

FARMERS IN SESSION

(CONTINUED FROM FIRST PAGE.)

The Closing Day.

At the Thursday afternoon's meeting very instructive addresses on "The requirements of the Beef Market," were delivered by Prof. J. H. Grisdale, of Ottawa, and Simpson Rennie. The remarks of the speakers were well received.

Dr. Twitchell, of Augusta, next took the floor and delivered his address on "The Horse the Market Demands," and was listened to with great pleasure by the large audience. The doctor is a most pleasing speaker and deals with his subject in a way that makes his meaning plain to the dullest intellect in the audience. For years he has been a great friend to the farmers of the Maritime Provinces, and he is always a welcome visitor.

Before adjournment Dairy Commissioner Daigle took the platform and made an explanation regarding the statement made by the late president that the government had subsidized three cheese factories in Madawaska within a radius of eleven miles of one another. He stated that only the oldest of the three factories referred to had received a subsidy, and the government had had nothing to do with the others. He was quite sure that the matter had been misrepresented to the late president otherwise he would not have made the statement he did.

Frank Trueman presented the report of the audit committee which was received and adopted. The meeting then adjourned until 6.30 p. m.

Closing Session.

At Thursday evening's session, Mr F C Hare, chief of the poultry division of the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, was introduced and gave an address on the rearing and fattening of chickens. He urged the farmers to allow their boys to attend to the care of the chickens and suggested that they be allowed to keep the proceeds from their sale. The home market in poultry he said was easily glutted but the export trade afforded unlimited possibilities providing the right quality was shipped. The barred Plymouth Rocks and White Wyandottes were pre-eminently the best breeds for the English market. A low set blocky bird was what was wanted. The Leghorn was a poor market bird because it developed spurs very early and its age was liable to be over estimated. A clean legged chicken was preferable to one with feathered legs. To get the best results a chicken was wanted that would mature rapidly and be ready for the market when four months old. They wanted pullets that would lay in the winter time, because they would be ready to set early in the spring. The pullets that are winter layers are the best to breed from. It pays to breed from a few hens rather than from a whole flock. To get the best results in feeding hens we have to feed them quite a lot of meat for their eggs. It costs four cents more per pound to feed chickens in January than it does in September, because more is required to keep the bird warm. The best grains for feed are oats and corn with a little buckwheat for scratching. Whole grain scattered in chaff should be given in the morning and at noon they should have mash, with scraps from the table incorporated therein. You can feed the meat either raw or cooked, but in some respects the cooked was preferable. Dried blood was the best food that could be got for eggs. Hens could not be expected to lay eggs in the

winter if insufficiently fed. He explained that the reason hens devoured their eggs was because they wanted the shells. The way to cure that was to give them the shells with the contents removed. If plenty of meat was fed the eggs would be as fertile if the hens were fed in the coops as if they were at liberty. He did not think that chickens should be hatched out much before the first of May, so that they could at once be turned out in the grass. When feeding chickens in confinement it is absolutely necessary that they should be made to take exercise. A very good way to break up a setting hen was to put them in a box suspended from the ceiling by the four corners. The box should be put up in the hen coop about a foot from the ground, and should have a lath covering so the other hens could be seen. Gaps in chickens was caused by dampness or bad drainage, and if they were kept in a dry place it would not happen. Hens should be kept warm at night, and for that purpose a roost curtain which could be easily arranged, was a good thing. A roost should be 2x4 or 2x3, the small side to be used. A hen house could not be kept too warm in winter time unless artificial means were used. A house for 25 hens should be 16x16 feet with a partition through the middle. In making nests for setting hens it should be remembered that it is always advisable to set hens on earth, and a number should be set at the same time. Hens setting should be separated from the others, and a little water should be scattered around the nest a few days before hatching. There is no need of being in a hurry to get chickens to eat; for if necessary they could live the first ten days without food. Give them a little food at a time, say bread and milk to start with, and give it to them often. When they become four or five months old they are ready to go into the fattening crate. There is nothing that a farmer can make more money at than fattening chickens. The best fattening ration was two parts corn meal, one part buckwheat meal and two parts ground oats, mixed in sour milk having the consistency of thin porridge. The chickens are put into a crate, having three apartments and four birds are put into an apartment. They should have three light meals the first week, and after that they should have all they could eat. At the beginning of the fourth week tallow should be mixed with the food, as it makes the flesh more juicy. Four weeks was sufficient time in which to fatten chickens. A cramping machine is not needed unless the chicken goes off its feet and refuses to eat. The proper way to kill a chicken was to turn its head back and break its neck with the right hand, holding the bird in the left. Under this process the blood remains in the neck and the quality of the bird is thus improved. After being plucked the chickens are allowed to remain out 24 hours before being packed. This is done to allow the animal heat to escape. The chickens should be fasted 36 hours before being killed so that their crops will become empty. The chickens shipped to England by the department of agriculture are never drawn as they would not keep nearly so well if that were done.

A box containing twelve fat chickens packed ready for shipment to the English market was exhibited by Mr. Hare and used to illustrate his subject. He informed the audience that the Department of Agriculture had decided, in case there were no cold storage facilities out of St John next year, to pay all charges over one cent a pound on chickens forwarded from the Maritime provinces to Montreal. The

freight from Montreal to Liverpool would be one cent a pound so the cost to the farmer for transportation would be two cents per pound. On the other side chickens were worth 14 cents per pound, therefore, deducting freight charges, the net returns to the farmer would be twelve cents per pound. In 1896 Canada shipped 8,000 chickens to the English market and in 1900, no less than 111,000 were sent. He hoped that the Local government would adopt the suggestion of the association and establish fattening stations in New Brunswick, as he felt such a move would meet with the hearty approval of the farmers. He (Hare) had been given permission to come to New Brunswick next fall to give instructions in chicken fattening, and he could assure them that he would have great pleasure in coming. He considered the demand for first class poultry in the English market to be unlimited, and the farmers should avail themselves of the opportunity. Canadian poultry already enjoyed a high reputation in the English market because of its uniform quality. There was not a great demand in the old country for chickens over a year old but they might be disposed of at about half the price of the others. One of the reasons the English people wanted the head and feet left on was that it removed the possibility of old hens being palmed off on them for young chickens.

In conclusion Mr Hare assured his hearers that both Local and Dominion departments of agriculture would do their utmost to advance the movement.

A resolution expressing the regret of the association at the loss by death of John Kenny, of Restigouche, and J Fred Watson of St. John, former county vice presidents, was unanimously adopted on motion of Mr. Hubbard, seconded by Mr. Fawcett.

Mr Hubbard offered an apology for the unsatisfactory hall arrangements for the meeting and assured the association that they would not be caught in that way again.

At ten o'clock the convention adjourned sine die.

The selection of a place for next year's meeting of the association has been left in the hands of the executive, the by-law which made it compulsory for the meeting to be held in Fredericton having been amended accordingly. It is not improbable that the meeting next year will convene at the place which holds out the greatest inducements.

In the Sweet Now and Now.

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The Herald Printing and Publishing Company Ltd., have moved their business to the building opposite Lemont's store. There they will be pleased to receive calls from old friends and new whether or not the latter have any particular business to transact.—Jan. 7d&w

Children for Adoption.

Parties wishing to secure children for adoption should call on Mr. J. W. Spurden for forms of application. It is desirable that all applications be in the hands of the secretary of the committee before April 1. See adv. in another column.—d&w6i.

Cream of Wheat.

If you eat Cream of Wheat for tomorrow's breakfast you'll want it every morning. G. T. Whelpley has just received a supply fresh from the mill.—d.

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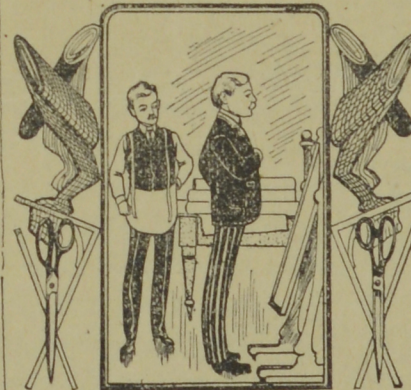
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4th—Black Astrachan Coat, size 36, first price, \$35.00, now \$28.00
5th—Black Astrachan Coat, size 40, first price, \$38.00, now \$30.00
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