

THE FARMERS' INSTITUTE

CAPITAL ADDRESS ON AGRICULTURAL SUBJECTS.

Miss Rose's Pleading Description of an English Dairy.

CORN-GROWING.—TUBERCULOSIS.—CULTIVATION OF THE SOIL.—THE POULTRY YARD.—THREE HISTORICAL DAYS ON THE NIAGARA RIVER.

The Farmers' Institute meeting held in the council chamber on Thursday proved very interesting and entertaining to the farmers who manifested their interest by their presence. The popular president, Mr. J. F. Dix, in his opening remarks expressed his regret at the lack of interest shown by farmers adjacent to the county town in the institute meetings, which are calculated to benefit them. He compared the attendance here with the meetings held in much smaller centres where they could not secure halls sufficiently large to accommodate the large gatherings. He touched upon the work done by the institutes throughout the province during the past year and referred to the greatly increased membership and interest awakened in the subject of the various lectures. He referred to the work done by Messrs. Rennie, Duff, Whitney and Gould. The attendance at the institute meetings was not only larger than any previous year, but there was a greater number of farmers on the excursions to the Model farm at Guelph. Much good had resulted to the agricultural classes from these meetings and excursions. He again referred to the attendance at the meetings held in the county town and urged the farmers in the vicinity thereof to patronize the meetings.

Major Jas. Sheppard of Queenston was the first speaker stated that while his subject was "Forty years experience in growing corn," he did not wish them to understand that he had devoted forty years to the cultivation of corn. It was true that his experience in the cultivation of corn would cover the work of more than that period. As a matter of fact the first work he ever done on the farm was dropping corn, while his first money was earned by hoeing corn. They had not the improved machinery then that they now possess. At that time they planted the corn in mounds and thought it would not grow otherwise. In the locality where he resided the farmers found they could not grow oats, peas and barley successfully, so they grew corn for food and for stock. He explained the necessity of corn as a fertilizer for the soil. He recommended plowing the sod in the fall and planting as early in the spring as possible. If the land has to be plowed in the spring you want to get it as early as you can, and have the land as loose as possible. The plan he favored was to plant in hills. It was more tedious than sowing in drills, but it was far more remunerative. By planting in hills they would secure more and larger ears and better stalks. The complaint in many places was that while the ensilage corn was bulky it was a soft and watery substance and very unsatisfactory as a fodder for cattle. What they should aim at was quality more than quantity. By using their marker both ways they did not find it difficult to sow in hills. The fertility of the corn was a consideration that they should not lose sight of. The stalk that produced ears of corn was more valuable as a fodder than the stalks that did not. In planting, the hills should be three feet apart with three or four stalks to the hill, but for ensilage he would increase the number of stalks. It was a mistake to harrow the corn too much. The manure for the soil should be drawn out in the winter and spread upon the land. Corn was a coarse fodder and would take it up. They should run the corn cultivator among the rows up to the time the tassels appeared. The more sunlight they could get to the plant the better would the crop be. He explained that the earth held the heat at night when the atmosphere was cooler. They should harvest the corn before the frost comes in. If they have not time to put it into their silos cut it down and pile in large heaps. The corn should be put in the silo in the fresh and succulent stage. He agreed that corn was not good as peas for hogs, but corn mixed with bran or other grains was a good and profitable food. As to the harvesting machinery for corn he thought as yet it was too costly to be operative.

In reply to Mr. Dix he stated that he did not favor seasoning corn before putting in silo. To Mr. Geo. Graham he replied that in his section they grew corn for grain. This year he had grown ensilage corn. It was cut and bound in large sheaves. It was then drawn to the barn where it was stood up in tiers, rails being tied in to separate. This plan works well with them. In reply to Mr. Wm. Channon he stated that while one of his farms was a sandy loam the other was a stiff blue clay. The latter he plowed in the fall. Major Sheppard then exhibited a number of different varieties of corn, and explained the nature of each in turn. For his own section he favored Sulzter's North Duke, and if he was going to grow two varieties he would select Compton's Early. He favored the Cuba corn for ensilage. He did not think the farmers should speculate in Deat corns, but should confine themselves to hard flint corns. Stall's Evergreen corn was very satisfactory as a fodder corn, the cattle being particularly fond of it. Not only would they eat every vestige of it, but the milk supply would be greatly increased with its use. He did not favor deep cultivation. In conclusion he related how many uses corn could be put to, and told an amusing story of the poor woman, who when a child, could not eat corn mush, and abhorred corn dodgers with syrup, and when married had the sight when she went to live in the West with her daughter, whose husband had a still and converted the corn into whiskey, discovered that the corn was not so bad after all.

Mr. E. S. Smith, V. S., of Cambridge, contributed an excellent paper, entitled "Tuberculosis in animals." The nature of the disease, as well as the method of testing cattle, together with much valuable information, was given. This paper will appear in the next issue of THE WATCHMAN, together with the discussion conducted thereon by Dr. Herriman.

Mr. Wm. Smith of Columbus delivered an excellent paper on "Cultivation of the soil in spring and fall." He referred to the question of tuberculosis and was of the opinion that it was more prevalent than we imagined. The cattle that were exported to the old country were nearly all healthy and vigorous, but his opinion was that the disease would be found more prevalent in dairy cattle. He instanced the case of a leading dairyman who supplied milk to the city of Ottawa, who had to destroy nearly 100 animals. This was a question that we had to face and what ever government would take the matter up in the intelligence would merit the praise of the whole country. Returning to the subject of his address he remarked that the conditions existing in different parts of the country made it hard to say just what system was the correct one. All land should be cultivated as early in the fall as possible. In this locality we have been plowing sod for different purposes than the growing of corn. Here we sow peas on sod land, and was sorry to say that they were not so successful this year as in former years. In his district they preferred leaving the sod in the fall because it helped them in the spring. They found the disc harrow very beneficial. He favored mixed farming as the most successful. Taking up Mr. Rennie's system of rotation and plowing he feared it would not prove so successful with our farmers as it did with Mr. Rennie, and they would endeavor to do too much with too little help. If you have grown a crop on land that is not seeded down you must do something in the fall to keep the soil from becoming bare. By constantly cutting thistles they weakened and died. It was just as necessary to keep up an eternal warfare against the weeds. He plowed his land just as often as he could. While he would not like to oppose Mr. Rennie's views still he favored plowing vigorously and well. A good plowman was generally a good all-round man. He then dealt with the handling of manure and the necessity of getting it on the land as early in the spring as possible. He had found the duckfoot harrow very useful in dry land, but not so useful in wet land. He did not altogether favor the opposition to summer fallowing land notwithstanding that the professors were opposed to it. While it was true that in summer fallowing we lost one year still he often thought that the old system was the best as he noticed that where it was practiced the land was always clean and the farmers generally prosperous.

A very beneficial discussion followed in which Messrs. Geo. Graham, William Channon, D. J. McIntyre, Albert Davidson, James Hopkins and the speaker took part. Miss Laura Rose, assistant dairy instructor at the Ontario Agricultural College, gave a beautiful picture of what she saw while visiting in England. She explained at considerable length the working of the English home dairies and created not a little amusement in her explanations. She explained how the milk was strained of 12 hours each. The milkmen wear long linen dusters, a system which favored greatly. She explained the system of butter making throughout. Miss Rose is certainly a pleasing and clever speaker and not only educates but amuses her audiences at the same time.

THE EVENING SESSION. The questioner drew elicited the statement from Dr. Kenny that there is no such thing as black teeth in pigs further than at the time of shedding they become dark. "The elements of success in farming" was the subject of an excellent address by Mr. Wm. Smith of Columbus, Ont., which he handled in a clever manner. He dealt with the long era of depression and the keen competition that the Canadian farmer had to meet from all countries, and called the man from all farmers with delight. He urged all farmers to join the Farmers' Institutes and benefit by the valuable government reports. It requires brains more than muscle to-day to farm successfully. He knew of no business that required brains more than that of farming. If they grew large crops and failed to market them to the best advantage they were losing the results of their labor. They should take good agricultural and commercial papers as well as their local weeklies. Mixed farming was going to prove the most successful in this province. If they did not wish to take up special lines of farming they should aim at producing the best—the best horses, cattle, sheep or swine. Every farmer should take a pride in his calling. If he is not proud of it he should get out of it. He should be observant and watch every department of his farm—the buildings, the cattle, horses and other live stock. "A stitch in time saves nine." He then outlined the way in which they should treat their help, with wisdom and courtesy. Then there was the true helpmate. She should be consulted on all matters and given an equal right to share his purse. If the husband could not do that then he had no right to ask her to share his life. He thought the time was come when we wanted to keep our boys on the farm. While it was true that there was always room at the top of the ladder for our successful young men he would like to know how many of these reached the top-most rung. He thought the teachers in our schools should instruct the boys all about the buildings along the highways. Teach them all about the insects and birds. Let them learn which are useful and which are detrimental to the farm. He asked them to consider these points along this line. He believed the dark clouds of the past were destined to roll away as well as agriculturists were destined to prosper better than ever before.

Mr. D. C. Trow read an excellent paper on "The poultry yard" which evoked a lengthy discussion and which we hope to give next week. Miss Rose, by way of an introduction to her popular lecture "One eye on the

field, the other on the town," extended an invitation to all to take the special dairy course. The classes were not as large as they should be, and were made up of 90 per cent. gentlemen. The course was free to all. The only cost was fare and board. Even a week could be found of special benefit. Miss Rose then entered upon her subject, and gave an address of exceedingly great merit, which we regret is too lengthy for this issue of THE WATCHMAN.

A cordial vote of thanks was then moved by Mr. Geo. Graham, seconded by Mr. D. J. McIntyre, to the speakers of the evening generally and to Miss Rose in particular. The proceedings were terminated by singing the national anthem.

The Somerville Shooting Case. In November last a young man named Lee was shot in the woods in Somerville township near Norland. An inquest was held and a verdict of accidental shooting returned. But it appears the relatives of the deceased are not satisfied, and an James McCallum was issued for the arrest of John Luff, who was Lee's companion at the time the shooting took place, and he was lodged in the Lindsay jail by Constable Porter. On Monday evening last, at 8 o'clock, the deceased man was remanded to jail for a week. The case is set for hearing on the 22nd inst.

Obituary. —Miss Susan Armstrong, a former respected resident of Lindsay, died at the residence of her brother-in-law, Chief Constable Douglas, Fort Hope, on Monday evening last, aged 61 years. Some twenty years ago Miss Armstrong taught a private school in Lindsay, and will be remembered by many of our citizens, who will regret to hear of her demise. The deceased lady possessed many admirable traits of character, and was loved and respected by a large circle of friends.

We regret to learn of the death of Mr. James McCallum, a well known and highly respected farmer of Valcartier, province of Quebec, who departed this life on November 22nd, ult. He leaves a widow and eight children, six daughters and two sons, to mourn the loss of a kind husband and loving father. The children are Mr. James Farquhar and Mr. James McCallum, wife, Mrs. (Dr.) Robert McCallum, Mrs. Alf. Darke, Campville; Mrs. John Brooks, Lindsay; Mr. John Farquhar and Miss Tillie Farquhar, Valcartier. His remains were followed by a large circle of sorrowing friends and acquaintances to the Presbyterian church, thence to the cemetery.

Victoria Loan and Savings Co. The second annual meeting of the Victoria Loan and Savings Co. was held in the company's office, Smyth's block, on the afternoon of Tuesday, Dec. 7th. There was a fair representation of shareholders, who had previously been sent to each shareholder. Those present expressed themselves as very much pleased with the progress of the company, and the satisfactory manner in which it had been conducted. The present standing of the company is as follows:

Table with financial data: Authorized Capital \$300,000, Subscribed 237,000, Paid up 18,697.20, Deposits 24,067.14, Loans on Real Estate and accrued 102,626.62.

Directors for the ensuing year were elected and are: J. Magwood, W. H. Clarke, D. D. W. H. Stevens, E. A. W. Flavell, R. J. McLaughlin, Rev. N. Hill, C. Chittick, S. Armour, H. J. Lytle and H. Hart, D.D.S., Auditors, J. R. McNeillie and R. McCauley. The directors met at the close of the annual meeting and appointed J. Magwood president and manager, W. H. Clarke, M. D., vice-president, W. H. Stevens, E. A., and James Low, secretaries.

DIAMOND MINING. Right Precautions to Prevent Gem Stealing—Stolidity of the Workers. In this part of the world it is hardly safe to have a diamond unless you can show that you brought it with you into the country or have purchased it of a licensed dealer. Time was when receivers of the lowest order would take a diamond from the lowest order of workers (illicit diamond buying) attained such proportions that one-half of all the gems produced, it was computed, were stolen, the money value being reckoned at \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 every year. Stringent enactments have reduced the evil so far as the white hands are concerned, and yet, whatever purloining exists, it must, in the main, be charged to their account, since they may reside where they choose; whereas the 8,000 colored people are strictly confined to the enclosures or "compounds" during the three or six months that they spend at the works.

"The greatest outlet for stolen diamonds," says Mr. Gardner Williams satirically, "is through the Transvaal to Natal, where they are shipped by respectable merchants, who are in a position to afford information to the diamond fields to the effect that they are aiding the sale of stolen property." When the natives leave, they are rigorously examined, and yet now and then Johnnie manages somehow to take away a few carats. One of his little dodges is to hide the stone near a post. "If you shall know where to find it," he occasionally discovers that the hoard is gone before he quits the compound, but he never complains. The boys have their virtues. They work hard, and they face emergencies like men. Some years ago a number of them were sent off in the work-number that death by burning or suffocation was certain. Calmly they met their fate—no panic, no howling or shrieking nor imprecations. They lighted their pipes and sat down by the walls of the tunnel and inhaled the scorching nitric fumes until the fumes of the irrespirable air took away consciousness. To be men, says the German poet, one must learn to bear the inevitable with dignity. These darkies were men. Curiously, the Zulu, bravest of his race in the field, is the timidiest in his mine. He has too much imagination; he peoples its darkness, its alleys, its echoes with spiritual beings—Kimberley Cor. London Telegraph.

Faming For Revenge. "I w-n-n," said the determined looking young man, "400 of the strongest cigars I can get hold of." "What for?" "The girl I gave up smoking for has gone back on me."—Philadelphia North American.

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Continued from page 5.

Table with 2 columns: Description of work and Amount. Includes items like Humphrey Wood, road job at Lotus, Humphrey Wood, cleaning water course at Lotus, etc.

Total \$1,007.67

Nov 2.—R. Shaw Falls, repairs road lot 19 con 7. 4 00

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Our Dress Goods Trade is Great. Yes, great is the word. Our superb stocks, our reasonable prices and many other causes have helped this fall's big business. Two special lines of Fancy Effects we are now offering at 25c and 50c, worth 39c and 65c.

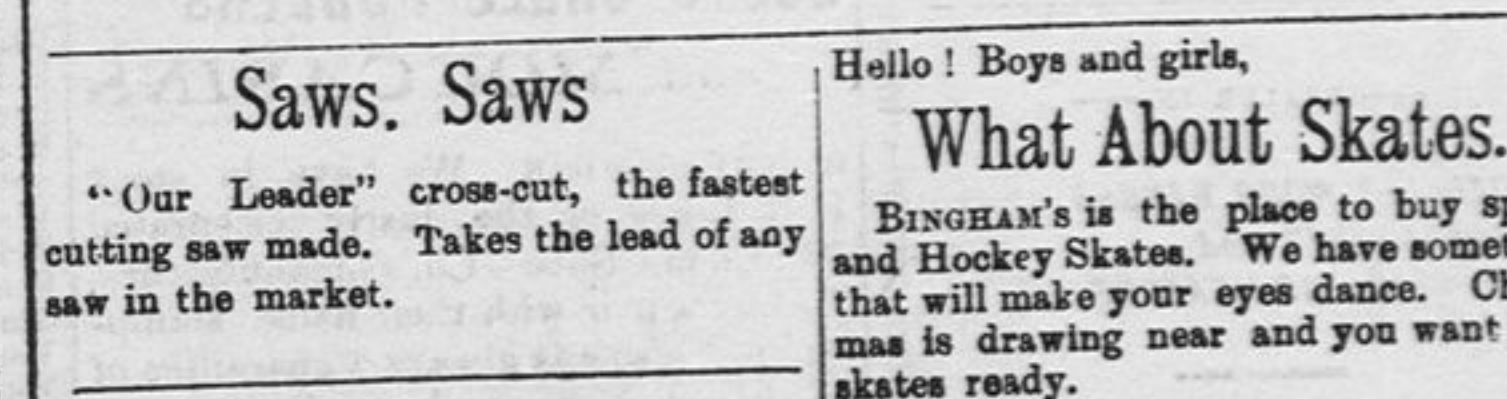
For Jackets and Capes. Never had such success in this department. Nice stylish Jackets commencing at \$2.50. See our Job Table of slightly out-of-date Mantles. Lot (1) 50c; Lot (2) \$1.00; Lot (3) \$1.25.

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CARTER

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