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YONGE STREET

North York Producers Held Second Annual Banquet

Christmas Market Prizes Presented at Most Enjoyable Function.

A very successful banquet and social evening was held in the Market House, City Limits, North Yonge St., on Thursday evening last by the members of the North York Producers Association and their friends. It was the second annual banquet of the association and was carried out in a manner which reflected great credit on the organization and its officers. C. R. James, vice-president for 1927, and this year's president-elect, occupied the chair in the absence of President S. Herdman on account of sickness.

Following Grace by Rev. E. R. Young, of Newtonbrook, about 200 sat down to an excellent repast, to which the producers did ample justice in the capacity of consumers.

A full programme followed. Short interesting addresses dealing with the market, its inception, growth and future, were given by several of the various members of the many Township Councils and of North York County. Vocal solos by Miss Wiltshire were greatly appreciated, and the recitations by Miss M. Patterson won her a great reception, to which she responded generously with encores. A piano-forte duet by the Misses Lund, recitations by little Margaret Shaw, violin solos by Sid Law, and the good work of the accompanist, all added to the enjoyment of the guests. Toasts were given to the King, the Ladies, which drew a brief and humorous response from E. G. Farr, Reeve of Weston and the Guests.

Presentation of prizes and cups won at the Christmas Show followed the banquet. After this many of those present stayed to enjoy some of the good old square dances.

The successful growth of the market and the need of larger quarters were the main points upon which each speaker dwelt. Vice-President C. R. James in his welcoming address stated that the Christmas Show had drawn 360 entries, last year's number being about 150. He said that patrons of the market come not only from York, but from Ontario, Simcoe and Peel counties, and even from Niagara during the fruit season.

Reeve Anderson of North York congratulated the officers of the association upon their good management of the market run upon sound business lines bringing the buyer and seller together. He spoke of the high quality of the goods, and hoped the association would continue the excellent policy of eliminating hucksters and allowing only producers to sell at their market. In reference to the big growth of the market, the Reeve said this had been beyond all expectations, that the limited space now at the command of the association was a handicap, but that while he did not see any real difficulty ahead in obtaining larger quarters, he warned against too rapid development, and the loading of the association with the debt of an expensive building. He concluded with the assurance that the North York Council would lend a sympathetic ear to any proposal in the matter, which the producers might put forward.

Warden Little of York County, spoke along the same lines. "If there is anything the county can do we are right with you," he said.

Reeve Gohn of Markham who, with Major Little and ex-Reeve Hicks, was a pioneer of the market, traced its history in brief. "It was an experiment, we had no consent from York county, but just went ahead on our own nerve," he said. "\$700 was needed to start, this was raised and the fact that the last seven months shows a revenue of \$12,000 odd proves the success of the experiment. 103 patrons had to be accommodated at a recent Saturday market showing that more space is greatly needed, but the reeve was another speaker who warned against too rapid growth. "If you can exist for a short time here you will be able to move across the bridge in a few years' time and the market will be a greater success than to-day," was the opinion he expressed.

Mr. Geo. Rush of the Ontario Vegetable Growers' Association, and a judge at the Christmas Show put on by the association, congratulated the producers upon the high quality of their remarkable display, and congratulated the pioneers of the market. He regretted that "the city of Toronto is the worst city for markets," he said and expressed the hope that the new city council would see its way to closer co-operation with the county council in the establishment of markets. Speaking of the high class of Canadian fruit and vegetables. Mr. Rush stated that at the international contest at Cleveland in 1926, and again at Syracuse in 1927, Canadian

products in these classes had carried off all the awards from the Americans.

That the producer must guard against exorbitant prices was a point raised by one of the speakers.

In addition to the speakers, other notables at the pleasant affair were: Reeve J. Lunau, Richmond Hill; Ex-Reeve Hicks, Deputy Reeve R. Phillips and Hambly, and Councillors St. Clair, Hurbert and H. W. Goode, all of North York; R. J. Yeomans and Mr. Baker; Deputy Reeve Padget, of Markham; Deputy Reeve Douglas Webster, of Weston; Geo. Wilson, reeve of Markham Village; Rev. and Mrs. Young, of Newtonbrook; Reeve E. G. Farr, of Weston, and Judges Geo. Rush, E. Elliott, A. Galbraith, McArthur and Mrs. Simpson.

Good wishes and regrets at their inability to be present at the annual banquet came from many quarters. R. J. Yeomans, representing Robins, Ltd., read a cablegram from Col. Robins in London, England, which ran: "Convey to North York Producers congratulations for past success, and best wishes for bigger and better crops."

Others from whom Secretary R. Poole had received letters of regret were: Mayor Sam McBride; D. W. Harvey, of the T. T. C.; Reeve Baldwin, of Forest Hill; Mrs. M. H. Spence; Mrs. Burden; R. J. Bell, Dominion egg inspector; T. A. Benson, Dominion poultry judge; C. A. Collinwood, Dominion egg inspector; E. G. Westbury, reeve of York Township, and Jas. Muirhead, deputy-reeve of North York.

Presentation of prizes was in many cases made by the donor or a special representative. Mrs. Elmer Hill received the Dominion Bank's award for the best display of poultry. The Canadian Bank of Commerce Cup went to C. R. James for butter. Mrs. Hector Patterson won the Royal Bank cup and Wm. Craig carried off the Grand Championship, the elegant Sweepstakes Cup donated by Col. F. B. Robins and presented by his special representative, R. J. Yeomans.

The humor of Mr. Yeomans' speech won the hearts of all present, modestly declaring he was neither reeve, councillor, judge nor farmer, and, worst of all, but a substitute. He entertained his listeners hugely with his witty little stories and was loudly applauded by the rank and file, to whose co-operation with their excellent officers he attributed the main success of the market. As a city resident he assured the association that people of Toronto appreciate the excellent market which the North York Farmers operate.



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FARM NOTES

BETTER LIGHT FOR HOUSES AND BARN

In spite of storms and zero temperatures winter can be made one of the most enjoyable times of the year. There is greater opportunity to cultivate social and business relations with the neighbors to keep up the interest in clubs and to discuss plans for the coming season. True, there are hardships to be endured when severe weather blocks the roads and extra precautions have to be taken to protect and feed the live stock. Early morning and late evening chores under the light of an ordinary lantern are not always pleasant. Yet there are improvements in housing that take away most of the discomforts. Still greater advances may be expected in the near future in the way of better buildings and in better lighting. A considerable number of people in Ontario are within the hydro zone, which enables them to secure at very reasonable rates. Hon. J. S. Martin, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, speaking on this subject lately, contrasted the old time stumbling about in the semi-darkness to find the harness with the bright lights of today. It enables work to be done more regularly, and fair dairy farmers is a special boon. Then there is the speeding up of egg laying by which the thrifty poultryman is enabled to place his goods on the market at the time of peak prices. Electric lighting is one of the things that is bringing a new era into Canadian farm life.

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