. Crawford	Richmond.