

FLESHERTON ADVANCE.

"TRUTH BEFORE FAVOR."—"PRINCIPLES, NOT MEN."

VOL. VIII., NO 446.

FLESHERTON, ONT., THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1889.

W. H. THURSTON, EDITOR & PROPRIETOR.

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The most complete and beautiful stock of Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, and Silverware in this section, just received for the holiday trade. A very fine Filled Gold Case and Genuine Waltham or Elgin Movement, for only \$21.50, regular price \$25.00, warranted for 4 years. Ladies' gold-stem wind watches, 10 and 18 K., at from \$15.00 to \$42.00. These prices are away down. Do not fail to see them, warranted from 8 to 5 years.

Clocks,

Clocks,

Clocks.

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E. G. FARMERS' INSTITUTE

A Very Successful Meeting Held in Flesherton on Tuesday.

The annual meeting of the Centre Grey Farmers' Institute was held in the Town Hall, Flesherton, on Tuesday of this week. The audience in the forenoon was rather small, but in the afternoon the farming community and also other branches were well represented. Mr. Thos. Kells occupied the chair and performed the office admirably. The first speaker called on was President Mills of Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The audience which he addressed was not very large, but was composed of very intelligent and careful farmers. Mr. Mills gave an interesting and instructive discourse on the chemicals which are requisite for the production of plants and showing that ashes contain all the gases required (with the exception of one.) He claims that farmers make a great mistake in disposing of their ashes to peddlers, whereas if they would apply them to their own land its productiveness would be vastly increased. He also advised the farmers to run underdrains instead of surface drains, as by this means they would retain the gases in the soil which are so needful to the plant. A question was asked by Mr. D. R. Ellis as to whether a broad leaved plant takes more nutriment from the air and less from the soil than a narrow leaved plant does? and to the entire satisfaction of those present Mr. Mills explained that it does not, but plants such as clover, which is extensively used to restore grain growing properties to the land which has been run out, leads substances from the subsoil to the deeper soil, thus restoring its productiveness.

After his address the meeting was adjourned until 1.15, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year: Mr. Thos. Kells, President, by acclamation; Mr. D. R. Ellis re-elected as Vice-President. The directors elected were: Mr. Conn, director for Euphrasia; J. Brodie, Geo. Stewart, Artemesia; J. Clinton, Osprey; J. H. Hunter, G. F. Marsh, T. B. White, Collingwood; Mr. Moor, Holland, Auditors, Mr. Boland and Mr. Buchanan. Mr. Thos. Kells and Mr. D. R. Ellis were appointed delegates to the Permanent Central Farmers' Inst. Moved by Mr. Geo. Stewart, seconded by Mr. Brodie that the next annual meeting be held about the first of October this year.

After this business was dispensed with, Mr. John McMillen, M. P. for South Huron, and also an extensive horse and cattle raiser, was introduced to the audience. Mr. McMillen is an eloquent orator and an excellent representative of the land which has the thistle for its emblem. He has had a very remarkable career, one which every farm boy would do well to take as an example. He was raised on the farm and had no such advantages of study as the boys of to-day have. The only time he could give his attention to books was at night, by the flickering light of a birch bark candle. To day he is in a position to aid the farmers by presenting to them the knowledge which he has gained by experience and for which they should be truly thankful, for, as Mr. McMillen says, "Life is too short for people to experiment for themselves." Farmers should avail themselves of the best agricultural works and profit by them. He advised farmers not to send their cattle to English markets unless they are fit for the slaughter house. Coarse grains should not be sold from the farm but be fed to stock, and by so doing a greater profit will be realized, providing the grain is properly fed. He also advocated the clubbing together of farmers for the purpose of shipping their own cattle away, hiring a man to accompany them, thus saving the expense of keeping up cattle buyers. The best breed for beef cattle is the pure bred Durham; the sire should be thoroughbred and the dam

not a grade beast. In the feeding of animals the law of kindness should prevail for animals which are ill-treated, require a greater amount of feed to produce fat. He gave an interesting account of the plan on which his own stables were built and the management of his animals. He then took his seat and Mr. T. H. Race, who is the possessor of a long, lean frame, and editor of the Mitchell Advocate next took the platform. He accounted for his scarcity of flesh from the fact that he was running a Grit paper and having such odds to contend with, it was not to be wondered at that he was not corpulent like some of those who received fat Tory offices. His subject was fruit trees, and as he had had a great deal of experience in the line of fruit growing, he was able to set forth a great many facts which those intending to buy fruit trees should know. In the first place he would advise purchasers of trees to go or send direct to nurserymen whom they know to be reliable. "Jobbers" claim to be able to supply the farmers with any kind of fruit they wish while at the same time they don't possess a nursery of any size, but let the job of filling orders to those who have nurseries, and as jobbers' orders are the last to be filled, the inferior trees are put in, and in a great many cases, trees that are not ordered at all, but resemble the ordered ones are sent. Fruit growers make a great mistake in purchasing trees in the fall. Money spent for trees in the fall lies idle during the winter. The trees, too, are apt to become frostbitten, and black heart is frequently the result. The warm spring sun also causes the buds to grow very rapidly, while the roots being placed in the cold earth have not yet commenced their growth. Then when a cold day comes (as they frequently do) the new shoots are chilled or frozen, and the trees die. Canadian apples are becoming famous in foreign markets for their quality, and in a very short time will fill the principal markets. He concluded by advising fruit growers to purchase from the Fruit Growers' Association, which has lately been formed. A list of fruit trees will be sent to each farmer from which he can select the fruit best adapted to the climate in which he lives. Mr. D. R. Ellis next gave a short address on the subject of fruit growing. After a rest while the others were speaking, Mr. McMillen resumed his speech, this time on the subject of horses. His preference of a farm horse he says is the Clydesdale, not a large, heavy boned horse, with a superfluity of coarse hair on the back of his legs, but a fine, thin boned one with fine silken hair, arched neck, full eyes and clear cut jaw. In buying horses he said it was better to get those that have been previously raised on poorer soil. Horses that are imported are not the best of foreign horses and those brought from the U. S. are not so hardy as our own Canadian horses, owing to the difference in the feed, American horses being fed on corn, while those of Canada are fed on oats. In handling horses they should not be teased nor get rough usage, as it has a tendency to make them ill-tempered. He also advocated the abolishment of spring shows for the reason that fat is crowded on animals for the sake of making them appear well for the time. This method, he claimed was very hurtful to the offspring. After he had finished speaking the meeting was adjourned until 7 o'clock p.m.

The evening meeting was well attended, the hall being more than comfortably filled with a very appreciative and enthusiastic audience. The program was an excellent one, consisting of speeches by the three gifted men who compose the delegation, singing by the Glee Club, short speeches by Rev. J. W. Shilton, B.A., Dr. Christoo who was in the chair, Mr. Thorp Wright and Mr. M. Richardson, and a couple of Scotch songs by Mr. Anderson. Every speaker and singer was encored, for the audience was in a felicitous mood, as they could scarcely resist being under the effervescing

wit and wisdom of Messrs. Mills, McMillen and Race. This trio was a happy thought upon the part of the Ontario Government, and in the words of the newspaper critic, should the combination ever return to Flesherton they may rest assured of having crowded houses to greet them. Mr. McMillen is a born orator, natural in manner with a powerful musical voice, the rich Scotch brogue making his utterances still more charming. We do not much wonder at the people of South Huron sending a Grit to Parliament while such men as John McMillan dwell within her borders. Mr. Mills is an Irishman, with the proverbial Irish wit and an extraordinary amount of Irish wisdom. Mr. Race is the editor of a newspaper, and an Englishman—two very excellent recommendations, of course. So you see the combination is a good one. These three gentlemen deal in wit and wisdom, and every thing which falls from their mouths is golden. Although the attendance here was fair, still it is a matter of regret that farmers do not take a still greater interest in these annual meetings. The advantages to be gained from this association cannot be computed, and we do not hesitate to say that the Farmers' Institute is the greatest lever ever placed in the hands of the farming community whereby they can better their condition. It would have been a great pleasure to The Advance to publish the speeches in full as delivered by Messrs. Mills, McMillen and Race, but two or three papers the size of this one would be required to do that. Farmers should attend and hear these speeches for themselves. The "combination" left on Wednesday morning to visit the Institute meeting at Meaford.

Mr. Samuel Keefer, the well-known civil engineer, who superintended the building of the Suspension bridge at Niagara Falls, died Tuesday in Brockville, aged 78.

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