

The following information regarding Farmer's Institutes has been taken from a bulletin reporting a convention held in Toronto when 1911-12 reports have been presented by representatives from Institutes across Ontario.

I shall quote from the bulletin:

"It is gratifying to know that the appeal of the Department of Agriculture to the farmers of the Province to form clubs has been responded to in many sections of Ontario. Several counties have from 6-12 clubs, and isolated organizations are to be found in practically all sections of the Province -----beneficial results both to the individual and to the community, following the organization of farmers for the purpose of studying, discussing and debating agricultural problems, and improving themselves in a literary and social way -----"

"Institute delegates and other have commented upon the high degree of intelligence, and the up-to-date methods in those districts where opportunities have been afforded for the holding of periodical meetings for the purpose of discussing matters bearing upon the work of the farm. Many of the present day leaders in Agriculture of the Province are men who attribute much of their success to the early opportunities afforded through literary and debating societies and clubs organized for the study of agricultural matters and the interchange of experiences with their neighbour farmers."

"The work of the clubs, so far as agriculture is concerned, need not, and should not, be confined to a discussion of methods for increasing the amount of produce per acre, the more economical feeding of animals etc., but should also include co-operation among the producers of the district in the matter of purchasing supplies, and in the marketing of grain, roots, fruit, livestock and other farm produce.

The margin now existing between the amount received by the producer and the amount paid by the consumer is too great, and it is the producer's business to look well to the marketing of his produce.

We believe that in Farmer's Clubs will be found an opportunity for self improvement for the farmers of Ontario, which cannot be secured in any other way-----"

"It must be remembered that the degree of success attending this work will depend almost entirely upon the efforts of local men, successful farmers who have enthusiasm and ability, and who are willing to devote time to the work. Arrangements should be made at each meeting for definite subjects to be dealt with at the following meeting, or what is better, a programme of topics with speakers prepared some months in advance."