PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE AMERICAN BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION, HELD AT COLUMBUS, OHIO, JANUARY 15-18, 1907.

The annual meeting of the American Breeders' Association was held at Columbus, O., on January 15, 16, 17, and 18, 1907.

The Association was the guest of the Ohio State Board of Agriculture; and the College of Agriculture of the Ohio State University; other agricultural organizations of the State of Ohio also participated in the meetings, as will appear in the reports of the various sessions.

The sessions were held partly at the Ohio State University and partly at the Board of Trade Auditorium in Columbus.

A full report of the proceedings follows:

TUESDAY FORENOON, JANUARY 15—GENERAL SESSION.

The Association met in the chapel of the Ohio State University with the Ohio State Farmers' Institute.

In the absence of Hon. L. H. Kerrick, Vice-President, Dr. C. B. Davenport, of Cold Spring Harbor, N. Y., presided and called the meeting to order.

After music by the Angelus Ladies' Quartette, Dr. Davenport introduced as the first speaker Dr. W. O. Thompson, President of the Ohio State University.

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

By DR. W. O. THOMPSON, *President of the Ohio State University, Columbus, O.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION: I suppose most people would agree that it is proper for the President of the University here to express a welcome on the part of the University to an Association of this sort, as it comes here to our city, and, in part, to this University, to hold its annual session; but I hope that there is something more than mere formal propriety in this case. I want, therefore, to assure you that in expressing a welcome to this Association this morning I am voicing a sentiment that has been in our hearts and our minds ever since we anticipated this meeting. We have come to regard the meeting of the American Breeders' Association as one of the important agencies in developing and cultivating interest in the objects it seeks to attain.

Nothing is more manifest, I think, than the commonplace truth that an abiding intelligence as to the problems we are trying to solve

is the condition of all enthusiasm in the work in which we are engaged; and enthusiasm in this work is the condition precedent to any great achievement. In any phase of agriculture, whether it be crop production, or animal or plant breeding, hope of eventual success must lie in an intelligent apprehension of the problems involved, and that intelligent apprehension must precede the enthusiasm necessary to make the movement succeed.

Now, we are engaged here at the University in trying to do all of these three things that you are trying to do. We are endeavoring to increase the intelligence upon these problems through the processes of education, and by increasing such intelligence to make the young men come within the immediate reach and influence of the University. We are trying to arouse enthusiasm in the business of agriculture, believing that if we can arouse genuine enthusiasm we attract to it and keep in it the best quality of men who are best suited to develop the business of agriculture.

I suppose most of us are aware of the fact that there has been lately a tendency for population to return from the city to the farm. I have never looked upon that as any serious addition to the real productive forces of agriculture. It is a pleasant thing for the city folk to talk about; but the future of agriculture is in the hands of the people who live upon the farm as farmers, and not in the hands of those men who make their fortunes in the city and who propose to go out into the country as a sort of pleasure or a secondary business consideration. The future of agriculture lies with the people who believe in agriculture and who live with it. There are no fundamental laws underlying any other business different from those which underlie the business of agriculture. Every business depends for its success upon the people who live with it and who devote themselves to it. Now, if I understand the purpose of all this agitation, of this awakening interest on the part of the State and of the Nation in the matter of agriculture, it is that we may arouse intelligent interest in agricultural surroundings and enthusiasm in those surroundings as a condition precedent to success in agriculture.

I suppose that we should say also that we intend, if we can, to bring up agriculture, as we intend, if we can, to bring up everything else. We have had a mighty hard struggle to get the medical profession on a safer basis. We have had a mighty hard struggle to get the legal profession to anything like a high standard. We are having a tendency now toward a drop in the ministry.

There is not anything in the world that does not present these problems, and we must avoid the conclusion at which some people seem to have arrived, that people in agriculture are less interested than other people are in their particular calling. The truth is that with the passing of the years new conditions have arisen in agriculture. All its products furnish problems, but every day and hour these are attacked with more or less success. One great line along which our agricultural interests are devoting attention and skill is the matter of plant production; another is the matter of animal production. The

fundamental principle that underlies improvement along either of these lines is this: If there is anything good in anything, there is more good in the best things; that is to say, if there is any good in raising any sort of an animal, there is more good in raising the best sort of an animal; if there is any good in producing any sort of a plant, there is more good in producing the best sort of a plant. Underneath this whole movement lies the fundamental fact that the best things are the profitable things. Not only are they profitable things from the financial point of view, but they are the things worthy of the attention of intelligent men. I suppose you will recognize in a moment that it does not take a large amount of brains and it does not greatly tax a man's enthusiasm to do the things that everybody has done for fifteen generations. That is a very simple process. We must be governed by some higher motive than that which suffices for the ordinary day's work, something better than the old treadmill idea, or else we will tire early of the business. What has created enthusiasm in other lines is the possibility of development in the business. You cannot get a young man now anywhere of any ambition, of any character and intelligence to permanently ally himself with a business that has no future in it. Nor can you get the farmer to permanently ally himself with the farm unless there is something there of a future—not simply a money future, but a future that is worthy of him as an individual.

Now, if this farmer can understand that he has the opportunity to do business of a high character, and to deal with materials of a high character, there will be some satisfaction in the business. We believe, therefore, that in the development of plant breeding and of animal breeding we are doing something to meet the needs of the men who live in connection with this business, as well as doing something to meet the higher needs of society.

I suppose we may take a larger outlook this morning, and in addition to the one I have just suggested, say that the development of these industries is an important consideration for the country at large. That fact is the reason why the State gives its money toward it; that fact is the reason why the Nation gives its money. We tax people to support public educational institutions as a matter of necessity because such institutions develop the country. An organization of this sort is, therefore, an aid to the development of the country. The Department of Agriculture is one of the influences which has for its purpose the development of this country.

Now a fundamental principle with the Government is that we must keep our patrimony undiminished, must keep our country in a high state of development, in order that the Nation itself may live. Whatever is done, therefore, by way of education, by way of stimulus, or by way of instruction, as is done through our schools and colleges, or through our Department of Agriculture and other Departments, is done for the development of the country; and to the extent that these develop the country they make the country stronger. Through them the country reaps a benefit in the perpetual prosperity of its citizenship.

I want to emphasize, therefore, in this welcome, that you are not

here simply for any selfish or narrow reasons, but because this organization is one of the great developmental agencies of our country. We are in sympathy with it because it makes for the prosperity of the entire community and the preservation and development of its resources. This is the reason for your existence.

Let us, therefore, assume this morning that we are engaged in no trivial discussions here, because the problems that will come before this Association at this convention will be such as relate to the permanent welfare of our entire country; and whatever is good for the country is good for you and me, and good for all the institutions of the country. Therefore, we are enthusiastic about these fundamental branches of agricultural industry, two of which are represented in this convention this morning.

Now, as Professor Hays has just come in since I began speaking, I shall renew my welcome in order that he shall not escape, and in order that he shall feel along with the rest of you that he is welcomed to Columbus and to the State of Ohio by the State Board of Agriculture, the Ohio State University, and the Columbus Board of Trade, all of which bodies have been, I assure you, most earnest in their preparations for this meeting and most cordial in their welcome. If there is anything that has not been done by any of these associated organizations that can be done, and you will kindly make it known, I am sure that any of us, or all of us together, will respond most heartily.

Again I extend to you in behalf of all the people interested a most cordial welcome. (Applause.)

In the absence of Mr. W. G. Farnsworth, President of the Ohio State Farmers' Institute, speaking in behalf of that organization, Mr. W. W. Farnsworth, Secretary of the Ohio State Horticultural Society, offered the following:

ADDRESS OF WELCOME.

By W. W. FARNSWORTH, *Secretary of the Ohio State Horticultural Society, Columbus, O.*

I do not want to appear under any false pretenses this morning, and will simply say by way of extenuation that the President of the Ohio Farmers' Institute was unable to be here this morning, and I was requested to try to fill his place.

Gentlemen of the American Breeders' Association, the farmers of Ohio bid you welcome here this morning. We have been accustomed to meet here from year to year to study some of the problems which we find confronting us in our daily duties and occupations upon our farms, and in respect to which we are endeavoring to secure more light which shall guide us: for in our present condition we realize that the one thing necessary for our highest success is more light.