

FARMERS MEETING AT BASS RIVER.

Large, attentive and intelligent was the audience that greeted the delegates of the Farmer's and Dairyman's Association at Bass River on Friday evening. Mr. Walker had kindly given the use of his commodious building, furnishing lights and fuel in abundance. C. C. Carlyle, Esq., was called to the chair and introduced the speakers, jocosely remarking on the various interpretations put on the advent of the speakers. He pointed out that these meetings indicated that the man at the head of our provincial affairs had at last awakened to a sense of the responsibility resting on them. Time was when the representatives of our County, as well as those ruling at Fredericton, seemed to think they did their duty when they sat in their offices and received their constituents, or went to the House of Assembly and voted away our money, but now our representatives did not feel themselves above mingling in the everyday life of our people and taking a part in all that tended to advance the prosperity of our people. Our province has resources that places it high in the rank of specially favored lands. He had often heard our people speak in a disparaging manner of their native land, saying we could not farm or raise cattle to advantage on account of our long winter. He said he would freely assert here in the presence of the man from Ontario, that we had to feed our cattle for a shorter period than they had to do. The reason is that our pasturage lasts all summer, while in the West it does not, and the farmer has to supplement it by the use of corn and other feed. The Ontario farmer has one and only one advantage. He is well equipped for his work—in other words, he knows his business which our farmers do not. The farmers of Ont., had, however, not always been our superiors in capacity, and had learned just as we are doing now, by seeking information from those who could give it. Hoping for the utmost attention he would introduce to them our old friend, W. W. Hubbard.

The speaker was well received and said it gave him pleasure to find himself again among the farmers of Kent Co. There was not any political significance, whatever, in these meetings, in fact the Govt. had in reality but little to do with them. They were a part of the programme of the Farmer's and Dairyman's Association who were taking this means to spread a knowledge of farming and dairying among our people. He was sorry to see that the advice given the people of this section on the last visit had been disregarded and that the farmers here had allowed their creamery to go under. Had the advice given been taken, he felt sure that good results would have been attained. He was not speaking at random, as he had seen lately the results of factories started about that time and some of them had done remarkably well. He would again press on them the necessity of forming an Association.

He could assure them that the work was going on all around them and if they did not waken up to the importance of the position, they would soon be left in the rear. In 1888 N. B. made about 93 tons of cheese. Some interest was shown and a grant was given. Two active men, Tilley and Mitchell, were put into the field, and last year we sold 891 tons of cheese. For this we will get good English gold. So you see the results of the first of our efforts. These results are but the beginning. Yet to succeed we must conform to the conditions of success. One of these conditions is that we must keep dairy cows or we cannot succeed at the dairy business. There is a distinct line drawn between the beef cow and the dairy cow. You cannot make beef from a dairy cow, or at least there are but very few that fulfil in any degree the conditions of success. Beef raising can only be made a success by having beef cattle. There are farmers in Ontario making a success of beef raising on high priced lands by the skill with which they conduct their business. These men never carry a steer over two years old, and so develop them that they dress at two years from 550 lbs. to 850 lbs. of beef at that age. Young cattle grow faster than older ones, and the first two years of a steer's life is the time in which growth is most rapid, and it is of course the most profitable time of his life. So just as the man who succeeds in beef by fulfilling the conditions, while others fail, so you can succeed in dairying by fulfilling the conditions therein found.

You will always know a dairy cow if you look for certain well known traits. A dairy cow is not a beautiful animal in the eyes of a man who admires beauty as shown by the ideal beef cow. The dairy cow is built on the same general lines as the trotting horse. She is wide between the ears, showing high, nervous power; neck long and slim, ribs drooping so as to give the appearance of being narrow in proportion to her height and length. She requires a mouth wide and capacious so as to masticate well her food. She needs no crest. The spine should be prominent with the divisions well marked. The tail should be thin, but above all the udder should be large, but not hanging loosely, and well placed in the body. The milk veins should be large and many of them. Her skin should be mellow and soft—not like paper—and by its feel showing that it is full of life. Cows for the dairy

should in the majority of cases, calve in June, and should milk for at least ten months in the year, and in most cases eleven months. One thing we must have all things guard against. We must never in any case allow a calf meant for the dairy to get fat. No cow can be and give milk worthy of a place in the dairy. If the system of a cow gets the habit of putting on fat she will not give milk.

Mr. Hubbard here detailed at length the results of a number of experiments made by him at his own farm in Sussex. They tended to show that green, succulent food was the best milk producer. A mixture of 80 lbs. oat straw or chaff, 200 lbs. turnips and 50 lbs. buckwheat made with 10 lbs. hay—two feeds for ten cows—and gave good results. While the dairy was in his opinion the most lucrative work of the N. B. Association, it is not the only avenue of success. Dairy men had been accused of claiming that they had the only good thing to show. This was not so. For instance, the raising of poultry was a most promising business. A Mr. Stuart in Antigonish was paying 14cts. for eggs, which he shipped so England. If he could get fresh eggs he would give from 18 to 19cts. per dozen. This, as you see, would be a most beneficial employment. Robinson Bros. of West Hartlepool, G. B., took more eggs than all Canada produced, so we had an open door not easily filled. Also an experiment made at Carleton Place, Ont., showed that poultry could be raised at a good percentage of profit. Fowl that cost after paying for them, then fattening them, then paying the freight to England, \$1.07 per pair, sold readily at \$1.70 a pair. Who could find fault with this return? Yet in face of these facts he felt free to maintain that the most profitable business for the farmers in this province was dairying. By all means form an Association and get your dairy going again. You will never regret it.

J. J. Ferguson was then called on by the Chairman. He said that while all the operations of the farm may be made profitable by the application of skill and knowledge, yet all may be made a failure by the want of these conditions. He had been told by some farmers since coming into this Hall that they could not hope to catch any share of these markets. Why not? he asked. They had said, "Oh, it will cost so much to land them in St. John, then so much to land them in England." He asked how anyone with ordinary common sense could compare the situation of N. B. with that of Kansas, two thousand miles further west, and not say that the N. B. man with the harbour lying within a few hours ride of his farm, had not an immense advantage over his competitor from the far West. He wondered that men of ordinary intelligence could seriously set forth such an argument. Yet the people of Kansas were sending thousands of dollars, yes millions of dollars via the Arcmors Co. to Britain. Pork raising in Ont. is now becoming an industry of great magnitude. Last year, 1,400,000 lbs. of bacon worth over \$8,000,000 of this produce was sold. This is nearly half of the value obtained from the produce of the dairy. This was also in the face of the fact that by far the most of the product was sold at a time when the price is low. Packers pay in spring and summer as high as \$6.30 to \$6.50, and in the fall as low as \$3.75 per 100 lbs. live weight, and as the largest part is sold in the fall, the lowest price is therefore obtained. However, the farmers in Ont. are rapidly coming to realize the situation and are now making arrangements to so divide the product as to give it to the packers in a regular supply. The experiments made showed that pork can be made at a cost of 3cts. per lb., so that there was a handsome profit for the man who in this matter knew his business.

As in other cases we must in this have an animal that fills the bill. There is a great difference in the hog of twenty years ago and the hog in demand to-day. It would not do, however, to suppose that any one breed fills all the conditions necessary to success in pork raising. Some prefer one breed, some another. One will always succeed best with the breed he prefers, because he puts better skill into his work. He himself thought it best to breed from pure bred sires and grades of less expensive stock. One can in this way get very nearly just what they want. There are, however, some very clearly defined limits. A few years ago, the hog to command the best market was the one that weighed from 300 to 500 lbs. and was as fat as he could be made. Now the hog in demand is a young one weighing from 180 to 260 lbs.—in fact, a hog going over 250 lbs. is in a financial sense a failure. Also the quality is now quite different. We had then a very fat hog. Now we want a hog showing a good proportion of lean. This must not lead us to think of this as poor meat. No, this lean meat is the muscle of the pig well developed. It is quite different from the skinny meat of a poorly fed pig. Now to get this condition in the pig he must have exercise. It will not do to have him do as the pig of twenty years ago did—lie still and put on fat. We want in the hog of to-day nice meat. Sometimes a whole carcass of what seems very good pork, as far as fat is concerned, goes into the rendering pan, while properly fed bacon sells from 16 to 18cts. per lb. Again our hog does not want a big head. That is the part of least value. So much as to form of pig. Now as to the feeding.

Now in Ont. we must get a hog fed cheaply. We do not feed much grain. We only feed from one-quarter to one-third of grain. We, in summer, pasture our pigs. We do not allow them to run over a field; we have movable fences and we let them get a small part and eat that entirely and then give them more. At one time corn was greatly used, it is not so much in favor now. You may feed a hog on corn and he will look finely for a time, but suddenly you will find that the hog has stopped growing. He stands still. All the tissues of the body are full of fat so that he can't grow. Skim milk and shorts are the best food for young pigs. We find sugar beets and other kind of succulent foods are the best for sows breeding. Too much grain causes such a fever in the blood that sows eat their young. In more than one way the dairy business and hog raising work into each other, and in the matter of feed the young pig profits most largely. Corn ears have a distant value to the hog as the stalk has to the cow. In conclusion, he urged on the farmers the importance of study in regard to the farm. To do anything well you must know how.

The last speaker was Mr. W. S. Blair, who said that the hour being now well advanced, he could not long detain the audience. However, in view of the fact that thousands of dollars are being yearly lost in the purchase of trees which only die without giving any returns, the Association think it right that something be done to spread a knowledge of fruit growing. The audience must not think, however, that he was going to teach them how to grow fruit. This was a business that can only be learned by years of experience and careful study. He would therefore only attempt to give them some practical hints on planting and caring for till bearing fruit. Mr. Blair, then by the aid of a set of diagrams carefully drawn, gave a fund of valuable information which it would be impossible to reproduce without the aid of the chart. At the conclusion of this very interesting portion of the lecture he urged that young boys be encouraged to study carefully the theory of farming in all its branches. A man will do more and do better any kind of work if he knows why and how it is done. Farming to the educated man is a very different thing from what it is to the ignorant. In the one case it is simply so much drudgery done and in the other case a fine experiment has been performed.

A number of questions were then asked by the members of the audience, which elicited some valuable information. The chairman asked if any steps had been taken at the central farm in Ottawa to ascertain the value of fish in feeding hogs and poultry. He said that when in Ottawa he had laid this matter before the manager and the other members, who had promised that they would make experiments in this direction. Mr. Hubbard said that he was not aware of any experiments having been made at Ottawa, but that both in Canada and the States a good many private farms had made some very costly experiments. So far he thought they had not been successful in getting clear of a fishy taste in the meat. However, they were still doing something on the same lines.

The chairman then said that as he saw one of the M. P. P.'s for the County in the audience, and as he could say from personal knowledge that the gentleman referred to had taken a very great interest in all matters pertaining to the industries of the County, and had in fact on more than one occasion given substantial aid to enterprises which some other parties of which better things were hoped, had either refused the least encouragement or in some cases had actually tried to destroy. He hoped that the gentleman referred to, Mr. Barnes, would add to the manifest pleasure of the evening by giving some of his own experience.

Mr. James Barnes, M. P. P., said while it gave him a great deal of pleasure to be present and see the very great interest shown by such an audience, yet as he came there not to speak but to listen, not to give but to get information, he did not feel that he could add to the fund of valuable information given by the lecturers of the evening. Again, the hour was late and the audience must soon go home. He would however say that he was in full sympathy with each and every effort to develop the industries of Kent. If he had been, as the chairman said he had been, fortunate enough to have assisted in the development of any industry, he had he thought only done his duty. It was not only a duty but a privilege which he valued highly to aid in making our fine County one of the most progressive and prosperous in the province. He hoped to be able yet to see Kent among the most progressive counties in N. B. He therefore would not take the time of the audience at this late hour.

The chairman said that as Mr. Barnes was a man of acts rather than of words, we would have to forego this pleasure. A vote of thanks was tendered the lecturers, and in the best of humor the audience dispersed.

C. C. C.
Bass River, Jan. 14th, 1899.

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MOLUS RIVER NOTES.

Geo. E. Warman looks very much pleased. He has not sold a machine or made a trade however. No, it is a boy. Mother and child doing well.

Albert Barnes, Clyde Warman and E. B. Ward, are going to work at Mt. Carlyle coal mine, as soon as the new machinery which has come is set up.

Albert Barnes is about leaving for Bath, Me., for the winter.

Mrs. Stanley Warman is now on a visit to her friends in Bass and Molus River.

Alex. Hutchinson is back from Maine. Miss Scofield has begun her work in the centre school.

Mr. McKinley, of Red Bank, was here trying to hire teams for his spool mill.

The air is full of election rumors. One who is supposed to know says we will have no election till after the session. And that then Messrs. Barnes and Leger will be elected on Government vote and Basil Johnson on opposition. Basil won many friends when he contested the County before. Time will tell. But here the election of Barnes and Leger is considered sure.

Fred Ward whistles gayly. It is a fine boy.

C. C. Carlyle has been here while waiting for his new machinery for the mine to come. He does not seem at all discouraged, but says the next time he buys a lot of second hand machinery for any purpose will be in the far future. His new machines are some of them at station and the rest will be there in a day or two.

The Govt. would make no mistake if they sent Mr. Stevenson around to attend to his old time duties.

Oh, dreary is the winter time, And sad the sounds that with it rhyme; We hear no Thomas Cat at night, We have no mosquitoes to bite; The boys all to the woods have gone, We breakfast eat before the dawn; The girls can't linger at the gate, The snow-drifts will not let us skate; Mens' whiskers are congealed with frost, And womens' curls are sadly tossed; We long for spring to come again, To ease us of the winter pain.

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Hon. J. I. Tarte has returned to Ottawa from a tour of several of the American shipping centres, where, in company with the Montreal Harbor Commissioners, he had been studying the harbor facilities.

Eva Roch, the sleeping girl, living on Marianne street, Montreal, who has been in a state of catalepsy for 28 days, was awakened from her long slumber by sticking red hot needles in her spine. Miss Roch is 20 years of age. On December 23 she was troubled with hysteria and afterwards went to sleep. It is related that she was once dying of softening of the bones and was cured of this malady by attending at the shrine of St. Anne de Beupre.

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ESTABLISHED 1889.

The Review,

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