

lost by that time. There never was a period in the history of this continent when there was a greater demand for purebred live stock of all kinds than at present, and the time to strike is now.

There may be a feeling in the minds of some that only our larger breeders and importers are benefited by this movement. But this is not so. The real benefit comes to the smaller breeders and those who have a few good animals for sale. The publication of these lists has been a great help to the smaller breeders in enabling them to get better prices for their stock, and to reach buyers in all parts of the country. As one of the members of the deputation pointed out, the work of the larger bodies has been very much hampered during former years because the smaller breeders who bought stock from them were not able to get sale for their produce. These lists, in enabling the latter to dispose of their young animals, have greatly benefited the larger breeder and importer, and thus given an impetus to the live stock trade of the country that it never had in the past.

But all this work has a reflex action; it benefits the one who buys as well as the one who sells. Not only is the Ontario breeder, who is enabled by the publication of the lists of stock for sale to dispose of his surplus animals greatly benefited, but the purchaser in the other provinces of the Dominion is equally benefited. And, as the importation of purebred stock into Ontario from Great Britain and elsewhere is of immense value to this province, so the exportation of good stock outside of Ontario adds greatly to the wealth of the other provinces of the Dominion in which this stock is sold.

In this way the work that is being carried on by these live stock associations has more than a provincial character and not only should they be aided in the most liberal way by the local Government but also by the Dominion Government. The Federal Government has during the past eight or nine years spent large amounts in developing dairying in the outlying provinces with splendid results. But why should it not do something to encourage the raising of better stock in these provinces? And there is no better way of fostering the raising of good live stock in these newer districts than by granting such assistance to the live stock associations as will enable them to greatly extend the good work they now are doing.

Another important work which these associations have accomplished is that of obtaining reduced rates on the railways for the transportation of purebred live stock. Though very valuable concessions have already been obtained from the railways, there is more to be done in this respect and which can be done much more effectually if the associations have more funds. Then, there is the great question of transportation as it applies to the carriage of our products to the consumer in Great Britain and elsewhere. There is no more important problem before the people of Canada to day than this. In the transportation of cattle alone the Ontario shipper has to pay \$6 per head more to get his animals to the consumer than the cattle shipper of the Western States. This is something that these associations, which are looking after the interests of the live stock farmer, might very well take up. Until these great disadvantages in regard to freight rates are removed or remedied this country will never be able to successfully compete with other lands in supplying food products to the British consumer.

### Sheep Worrying and the Dog Tax

A subscriber in Norfolk County sends us a number of suggestions for amendment to the Act imposing a tax on dogs and for the protection of sheep. He informs us that this question has been very fully discussed by the farmers in his district, who agree that the present law does not meet the needs of the case, and as a result a great many farmers all over the province have gone out of sheep-raising. These suggestions, which are based upon a resolution passed by the Bloomsburg Farmers' Union, are, we under-

stand, in the hands of the Minister of Agriculture and the local member for North Norfolk, and will probably come up for discussion at the present session of the Legislature. They are as follows:

1. That one or more inspectors be appointed in each municipality, who shall act as valuers on sheep destroyed by dogs. They shall also be authorized to destroy all dogs found without tags and dogs known to have worried sheep.
2. That the Act be amended so that an annual tax of five dollars be levied on bitches.
3. That each municipality shall pay full value for sheep damaged or destroyed by dogs.
4. The owner of any dog known to have worried sheep shall be free from liability, the dog in every case to be destroyed.
5. It shall be the duty of the assessor to collect the dog tax and furnish each dog owner with a tag, for which he shall pay an annual fee of \_\_\_\_\_ cents.
6. All cities, towns and incorporated villages shall bear a share of the loss caused by dogs worrying sheep in proportion to the number of dogs kept in each.

It is hardly necessary for us to state that we are quite in sympathy with any scheme which has for its object the development of the sheep industry in Canada. There is no doubt but that the worrying of sheep by dogs has induced a great many farmers to give up keeping sheep, and has also prevented many more from engaging in that profitable line of farming. If the present law relating to the tax on dogs is inadequate, by all means something should be done at once to remedy matters. The suggestions made herein seem to be along the right line. If carried into effect they certainly would inflict no hardship on anyone. A dog that is not worth a reasonable tax and the trouble of a tag should be destroyed, as it is of no value to anyone. The part referring to towns and villages bearing a share of the losses incurred from sheep-worrying is in many ways commendable. Very often it is the village or town dog that is guilty of the destruction of sheep in many districts. However this may be, the changes proposed are worthy of the fullest discussion and we would be pleased to hear from our readers as regards their practicability and effectiveness.

### A Great Agricultural Meeting at Souris, P. E. I.

(Specially Reported for Farming by J. A. MacDonald.)

One of the greatest, if not the very greatest, agricultural meetings it has ever been the privilege of the writer to attend was held at Souris, P. E. Island, on March 2nd. It was the largest meeting of farmers ever held (probably) in Canada. There were about three thousand persons present. The large opera house of the town was filled to the door, while hundreds at the door were unable to gain entrance. The meeting was held under the auspices of the local government. Profs. Robertson, Macoun and Dillon, with the members of the Cabinet and about fifty specialists of the province—such men as Robertson, of Inkerman, Moore, of Cropaud, etc., etc., and many advanced farmers of Kings county came by special train. On the platform were about a hundred of the leading farmers of the county, and the leading clergymen of every denomination, besides prominent business-men and politicians.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. McIntyre, ex-M.P. of the county. The first speaker was Prof. Macoun, Horticulturist of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, who did very well under the circumstances, and gave much practical information on matters horticultural, and at the close of his talk was put through a close fire of questioning. John Robertson, the P.E.I. apple king, of Inkerman, placed a number of apples on the platform, showing the capabilities of the island for apple-growing. Mr. R. strongly urged the audience to take up the growing of apples to a larger extent, assuring them what he had done could be done by others.

Prof. Robertson, Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, on coming forward was greeted with great applause and