

THE FARMERS' PARLIAMENT.

We have had no less than two parliaments in session in our midst during the past week to divide public interest, and we are not sure that the doings of the farmers' parliament have not been of equal, if not greater importance to the country. The meeting just concluded was the sixteenth annual session of the association, and the best attended of any which he had been present. We understand the papers read before the association, many of which are of considerable interest, and the important part of the proceedings will be printed at the expense of the government and disseminated for general information. This is a very proper and considerate act on the part of the government and we believe was greatly appreciated by the association. One striking fact to be noted in connection with this meeting was the prominence given in all the discussions to the subject of dairy farming. Every one seemed to be alive to the value and importance of taking hold of this branch of agricultural industry with vigor and a provincial dairymen's association was organized from among the association membership in order that special attention might be devoted to this work. The timely action of a body so representative of the best intelligence of the farmers of the province is the strongest possible endorsement which could have been given of the policy of the provincial government as announced and entered upon the present session. It appears the very movement to which the farmers themselves attach the utmost value at this juncture if the men recently convened in our midst, are competent to speak for their fellow tillers of the soil, had already been anticipated by the government and before hearing of the farmers in council, who had already taken a bold forward step in the same direction.

We cannot help thinking that the farmers are now being offered an opportunity which will prove altogether useless to them unless followed up with the proper energy and spirit. It will not do for them to sit down listlessly under the depressing influence of the present fiscal policy of the Canadian government. That we agree is bad enough in all conscience, but until the eyes of the people are opened, we must do whatever is possible to mitigate the rigors of that policy and to supply the losses which that policy has entailed upon us. We believe improved methods in our dairy products is essential to our future agricultural prosperity, and the sooner we recognize and act upon that view, the better. We therefore hail with satisfaction the enlightened action of the government in obtaining an appropriation of so large a sum as \$100,000 with which to encourage the industry. It is a splendid grant, almost as large as that given by the great province of Ontario this year. Their appropriation for a similar purpose is only \$12,000, although this, perhaps, should be said for Ontario that cheese and butter-making upon improved modern methods is not a new industry with them. Let farmers have confidence in one another. Let them band their energies to work on those lines with a will, and the liberal assistance provided them by the legislature, they may confidently look forward to good results.

The opposition, through their occasional leader, Dr. Stockton, have shown clearly by their speeches in the legislature during the week that the farmers have little to expect at their hands. Instead of doing all they possibly could to further the agricultural interests of the province, they attempted to tie the hands of the government, and failing that seem determined to make the grant to agriculture as small as possible. While the farmers' association at present in the city and members of it at the house, are opposing the grant, they appeared very solicitous about the agricultural interests which had a week since they succeeded at as being used by the government for a purpose, and thought were heavily subsidized. If they would formulate a policy instead of dodging from post to pillar they might gain a few friends, but as it is they are in a decline.

The Montreal Star, after commenting on the changes which have been made in governmental work in the upper provinces, says: "In the Maritime provinces this same movement towards economy in governmental machinery is seen. Quite a vigorous agitation is on foot to unite the legislatures of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, which could be so accomplished as to reduce the representation and expense easily by one-half. A resolution favoring this project has passed the New Brunswick legislature almost without opposition, and we are promoted a general campaign in its favor this summer. Ontario has long ago led the way, and even now is seeking how it can further economize in its legislative machinery."

The state of Europe at the present time is indicative that the long threatened war is imminent. Rumors are ordered her commanders to be ready at half an hour's notice to bombard the Prussian fortress. France has shown a very haughty spirit to England not only in the Egyptian crisis but also in the arrest and detention of two Englishmen, said by the French to be pickpockets. Armaments are being fitted out, arsenals filled and recruits enlisted. The war is only a question of time.

The Woodstock Sentinel says: "For the life of us we can't see the reasonableness of the clamor raised by a portion of the press against the government of the province for their legislative imposition of taxes upon banks, insurance companies and other corporations, many of which grow rich out of the people at large of the province, but whose interests, expenditures and investments lie and are made in other provinces or states."

It is painfully apparent that Dr. Atkinson has through the billingsgate and unparliamentary language which he used in debate during the week, fallen very low in the estimation of the citizens as well as the members. It was expected that a man who represented such an enlightened and important constituency as that of Carleton county, would be a gentleman in every sense of the term, but it appears that such is not the case.

LIBERAL leaders in the imperial parliament, in consequence of the called reports of the doings of the United States senate in the Behring Sea controversy, have adopted an attitude of opposition. A week since they were willing to support Lord Salisbury, but now consider he has pursued a needlessly venal course instead of assenting to the fair proposals made by the American government.

OUR FARMERS.

The Most Successful Gathering Since Organization.

REPORT OF SECRETARY HUBBARD.

The sixteenth annual meeting of the provincial farmers' association opened in the city chamber on the afternoon of Wednesday, 23d. President H. Trueman presided and introduced mayor Beckwith, who in a short address welcomed the delegates to the city. Sir S. L. Tilley occupied a seat on the platform.

There were sixty delegates present. Sir John C. Allen was called upon and made a few remarks, but wished to be excused from making a speech on a subject which he did not feel competent to handle successfully.

Mr. Baxter, a representative from Victoria county, made an address and dealt with some of the Grievances of the Farmer in his county. He thought the new regulation under the agricultural act did not improve the condition of the farmer in his county and certainly had the effect of extinguishing entirely two societies which existed in New Denmark under the old law. The speaker suggested a system of agricultural evangelists to wake the farmers up. He thought a revival was necessary.

Address were made by S. L. Peters, of Queens; Mr. Emery, of Carleton Co., W. J. Robertson and A. E. Killam, of Moncton. A letter was read from Dr. Twitchell, regretting his inability to be present. Mr. W. W. Hubbard, corresponding secretary, submitted his annual report as follows:—

Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Provincial Farmers' Association:—

It is due to the members of this association that they should have some account of how the work of the association has proceeded during the past year. I, therefore, beg to submit the following, that the results of the work may be examined, and while we are here together that suggestions may be made and discussed as to how the work of the association may be best carried on.

You will pardon me if I turn aside to glance for a moment at the early history of the association. Under the name of the Provincial Farmers' League it was organized on the 29th January, 1876, and I am glad to be able to say that we have here with us to-day one at least of the founders, S. L. Peters, to whom more than any of the rest of us the existence of this association is due to-day. In season and out of season he has been with it, and after periods of depression it was always round Mr. Peters that the association rallied. Utterly without remuneration, and often at considerable expense, of time and travel, the founders of this association have carried it along until now, at its 16th annual session, it should be

Approaching Years of Discretion

and able to stand alone and repay its work of real practical value to the members of this province. That the objects of the organization as set forth in 1876 have not been attained to a greater extent in the past is due, principally, to the apathy of the class for whose benefit the association was formed. There is a tremendous field for work for such an association in New Brunswick, but if the farmers will not take hold of it, if they do not see that it has adequate support, it cannot by any possibility accomplish work of real practical value.

What it is Meant to do and What it does

If the farmers and the agricultural societies of this province are not sufficiently in earnest in the advance of their interests to ask their representatives in the house of assembly to see that an association in their interest is supported with funds to enable it to do work like kindred associations in other countries, then it will remain forever dwarfed, hampered in its efforts and be a reproach to the province as compared with associations in other countries. Instance Ontario, which in 1880 gave about \$68,000 for the support of agricultural associations. There was the Eastern Dairyman's association with a grant of \$1,500; the Western with a like amount; Creameries' association with \$1,000, and fruit growers, poultry men, bee keepers, etc., with varying amounts, and since the appointment of the present minister of agriculture there, the reports of all these bodies have been printed by the government and freely spread over the province for the benefit of all. The eastern and western dairymen's associations recognized early that their

Work Must be Mostly Educational,

and they devoted their attention principally to the departments of cheese making. They secured good men wherever they could find them, had them travel through dairy districts, work in the cheese factories and give the best of their ability to securing the production of a high quality of cheese. What had been the result? He who runs may read. The export cheese trade of Ontario and Quebec has grown from nothing 17 years ago, till last year it was worth almost \$10,000,000. Now these provinces, aided by the dominion government, are working at the butter business, and will not rest satisfied till it is as well developed as that of cheese. Immediately to our west, in the state of Maine.

What is Being Done?

There is a board of agriculture, elected by the country agricultural societies, with a secretary on a salary of \$1,500 per year; \$3,000 per annum is also given the board for the holding of institutes. How is that money spent? Why the secretary and the advisory committee of the board in laying out their programs of meetings (and they are bound to hold two meetings yearly in each county) study the needs of the different localities, and they bring in special lists of speakers who are conversant with the lines of work to which the district is best adapted, to give the results of their experience, and so to inform their audiences of the very best methods of work. And these specialists are brought from all over the continent. The result has been a wonderful advance in our neighboring state. When I look at the work that has been done elsewhere I feel ashamed to be unable to give the public a better account of our work since March, 1891. Nothing was done up to August; then, acting under the advice of the dairy commissioners and John Robertson, instructor of the province, your officers thought it best to try and arrange a meeting of the dairymen at the St. John exhibition. Correspondence was entered into with the secretary of the exhibition association and Professor Robertson, both of whom gave all the assistance they could. We were enabled by the exhibition association to send out free of expense, save printing, 10,000 circulars, drawing attention to the necessity of action toward the

Improvement of our Dairy Industry

and asking all interested to attend a mass meeting in St. John on September 30th. The minister of agriculture and the dairy commissioner very kindly put themselves to considerable trouble to enable the latter to be at the meeting. His honor, the lieutenant-governor, with characteristic kindness, attended and gave an excellent address. George Robertson, president of the board of trade and one of St. John's leading grocers, and A. C. Smith, M. P., both spoke forcibly upon the production of dairy produce from the consumer and dealer's point of view. Professor Robertson's address was published quite fully and a synopsis of the others given by the St. John papers. Owing to the recording secretary's absence from the meeting no minutes of the proceedings were taken. The accommodations for the meeting were not such as to make it possible to pass any resolutions or obtain the voice of the meeting so that

No Definite Results were Obtained.

The secretary should be able to give his whole time to the association for a few weeks previous. He should be enabled to visit different sections of the province and find out the needs of those sections, and endeavor to place upon the program information which will be practical and useful and adapted to the needs of the various parts of the province.

A vote of thanks was tendered the corresponding secretary for the valuable services he has rendered the association.

It was resolved that the finance committee be empowered to present the details of the association to the government for a yearly grant. On motion a committee was appointed on bye laws.

The meeting then adjourned to 7:30 in the evening.

EVENING SESSION.

On being called to order Abraham Alward was called on to read his paper on

How Shall we Grow Greener Crops?

In a well written article he pointed out how a good system of drainage would be one of the greatest powers to this end. The second in importance was the cultivation of the land. There should be laid ploughing for stiff soil to expose the land to the beneficial action of the frost. Potato land will give a better crop of grain than will sod or stubble land, that is because of the extra cultivation given to the potato crop. He dwelt upon the proper methods of harrowing and rolling to procure a mellow seed bed. The third and last, but not the least, considerable item in procuring a large crop is liberal manuring. Barnyard and chemical manures should both be used. Great care should be taken to save barnyard manure from all waste; wasting by rain, bleaching and oversteering should all be avoided. He thought if special manures are used great care should be taken to get that kind suited to individual soils.

When this paper had been read the question was open for discussion.

Question—Has Mr. Alward tried underdraining? Answer—Not to a very large extent, but has had some experience.

Mr. Baxter thought that this was

One of the Most Important Questions

a farmer can study; but he did not think all land should be underdrained. He believed that on dry lands clover should be used to enrich the soil in connection with superphosphates. Use the chemical in growing potatoes and roots and spread the barnyard manure on the meadows for top dressing. "Finely ground bone is admitted to be almost a perfect fertilizer. All the bones in cities, slaughter houses and at private houses should be carefully saved and ground up. Another good fertilizer is the ashes which are sent out of the country to enrich the farms around the borders. A good way to dispose the bones is to put a layer of ashes in a barrel, then a layer of bones and another of ashes and so on; keep the whole damp and the lye will soon dissolve the bones. Land plaster should be used in the stable and the lye should be allowed to run in the manure yard to water the manure and consume the undigested grains and foods.

Under Drainage Necessary.

Mr. Trueman said Mr. Dixon, of Nova Scotia, had written him to the effect that underdraining was decidedly necessary, and most important to over estimate the good. He was repaid for all cost of underdrainage in two years, with one exception. He uses barnyard manure, ground bone, superphosphate, land plaster and clover, and with these superdrains. Mr. Reid, after an experience of forty years, gives the preference in commercial fertilizers to Peruvian guano.

The discussion was continued by Dr. Walker, of St. John, Messrs. Owen, Emery and others.

Mr. Peters moved the following resolution: "It is the opinion of this association that in order to enable our farmers to grow larger crops we must utilize to their fullest extent all the manual resources of farms, which resources may be considerably increased with a skillful application of them; under a good system of rotation and thorough cultivation, the best results may be secured."

The meeting then adjourned to 9:30 Thursday morning.

Electing of Officers.

On Thursday forenoon the association met at 10 o'clock. The nominating committee reported as to the choice of officers as follows:

President—W. J. Owens, Carleton Co. Secretary treasurer—T. W. Peters, Hampton.

Corresponding secretary—W. W. Hubbard, Burton.

Vice presidents—Dr. Walker, St. John; J. D. Barton, Queens; A. Alward, Kings; H. C. McLean, Sunbury; C. Murray, York; H. Emery, Carleton; Donald Innis, Victoria; L. Theriault, Madawaska; John Barberie, Restigouche; Thos. Parker, Northumberland; W. J. Brai, Kent; Robert Lamb, Westmorland; W. A. West, Albert; Judge Stevens, Charlotte; Edward Lowell, Gloucester.

This report was adopted by the association.

S. L. Peters moved a vote of thanks to the retiring president.

Mr. Alward read a paper on economy, system and cost, especially with respect to farm work.

On the subject: Can the dairy be made more profitable; some able articles were read by Mr. Hubbard which had been written by A. Kennedy, of Sackville; C. V. Knight, of Maine, and E. G. Powry, of Kingsclear. Mr. Dixon, of Sackville, read a paper by W. E. Skillen. Mr. Trueman also read a paper by Mr. Taylor, of Shubenogee. These papers were laid on the table for future discussion when the association adjourned.

MOCK PARLIAMENT.—The normal school students are having some lively discussions. On Friday, 19th, they opened their mock parliament with H. F. McLeod, leader of the administration, the opposition forces being headed by Walter Keith. The address in reply to the governor's speech is rather hard on the importation of stock, but perhaps, the boys have had when on the farms, as much stock as they cared to look after. Boys generally do it. It will give the students a good drill however and perhaps "civics" will in this way be more easily mastered.

THE OPPOSITION EXCITED.

They Want Bricks but will not Provide Straw.

IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

THURSDAY, March 24.

After bills were introduced respecting the N. B. trunk railway, St. Stephen church consolidated electric company and St. John and River du Loup railway, the house went into committee of ways and means.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell moved a resolution fixing an annual license fee on life insurance companies; also respecting a license for carrying on the business of special or travelling agent for insurance companies, which were carried.

Dr. Stockton made an attack on the government about the Mooney brick matter in connection with the laticas system. He had made a charge that the brick could have been purchased from this firm for \$7.50, but at this stage he admitted that he was wrong.

Dairying.

On the item for the encouragement of dairying, \$5,000, Dr. Stockton said some information should be given as to additional revenue expected from the new revenue proposals.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said this was in addition to the \$2,000 provided by law.

Hon. Mr. Mitchell said it was thought that between \$20,000 and \$30,000 would be realized from the new taxation legislation and he thought the present appropriation was a reasonable grant as a commencement.

Dr. Stockton—How much that do you propose to devote to terminal railway facilities in St. John?

Hon. Mr. Mitchell—We have not received much assistance from the members from St. John in our proposals to aid that port. He hoped in a few years that the government would be able to substantially aid St. John in the matter of harbor improvements.

Dr. Alward—Is nothing to be contributed this year to that object?

Hon. Mr. Blair was charmed with the interest shown by these gentlemen in the dairying industry considering their bitter opposition and contemptuous references the other day. Dr. Stockton says now that the dairy grant should be enlarged, which a week ago he had treated with the utmost contempt. He thought the country would surprise the legislators if they had not the dairy industry at its proper value. As to the terminal facilities for St. John, was it reasonable to ask the government to make a grant for that service without the request or co-operation of the people of St. John?

Hon. Mr. Pugsley said the hon. gentlemen from St. John (Alward and Stockton) had the other day ridiculed the proposals of the government to aid the dairying industry. Mr. Hamilton referred to these all wags; wasting by rain, bleaching and oversteering should all be avoided.

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