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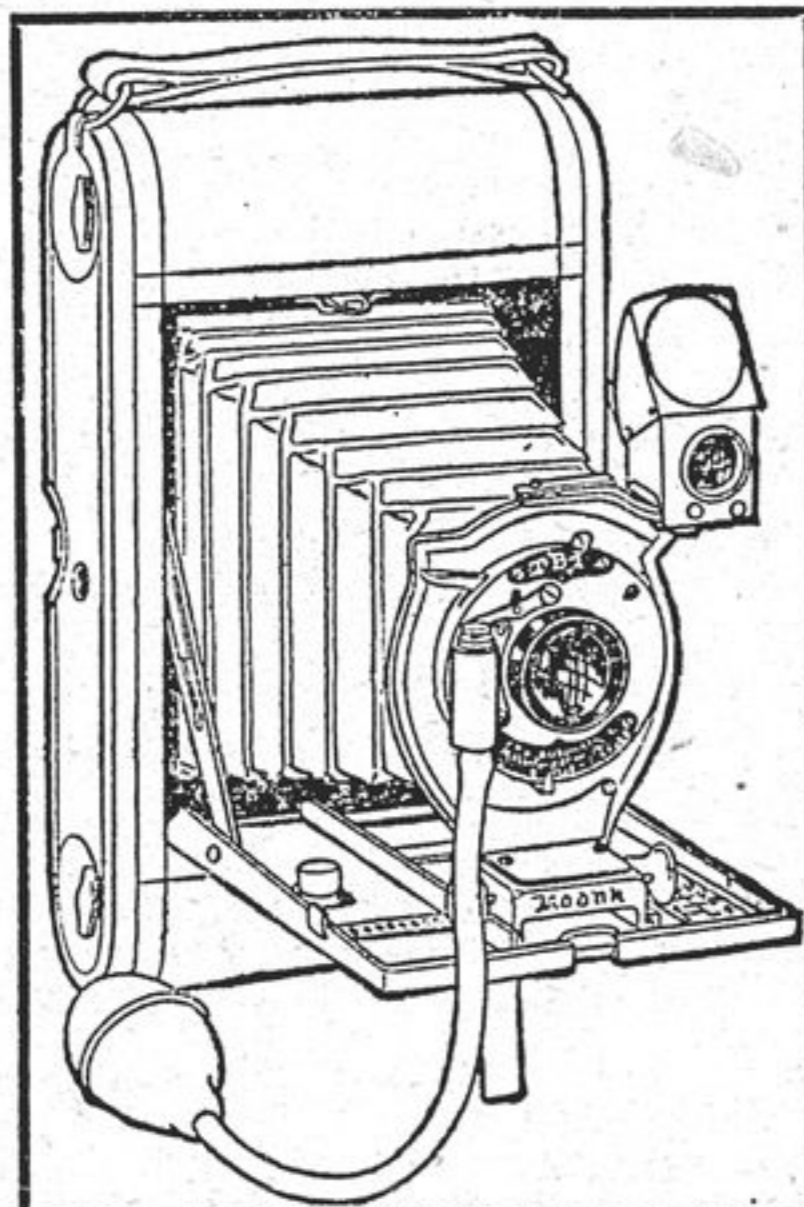
This year, we believe, than we ever did to make the biggest showing of the choicest, daintiest things for Christmas that we have ever asked you to select from. Our display was never as complete or tempting. We would like you to notice the prices of what we are offering, always remembering that they are the very highest grade of goods that it is possible to buy.

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FARMERS AND WOMENS' INSTITUTES.

The annual meetings of the East Victoria Farmers' and Women's Institutes held on Monday afternoon and evening, proved, as usual, a great attraction to the farmers, farmers' wives and other women of this district, and, in the evening, to the people of the village in general also.

In the afternoon, in Dickson's hall, the farmers were addressed by Mr. A. M. Campbell, of Maxville, on the subject of "The Care and Feeding of the Dairy Cow," and by Mr. W. F. Kydd, of Simcoe, on the "Ventilation of Farm Buildings." About forty farmers were present and a very instructive time was spent. Mr. Campbell pointed out that the whole hope of reaching perfection in the dairy cow lay in the direction of careful breeding, mentioning the case of the now famous Jersey cattle, which have been bred for hundreds of years in their purity with the one object always in view of increasing their milk and butter producing capacities. He confined his attention, however, more to the Ayrshire and Holstein breeds, as being more largely kept in this country. The farmer should keep whatever breed he takes a particular liking to, but should confine himself to one breed. There is too much mixing up at the present time. It is not good to keep a large breed for dairy purposes, as the extra cost of supporting a large animal more than offsets the extra price such an animal will bring for beef when its milking days are done. There is more to be gained by good care and feeding, careful breeding, systematic record keeping of all cows and weeding out of the low producers than in any other way. A cow that costs \$35 a year to keep and gives 6000 lbs. of milk in that time is obviously far less profitable than one which costs \$40 to keep and gives 9000 lbs. There are many cattle in the best dairy herds at the present time giving as high as 12000 pounds of milk per year. The speaker strongly urged that every locality should have in it at least one of the very best pure bred sires that money could buy, bred for generations for milk production. It was necessary to use extreme care in buying such an animal, and to be sure of the reliability of the people from whom he is bought.

Mr. Kydd spoke strongly of the value of ventilation in farm stables. He gave an instance of a test made at the experimental farm at Ithica, N. Y., where a number of healthy and diseased animals were kept side by side in ventilated and unventilated stables. Where there was a plentiful supply of pure air the healthy animals remained healthy, whereas where there was no ventilation all the animals became diseased. He showed the defects of the plan of removing the sash from a window and covering the opening with

thin cloth, also of the system of having an outlet for foul air in the ceiling of the stable. What is known as the King system, whereby the fresh air is admitted at the ceiling and the foul air taken out close to the floor and carried by a flue through the roof, was by all means the best. There are many stables with too much ventilation—chinks, etc. The trouble with this class of buildings is that they cannot be kept warm enough for best results from the cattle.

As it was too early to adjourn when Mr. Kydd had finished his address on ventilation, the meeting decided that they would like to hear him speak on "Co-operation," which he did. The farmers, he said, co-operated less than any other class of people. When one found a good thing, he kept it quiet instead of telling his neighbors, which would be to his own and their benefit.

Suppose one farmer has a particularly fine herd of cattle. If he would tell his neighbors how to do it, and let them all have nearly as fine herds, all hands would get better prices, because a buyer could get a carload of one grade of cattle in his neighborhood instead of only perhaps half a dozen or less animals at a time. The speaker was now getting \$100 per year more from his apple orchard because he and his neighbors co-operated in packing and selling. If they had co-operated in planting their orchards, so that a buyer could buy a carload of one kind of apples in their locality, they would get much more for their fruit. The reason New Brunswick and Nova Scotia potatoes are worth 15 cents a bag more on Toronto market than Ontario potatoes is that the eastern farmers all grow one or two varieties, whereas in this province each farmer has a pot variety, or perhaps three or four, of his own. The eastern potatoes are no better than the Ontario variety, but they are uniform—the growers co-operate. The same is true of the Clydesdale horses of Scotland, and of many other things in many other countries. Let the farmers find out what will bring them the biggest returns in the nearest big market, and go in for that line of production.

At the Women's Institute meeting in Twomey's hall, in the afternoon, Mrs. Colin Campbell, of Windsor, gave a very interesting and instructive address, her subject being, "Poultry Keeping, is it a profitable business, and can we make a living at it?" It depended very much, the speaker said, on what was considered a living, as what some would consider a good living, others would regard as only a bare existence. Some people make a good living out of poultry, while others retire after a more or less painful experience. She mentioned some who had made a success of the poultry business, and, speaking of her own experience in the same line, asserted that it certainly did pay when conducted in the proper manner. She and her husband had been four years in the poultry business for exhibition purposes, but they were now in it for commercial purposes. Much valuable information was given, and many questions asked by the members were answered. The care and treatment of fowls, their shelter, foods, etc., were intelligently discussed, special attention being given to the question of how to make the hens lay all winter.

In speaking of the Women's Institutes, Mrs. Campbell said that many ladies were under the impression that the Institute was only for farmers' wives, but this was a mistake, as all classes were benefited by attending the meetings. The Women's Institute stands for a better knowledge of foods, a knowledge of sanitary science and hygiene, and for the betterment of our homes no matter where we live. The fee is only 25 cents, and the literature sent out by the department to members is alone well worth the money. The Institute is growing rapidly, new branches being organized all over the Dominion, and its popularity is increasing every day.

At the conclusion of the address Miss Doris Townley sang a song in her usual happy manner, Miss Alice Hand sang "Come Back to Erin," and the meeting closed with the National Anthem.

At the evening session Mr. Campbell spoke of the bright side of farm life and how it could be made brighter. He compared the fresh air and healthy outdoor life to the position of a man who spends his time behind a desk or counter in the city. The farmers could do much to make their lives brighter by holding more meetings where they could get together and discuss their methods and plans; also by having a good system for their farm work, by carrying on ex-

(Continued on page four.)

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