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TILLERS OF THE SOIL.

(Continued from Fourth Page.)

EVENING SESSION.

The Subject of Sheep Raising Entertainingly Discussed.

Prof. M. Cumming of the Truro Agricultural College, was the principal speaker at the evening session. His subject was "Sheep Breeding in the Maritime Provinces," and he dealt with it in a very able manner. At the outset he told of the good work being accomplished at the Truro Agricultural College, and stated that 21 young men from New Brunswick had attended the last course.

Referring to the subject of sheep raising he stated that the census of 1901 showed a decrease of 172,000 in the number of sheep kept in the Maritime Provinces. Going back thirty years there was a decrease of thirty-one per cent. During the same period there had been a falling off in many of the countries of Europe and of the world. Sheep were now valuable for their mutton and wool, and he believed that the industry was on a better basis now than ever before. The conditions in the Maritime Provinces were quite similar to those of England from a sheep raising standpoint. In Nova Scotia a great many lambs were purchased by the American market, and he knew of 5 cents per pound, live weight, being obtained for them. The local market in both Nova Scotia and New Brunswick was of considerable importance. Our climate is favorable, our pasturage good, and there is no reason why sheep raising cannot profitably be carried on in the Maritime Provinces. The speaker gave figures to show that in Nova Scotia there was one sheep for every thirty-five acres, in New Brunswick, one for every ninety-eight acres, in P. E. Island one for every eleven acres, while in Great Britain where the sheep are so much higher, one sheep was kept for every acre.

While farmers had to be particular with their fences, in sheep raising, expensive buildings were not required. It is important that sheep should be given some attention. A gentleman who had never had his sheep breaking through fences. Woven wire fences are now taking the place of that barbarous fence, known as the barbed wire fence. Sheep have the name of being hard on pasture, but this is largely due to the fact that they are put on too early in the spring. While sheep may be hard on pasture it must be remembered that they destroy different kinds of weeds.

Prof. Cumming next discussed the dog nuisance, and in this connection he remarked that New Brunswick had a better dog law than any province of Canada. He was indebted to Honorable Mr. Farris for a copy of the law and would be pleased to read some extracts from it. The law gave any person authority to kill a dog found chasing or worrying sheep. He thought if this law was enforced the dog nuisance would soon become a thing of the past. The only difficulty is that fifteen ratepayers in any municipality can by petition stop the law from being enforced, as a result of this provision the law is not now in force. He urged that steps should be taken to arouse public sentiment so that a law would be placed on the statutes and enforced, that would deal with the dog nuisance in a drastic manner.

There was no doubt that sheep were the most easily kept of any stock on the farm. They should not be turned out on bare hills of wild grass, and allow them to go all summer without water or salt. They must have good pasturage of fine grass and Dutch clover. Sheep need succulent food, and during the winter should have good hay and roots, but very little grain. If properly looked after the wool should pay for the keep of the sheep during the winter, which means that the lambs would be clear profit. He thought it was a mistake to start sheep raising on too large a scale; it is better to start with a small number and work up gradually.

The question of breeds in sheep, the speaker said, did not call for any serious discussion. It is largely a question of management. Select a breed of sheep which has given satisfaction in the community and stick to that breed. For those who wanted a good text book he would recommend "Sheep breeding in America," by J. E. Wing, published by the Saunders Publishing Company of Chicago.

The professor's thoughtful and interesting address was listened to with much attention.

Mr. W. W. Hubbard did not think that the dog law could be successfully enforced as there was a proviso attached to it, which was capable of several different constructions. He suggested that a committee be appointed to confer with the commissioner of agriculture in regard to having the law amended.

Mr. Peters said that sheep were usually killed when the owner was not around, and he then found difficulty in getting compensation. Mr. Fawcett said that he was willing to withdraw his resolution providing something better was put forward. The present law was all right, but fifteen men could come in and rescind it. He thought the farmers were entitled to some protection against dogs.

Mr. Dickson of Sackville said that according to the wording of the act, the law could be enforced by the county council.

Hon. Mr. Farris said that he had it on the authority of the Attorney General, that the law having once been rescinded by the county council could not afterwards be put in force. He would recommend the government to enact further legislation on the subject.

Mr. Peters' statement to the effect that the law was now a dead letter, put the matter in different shape. A resolution which Mr. Dickson had

prepared, was now of no use.

Hon. Mr. Farris said that he would recommend the government to bring in legislation empowering the municipalities to bring the law in force.

Mr. McPhail of Kincardine, delivered some humorous remarks on the subject.

Mr. W. S. Tompkins said that the class of dogs which usually killed sheep, was a half breed cur, of not much account. He lived close to a village where there were thirty-five dogs, and he could not stand all day with a rifle in his hand waiting for them. He thought dogs should be taxed, and that the sheep raising industry should be encouraged.

Judge Hannington, in response to an invitation from the chairman, made a few remarks. He regarded the question as one of great importance, and conditions had changed but little in the past fifty years. He thought a committee should be appointed to interview the commissioner of agriculture and the government. He regarded the sheep industry as one of the most important in the province. It was his privilege to have been brought up on a farm, and he had been interested in farming all his life. He did not agree with Mr. Cumming that there was no difference in the breed. He believed that there was everything in the breed. Regarding the breeds he had heard it stated that the Leicester was one of the best like butter. His flock of Shropshires was excellent, the fat being almost like butter. His flock of Shropshires would never jump a fence. The Judge went on to tell of his farming experience on the old Hannington place, and gave the audience to understand that he had made a good thing out of sheep. The impression created upon his hearers was that a real good farmer was lost to the country when he engaged in the practice of law. The Judge had found from his experience that the grade sheep was the best adapted for New Brunswick. He advised farmers to keep their eyes on their sheep, and they would soon find out where the dogs came from. If they used a good shot gun they would soon know where the dog was bound for. He (the Judge) followed farming for the pastime and enjoyed it very much. The chairman heartily thanked Judge Hannington for his address.

The dog nuisance was further discussed by Messrs. Fawcett, Dickson, Alward, Copp, Brown, Currie and Swin. All seemed to agree that the weak point in the law was that so small a number of ratepayers as fifteen could have the law repealed. Some of the speakers thought the law should only be repealed on a majority vote of the ratepayers of the parish.

A resolution by Mr. Fawcett, recommending the government to amend the dog law, so that better protection would be given the sheep raising industry was adopted by a vote of 12 to 9.

On motion of Mr. Currie, seconded by Mr. Hubbard, a committee of five was appointed to meet Hon. Mr. Farris and talk over the dog question.

The chairman appointed as the committee Messrs. Tompkins, Fawcett, Johnson and Alward, to act with himself.

The meeting then adjourned.

OFFICERS ELECTED.

The Farmers and Dairymen's Association at this morning's session elected the following officers for the ensuing year:— President—H. J. Smith, Blissville. Vice president—Rev. H. Babinéau, Madawaska. Recording Secretary—B. M. Fawcett. Treasurer—Harvey Mitchell. Corresponding Secretary—T. A. Peters.

County vice presidents— Albert—R. A. Smith. Carleton—James Good. Charlotte—R. Richardson. Northumberland—Harvey Doak. St. John—A. F. Johnson. Kings—F. E. Sharp. Queens—W. F. Inch. Sunbury—L. W. Stevenson. York—Frank Del. Clements. Kent—James Laurence. Victoria—W. L. McPhail. Restigouche—E. McMullin. Gloucester—P. J. Power. Madawaska—J. A. Charest. Westmorland—F. A. Dixon.

Prof. Kinck of the MacDonald College of St. Anne de Bellevue, P. Q. delivered a very interesting and practical talk on "The Improvement of Crops by Seed Selection." He made use of numerous charts and gave out much valuable information. He informed the gathering that a sample of Red Pile wheat from New Brunswick had made a better test than samples from six other provinces.

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