

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

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Attend the Annual Meetings

THE week beginning Feb. 5th, is, or should be, the most important one of the year to the breeders of this Province. The annual meetings of the various breed associations are announced to take place at that time, and every breeder should make it a point to be present. While the proceedings may be more or less of a routine character, yet every item of business transacted has some bearing upon the future work of the organization. If every member would feel it incumbent upon himself to attend the annual meeting and take an active interest in the proceedings the work of improving the particular breed he is interested in would be greatly accelerated. We often hear complaints that certain individuals run the associations and keep the offices for themselves. If this be true, and we do not doubt but that in some instances there is good ground for the complaints, is it not due largely to the carelessness of the membership in regard to the work of the association? They absent themselves from the annual meeting, or if present take little if any active interest in what is going on. The associations have to be run by somebody and if certain individuals seem to have more than their share of the honor more interest on the part of each member in the work of the association is the simplest way to remedy matters.

There are a few important topics to be discussed at the coming meetings that make a large attendance of members necessary. Some important matters in connection with the office and executive work of the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association will need to be considered. The Hon. Mr. Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, is very desirous of knowing the views of the horsemen as to the best way his department could aid in furthering the horse industry of Ontario. There should be a full and free discussion along this line. And it might be well if the executive prepare the program with this object in view. The question might be brought before the meeting by a series of resolutions covering the various points upon which the Minister would like light upon. It was expected that a special meeting would be called for this purpose, but so far none has been held.

The decision of the American Short-horn Breeders' Association at its annual meeting held at Chicago during the International to widen their records so as to include animals registered in Coates Herd Book up to volume XL, opens up the way for the Canadian Association to take similar action at its next meeting. At present only pedigrees tracing back to Coates Herd Book up to Volume XX, are eligible for registration in Canadian Records. This has narrowed the oper-

ations of the importer and compelled him to leave behind splendid individuals, many of them famous show yard animals, in the old land, because they could not be registered in our herd books. Now that American breeders have taken action there seems no good reason why Canadian breeders should not do the same.

Since the last annual meeting the nationalization of the records has become an accomplished fact and the records offices transferred to Ottawa. Reports of the work under the new arrangements will be presented for the consideration of members. These should prove interesting as showing what progress has been made under the new regime. Taking it altogether the coming meetings promise to be interesting

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and profitable throughout and we bespeak a large attendance. The Spring Stallion Show will be held during the same week and should prove another strong drawing card.

Raise More Hogs

To advise farmers to raise more hogs in the face of the evident distrust of the packer that exists at the present time may seem like a waste of energy. And yet we feel that it would be a wise policy for the farmer to increase his present output of hogs very materially the present year. Prices are at a high level and with the American hog shut out, they are likely to continue at a profitable figure for some time at least. Besides, the great scarcity of Canadian hogs makes it incumbent upon the packer to pay a good figure in order to keep his plant running.

The bacon industry of this country is an important one. It has grown from a small beginning a dozen years ago to an export value of over twelve million dollars annually at the present time. A

trade of this importance should not be allowed to fall behind unless for very good reasons. While the packer has not done his duty in regard to paying a sufficient premium for select quality, and while the marked variation in price during the year is very unsatisfactory to the producer, we still believe it will pay the farmer to grow more hogs. With the exception, perhaps, of 1904, farmers have received profitable prices for hogs since the advent of the bacon industry, and it would be unfortunate if a trade of this magnitude should be allowed to peter out because of the difficulties we have mentioned.

The letter from the Wm. Davies Co. published elsewhere in this issue seems to indicate that the packers are to some extent, at least, convinced of the seriousness of the situation from their point of view and are willing to discuss the existing difficulties with a committee representing the farmer. Their offer will, no doubt, be taken advantage of and may open up the way for the removal of grievances, which are to-day hampering the trade and perhaps unduly prejudicing the farmer against the packers. The farmer has no other desire than fairness in this matter and if he can be assured that he will get this in the future, the packer may rely upon securing a sufficient supply of hogs to keep his establishment running to its fullest capacity. In the meantime our advice is to raise more hogs and those of the best quality.

A New Plan

A suggestion worthy of more than passing notice comes from one of Ontario's leading exhibitors and importers, on the important question of the management of the live stock exhibits at our leading fairs. Instead of leading out the classes singly to be judged by the same set of judges throughout, and occupying the entire time of the fair, the proposal is to meet the exhibits during the first days, with a corps of judges strong enough to get the work all over during the early part of the show, the exhibits then to be placed in stalls so arranged that the different classes will be all together, and placed according to the prizes won or relative positions below the money in which the judges left them.

Such a plan would no doubt be of the greatest possible advantage to visitors in viewing the exhibits, which can be then seen together, and to far better advantage, than even from the ringside, at the time of making the awards. There are, however, several obvious objections to the plan, particularly the extra care and trouble of looking after stock, as well as the disadvantage at which exhibits arriving from long