

ly to mismanagement and dishonesty at the head offices. There is a growing feeling that large amounts of capital are being used in stock speculations, and that large corporations, directors and others, that are on friendly terms with the management, receive special favors that are denied the general public. Then it has finally filtered in to the consciousness of the average depositor that depositors are not safe, that they have no guarantee and that the old saying "As safe as the bank" is simply nonsense. With growing knowledge of the actual conditions the doubt and unrest becomes intensified, so that should a commercial panic set in we would undoubtedly have a general run on the banks from the depositors, the very people who have in the past been a tower of strength to the banks through their coolness and support in times of depression.

The whole business of the country rests on confidence and the restoration of public confidence in the banks can only be accomplished by strong radical measures. Tinkering with little amendments, shareholders' audit, etc., will never reassure the people. Give the country a Banking Commission of strong men like Mr. McLeod, and with power to control, not only to audit head offices, but to keep on safer lines, to favor the actual business of the country and to check the speculators, great or small, to see that a large percentage of capital is kept in reserve for times of stress, and other reforms that men of special knowledge and business capacity could suggest.

Carleton Co., Ont.

A. C.

Sudden Deaths of Young Cattle.

Dr. J. H. Tennent, one of the Dominion Veterinary inspectors, was recently called upon to make inquiry into the death of a valuable three-year-old heifer, just in milk, and two yearlings the property of Wm. Young, a Middlesex Co., Ont., farmer, after two or three days' illness. The animals had been running on pasture for a short time and showed no previous symptoms of ill-health, but went "off feed" suddenly with evidence of great distress, staggering in the walk, throwing up and turning the head, going round and round and then falling down heavily on their sides, expiring as in severe pain. Post mortem examination showed normal conditions with apparently nothing in the stomach. No poisonous weeds were observed on the pastures, but some musty fodder had been eaten before going out a couple of weeks previous. The symptoms were regarded as indicating meningitis but Dr. Tennent took samples of blood, brain and other organs for transmission to head quarters at Ottawa for further official examination, the case being such as to warrant thorough research. In this connection we find in the section devoted to veterinary medicine of the U. S. Experiment Station Record, just to hand, a report on "Forage poison in horses, cattle and mules, so-called cerebro-spinal meningitis and commonly called staggers," by R. Graham, of the Kentucky Station. The resume is as follows:

"An outbreak of forage poisoning traceable in a majority of cases to unsound corn, fodder, or fermented silage is said to have occurred in Kentucky during the fall and winter months of 1911-12. Horses were attacked more than cattle, and cattle were more susceptible than mules. The author states that the cause of the disease was so varying that it may be described as occurring in two and perhaps three types; the acute or rapidly fatal; the subacute, which generally ends in death; and the chronic or milder form from which the animal under proper care and treatment may recover. It was often observed in cattle that the first animal affected in the herd died much sooner than the animals subsequently attacked. Some animals made a complete recovery from a mild or chronic form of the disease only to succumb in a few days or a few weeks' time on a recontraction of the disease, showing that one attack confers no resistance to a second.

The acute form is said to be more prevalent than any other, especially in horses and mules. The animals so affected succumbing in from two to three days from the time the first clinical symptoms were manifested. Animals were frequently found dead in the morning that evidenced no symptoms of ill-health on the previous day. Horses were attacked at work in the field and died within a few hours. The symptoms in a majority of the acute cases were of from twelve to seventy-two hours standing, while symptoms of subacute cases were of from three to nine days duration. The symptoms of the chronic form are mild, such as loss of appetite, dullness, slight inco-ordination in walking, followed by recovery in two or three days.

"In response to a set of questions sent out to veterinarians in the State, reports were received of the deaths of 100 of 134 cows affected, 465 of 612 horses, and 99 of 115 mules. Bacteriological examinations of the brains of several horses and cows gave negative results.

Two veterinarians reported slight success in treating the disease by intravenous injections of a solution of potassium permanganate. The best method of combating it lies in prevention; moldy, improperly cured, fermented, or damaged feed should not be fed to animals. It is stated that at the Elmendorf farm, one of the largest stock farms in this country, where the damaged corn was floated and only sound corn fed, no cases appeared.

The National Record Board in Annual Meeting.

The annual meeting of the National Record Board, composed of representatives from the various Dominion Live Stock Associations, was held in the Prince George Hotel, Toronto, on May 23rd. A goodly number were on hand, including Wm. Smith, M.P., Columbus; Robt. Miller, Stouffville; John Bright, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner; R. J. Mackie, Oshawa; James Bowman, Guelph; T. A. Cox, Brantford; J. M. Gardhouse, Weston; Geo. Pepper, Toronto; John Gardhouse, Highfield; A. J. Dolson, Norval St.; Fred Richardson, Columbus; Robt. Graham, Bedford Park; John McKee, Norwich; W. A. Dryden, Brooklin; Peter Christie, Manchester; Peter White, Pembroke; B. A. Bull, Brampton; Col. D. McCrae, Guelph; Wm. Hendrie, Hamilton; W. W. Ballantyne, Stratford; Harry Smith, Hay; Jos. Brethour, Burford; K. Featherston, Streetsville; Geo. Douglas, Mitchell; R. H. Harding, Thorndale; L. J. C. Bull, Brampton; Victor Sylvestre, Clairvaux, Que.; Paul Tourigny, Victoriaville, Que.; J. A. Paquette, Que., and John W. Brant, Sec.

Wm. Smith, M. P., Chairman of the Record Board Committee, presided, and, in his opening remarks, referred to the past year as the brightest in the history of the Board. His address laid before the meeting three important questions, which were discussed at some length, viz., (1) a national or international winter show for Canada, (2) the report recently made to the Holstein-Friesian Association, re relative costs of operation in the National Records or separated from them, and (3) the so-called grievance of the Western breeders. With regard to this latter subject, he believed that the Board had been liberal with their money, and had the Western breeders used better judgment at election time, they might easily have had more representation on the Board. The agitation, he thought, is due to a few breeders, and is not supported by the majority. Of ten representatives on the Board from the West, only one was present at the meeting.

Robert Miller, discussing the report made by Jas. Rettie and D. C. Flatt, to the Holstein breeders, that it would be cheaper for them to remain aloof from the National Records, said that the National Records could not easily be found fault with. They are open to anyone to criticize if they are faulty, and the fact that all breed societies now included are perfectly satisfied, is very good proof of the value of the Records. He believed that the cost of the work of putting out the pedigrees of Holsteins is much less than for Shorthorns, as the sire and dam only are given in the former, while the pedigree is given in full on the dam's side in the latter. The report made by Messrs Flatt and Rettie was believed to be unfair, and an invitation had been extended to an interested person to go to Ottawa and examine the workings of the Record office to substantiate or disprove the report, but so far he had declined. It was estimated that clerical work of operating the Holstein Association could be done in the Record office for about \$2,600, one-half of which, or \$1,300, would be borne by the Association, and it was his belief that this was much cheaper than the work is being done under present conditions. He believed that if a thorough investigation were made, it would show an advantage on the side of the National Records.

Peter White took up the question which is agitating the minds of some Western breeders. The Record Board had been criticized with regard to the representation on it, something over which the Board has absolutely no control, the constitution as now standing composing the Board of members elected by the various Breed Associations. He believed that the Western breeders had been generously dealt with, and that their desire to force the Minister to change the constitution to work automatically should not be taken seriously. He also believed that geographical position does not count, and that men should be the standard—not place of residence. If their demands were granted, fees could be manipulated and representatives might get on the Board with no more interest in the breed they represented further than to satisfy the selfishness of some friend. The shoe is not all on one foot. Under the proposed regulations, in some respects, the Western Provinces would be worse off than now, and a complete statement of grants showed that, in many cases, they now have the best of the deal. He referred

to the Percheron and Suffolk horse societies and to the Aberdeen-Angus cattle association, all of which get much larger grants out West and have an extremely large proportion of their Board membership in the West. Mr. White suggested that the East and West should meet to work out the scheme.

In reference to passenger rates to annual meetings, Robt. Miller pointed out that breeders could come East at rates very little over half fare on excursions which run nearly every week during the winter.

James Bowman, who has had considerable experience in the West, expressed the opinion that the "kick" is only coming from a few, and is quite local in effect.

The subject of an International Winter Show was introduced by Geo. Pepper, who placed his ideas in the form of a lengthy resolution, "that we respectfully request the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Burrell, to appropriate the sum of \$100,000 per year for ten years for the purpose of establishing a Canadian National Winter Live Stock Show, embracing all kinds of live stock, seeds, fruit and flowers and poultry.

"That the Executive be composed of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture or Live Stock Commissioner, who shall be the President or Chairman, and twenty-four members to be elected as follows: The Live Stock Commissioner from each province with one other member appointed by the Minister of Agriculture in each province, and six members appointed by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture. The Executive shall have charge of the entire management of the show, taking all receipts and paying all expenses, including the expense of transportation of all exhibits.

"They shall allot to the association and breed organizations interested a sufficient sum to pay premiums, but the management of all matters pertaining to the prize list, awarding the prizes, etc., in connection with the different organized associations shall be in the hands of the Directors of their respective associations. Only in case of dispute or necessity shall the Executive interfere with the conduct of the competition of any of the departments. This Committee shall, when organized, locate the show where it will be most convenient for all Canadians, and where the best accommodation and consideration can be obtained."

A Committee was nominated in the resolution to interview the Minister of Agriculture, but the resolution as worded was open to some criticism, and after considerable discussion Peter White changed the wording to the following, which was carried unanimously. "This Board is unanimously of the opinion that the time has arrived for the holding of a truly national agricultural show, including live stock, seeds, poultry, etc., and organized on broad national lines, and having a Board truly representative covering every Dominion agricultural interest, and that a committee composed of the National Live Stock Record Committee and Victor Sylvestre, W. F. Stephen, Senator Talbot, W. H. Sharpe, M. P., John Gardhouse, Col. McEwen, Wm. Ballantyne, R. Graham and Geo. Pepper be appointed, and the Chairman of the Record Board interview the Minister of Agriculture and arrange for a meeting.

The new officers elected were: Hon. Pres., A. W. Smith, Manle Lodge; Pres., Wm. Smith, M. P. Representing heavy horses, Peter White; light horses, Hon. N. Garneau; beef cattle, Robt. Miller; dairy cattle, W. F. Stephen; sheep, J. M. Gardhouse; swine, J. E. Brethour.

The report of the Record Committee to the Board showed all the affairs of the Association to be in a satisfactory state.

Federal Aid Asked.

President R. J. Fleming, of the Toronto Winter Fair Association, Mayor Hocken and Controller Foster waited on the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, last week, asking Federal support towards the establishment of an annual national winter fair in Toronto. A sympathetic hearing was given and the matter will be considered by the Cabinet. No grant, however, will be available this season, but may be forthcoming for an exhibition in 1915.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate.":

Your attitude in regard to the revision of the Bank Act cannot be too highly commended. If only the farmers would stand together on questions of superior importance instead of dividing themselves in party camps, what a change for the better would await us! May your seed bear its fruits, the earlier the better.

Prescott Co., Ont.

F. A. SENECA.

Results of over seven hundred complete analyses of oat kernels made in Britain during several years seem to indicate that the variation of the principal constituents of the oat kernel is greater than usually supposed.