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### AGRICULTURAL MEETING.

Professors Shutt and Gilbert on Treatment of Soil and Poultry.

The agricultural meeting held in Kindergarten Hall, last evening, was slimly attended. This is to be regretted, as the addresses delivered by Professors Shutt and Gilbert, of the Central Experimental Farm, were very interesting and instructive.

Berj. Rogers, Esq., President of the Provincial Exhibition Association, presided and appropriately introduced the speakers.

Professor Shutt was the first speaker, and his remarks had special reference to the soil and the methods of treating it so as to obtain the best results. He pointed out that successive cropping would dissipate the organic matter in the soil, and that the soil must be built up. Fertile soil is rich in organic matter. Barnyard manure and its treatment is most important. The exposure of such manure to rainstorms is injurious; allowing it to leach is also disastrous in its results. About 75 per cent of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash is returned to us in animal manure; and by this agency we can return to the soil about 70 per cent of the matter taken from it. Manure should be kept under cover, moist and compact; exposure dries it out and the nitrogen is dissipated.

The importance of having pure water on the farm was also referred to. Once the liquid manure finds its way into the barnyard well, the well should be closed up. There were barnyards and baryards. Some of these it would be difficult to get through without a pair of top boots, and there were others again that were clean enough for picnic purposes. As a rule, said he, there is no more crying need for a well at the back door than there is for having the post office or the grocery store there.

In tolerably light soil, such as we have here, it is better to let a slight fermentation of the manure take place before it is applied to the soil. Get the plant food to the roots of the crops as quickly as possible. There is less loss in that way. Turn over the manure pile in the spring. Well rotted manure is more valuable and is more easily available.

Care must be taken in apportioning the manure. Keep the solid and liquid manure together. Mix horse manure with cow manure; the two will go well together. Barnyard manure must be valued according to its proportion of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. This manure has a greater value than is ascribed to it—as an analysis will show.

A green crop, turned under, adds humus to the soil. Clovers, vetches, peas and beans are nitrogen collectors; other crops are nitrogen consumers. He would recommend the more extensive growth of clover in this province. It is sown with nearly all the grain crops on the Experimental Farm at the rate of four to six pounds to the acre. Having removed the crop the clover begins to grow. If anxious to increase the fertility of the soil he would advise that the second crop of clover be turned in. Clover is an excellent food for cattle—one rich in flesh-forming materials. But if there is not stock to feed it to turn it under.

He would advise growing buckwheat or rye on worn-out land. Wood ashes contain various properties conducive to the growing of plants; but these are not easily obtained here. Plaster or gypsum is also very valuable to the soil. Do not put on too much lime fertilizer at any one time. If used too extensively it uses up all the available plant food.

Plants must be treated like animals; they must be fed when they are hungry. It is better to put the lime on in the spring. There is benefit to be derived from the prudent use of mussel mud. Peat soils are also valuable. They are a good absorbent, and are very useful in the cow stable and pig-pen. Peat absorbs a large proportion of the liquid manure that would otherwise escape, and it stops excessive fermentation in the manure heap.

Professor Gilbert spoke next, and his remarks had special reference to poultry-raising. He said that poultry, properly managed, must be a large source of profit to the farmer. The poultry on the Experimental Farm last year realized \$2 a head over and above their feed. He made a mash of clover stalks cut into short pieces, ground wheat, rye and oats. The clover was put into a pot and boiled and allowed to steep over night. The grain was put in next morning and the whole heated. This was fed to the hens at the rate of one quart to every 20 or 25. Some farmers gorge their hens in the morning. This is a mistake, as it makes them over-fat. After the Experimental Farm hens are given the mash referred to, grain is put in among the straw and they scratch for it. In this way they are kept actively engaged till roosting time. The waste of the table may also be put in a pot with the clover and it will make a very good mash. Bones from the butchers' or the table are also good. On the Experimental Farm the attendants cut them up and feed them in the proportion of one pound to every five or ten hens. Meat food is necessary in some shape or other in the treatment of hens in order to get them to lay the egg. Give them a liberal ration early in the morning. They must also have plenty of pure water. Last winter they gave the fowls on the Experimental Farm two rations a day, and they kept them busy. The eggs they sold to the best possible advantage.

In Montreal last winter 50 cents a dozen was paid for fresh eggs. During the winter fresh eggs should be produced in such

quantities that everyone can get them at about 20 cents. Newly laid eggs will always command a good price. It is a very poor lot of hens that will not make more than 100 per cent profit. Fifty hens were fed for ten cents a day on the Experimental Farm; and running at large they might be kept at less than five cents a day. The farmer should not keep his hens doing nothing all winter when the product is worth the most. He believed that if the farmers in this province paid more attention to their poultry they would find it profitable. The best all round hens for the farmer were the Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte, and Java. After two years' hens are found not to be so profitable. They are not kept longer than two or two-and-a-half years on the Experimental Farm. Hens should be kept warm during the night; they move around during the day and keep themselves warm in that way.

Both addresses were listened to with attention, and at the close the speakers were vigorously applauded. A vote of thanks was tendered the lecturers, which they replied to in fitting terms. Father Burke, of Alberton, moved the vote of thanks, which was seconded by Hon. D. Farquharson and supported by F. L. Haszard, Esq. All the speakers regretted that the audience was not as large as the importance of the occasion merited.

### NEWS NOTES.

Sir Louis Davies is receipt of news of the arrival of the Hudson Bay exploratory steamer Diana at St. John's, Nfld., where she will land the members of the expedition. The Diana will return to the entrance of Hudson straits and cruise about there for some weeks.

It is learned that no further advance will be made at present by the Anglo-Egyptian expedition up the Nile. It is recognized that an attack upon Khartoum would necessitate a strong backing of British troops and owing to the troubles in India, the war office cannot send such a force to Egypt.

The timely presence in Montreal last week of one of the officers of the department of agriculture prevented the sending forward to England of a carload of fruit from Grimsby district, which was in a sadly demoralized condition. Despite the explicit instructions of Professors Craig and Robertson to leave space between each tier of boxes in the refrigerator car, the Grimsby men jammed the boxes tightly together with the result that the fruit became heated and commenced to rot. The Ontario fruit men have much to learn yet in the way of packing.

Appropos of the recent lynchings and shootings in the neighboring republic the New York Tribune reports:—"The Southern and Western lynchings are apparently having their effect on the thoughtless crowds of this city. Recently, street crimes here have provoked cries of 'Lynch him!' rarely heard before. The passion of a Brooklyn mob against a gripman who, apparently without blame on his part, ran over a child on Saturday night was a striking example of the spread of the mania. These incidents have amounted to little, but they show a lawless tendency which seems to be growing through familiarity with mob rule elsewhere. This lynching evil, if unrepressed, will have far-reaching consequences."

—It is announced in London by the South Africa Chartered Company that the work Dr. "Jim" has gone back to Africa to do is to take the oversight of the construction of a line of telegraph from the Cape to Cairo. And contemporaneous with this announcement comes the news that the British Government has decided to spend \$14,000,000 in the construction of an elaborate system of docks, basins, coal-jetties, etc., at Simon's Town, Cape of Good Hope, and that Major Hunter had advanced up the Nile to Damer, at the mouth of the Atbara, or Black Nile, within 70 miles of Metemneh. All of which looks as if "the blasted Britisher" hadn't read in the New York newspapers about that Franco-Russian agreement to force him to evacuate Egypt and hand over the Upper Nile country to France. He seems to be proceeding on the idea that he is there to stay.

Miss Ernet, optician, finds that work warrants her stay in this city another week at least. Good training and an extended practical experience have qualified her to remedy the most defective vision where glasses will be of use. If your sight is failing or your eyes trouble you, come in and have them examined. No charge for consultation. First class work and material guaranteed. To give glasses when not needed is both dishonest and injurious to the permanency of her business. By previous arrangement parties can secure special hours for consultation. Office hours, 9 a. m. to 5 p. m., at Capt. Samuel McRae's.

MADRID, Sept. 21.—According to telegrams from Oronso, capital of the province of the same name, on the river Minho, the palace of the Marquis of Lois has been destroyed by dynamite bomb. The outrage was perpetrated during the absence of the family and no one was injured.

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### TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

The Public Meeting of Last Evening.

There was a good audience last night in the Hall of Queen Square school, assembled to hear the addresses of the speakers announced at the close of the forenoon session.

Hon. D. Laird was the first. He said that it was very pleasing to see so many taking an interest in education. He confined his attention chiefly to the reverence for the aged which should be inculcated on the young, and the cultivation of the aesthetic taste; and concluded an able address by expressing the hope that we would in a short time have a public library and a picture gallery.

Rev. Mr. Fullerton next addressed the meeting. He said he was here tonight to give one brief word of encouragement, and that no advance can be made without our best intellectual effort. We sympathize with the three R's; but look at Egypt which had no knowledge of the three R's, and see what its civilization had been. He referred to ancient Greece, and impressed on the teachers the necessity and value of precision and endurance.

Professor Murray confined himself chiefly to the failures in producing the best results. He said the environment was all-important in developing good character. No teacher, he said, can teach more than twenty-five pupils successfully. The energy necessary for teaching is lost in controlling a large number of pupils. In over-crowded schools only a small percentage of the pupils obtain the full benefit of the teacher's instruction. He exposed the false economy of placing a great number of pupils under one teacher.

Dr. Anderson said there has been for many years a silent influence which has produced a vast improvement in school buildings and the effect is seen in the appearance of the children. This has been brought about by the teachers, by their influence on school trustees. He spoke of the friendship existing between himself and the teachers of the Island.

Rev. Mr. Corey said he would particularly emphasize the influence of environment. Pointed out how this may be attained. If teachers could impress on trustees and others the need of improvement they would bring about the best conditions for their work.

Rev. Mr. Chappell who was present, being called upon for an address, spoke of many teachers from whom he had received instruction. He described the school system of Japan and explained how the schools are organized.

### FORENOON SESSION.

Roll call and reading of the minutes, was followed by an entertaining and interesting paper on Primary School work by Miss McMurray.

In the discussion which followed, Mr. McIntyre questioned the utility of the vertical system of writing and failed to see its advantages over the ordinary or oblique system of writing.

Mr. Stewart, Inspector of City Schools, pointed out the advantage of the vertical system.

Mr. Campbell, Summerside, read a paper on "The Practical in Education." The union of the ideal and practical was adverted to. He discussed the objection that is frequently made that the education given in our schools is not practical. He condemned the condition of things which compelled a teacher to work in order that he may pass as great a number of pupils as possible into the Prince Wales College, and advocated as a remedy "a public school leaving examination" as a test of the work in the schools. The paper was discussed by Messrs Landrigan, McSwain, Seaman, Miller, Ross, T. C. James, Kiely and Stewart.

The question box was then opened and answers given to the various questions, when the Association adjourned to meet at 2 o'clock.

"And where is the prospective Minister of Agriculture?" asked Rev. Father Burke in his remarks at the Shutt-Gilbert meeting last night as he apologized to the visitors for the thin meeting. And even Hon. D. Farquharson with echo answered where.

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