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EDITORIAL.

REGISTRY OF IMPORTED CLYDESDALES.

The representatives of the Clydesdale Horse Association of Canada are certainly entitled to congratulation and commendation on their success in inducing the council of the Scottish Association to give registration numbers with the export certificate in case of animals coming to this country. It was a good deal to expect from a people so generally considered conservative of their institutions, but their proverbial frugality evidently proved their vulnerable point in this emergency, as they could not well afford to continue a course which, in view of the action of the Canadian Association, would have seriously checked the trade of importation which is bringing so much "siller" to the coffers of their Association and the pockets of the breeders. And it was an act of diplomacy on the part of the Canadian contingent in taking advantage of the circumstances to raise the standard of registration, which was certainly desirable. While in point of economy, and for other reasons, there is much to be said in favor of the principle of delaying the granting of registration numbers until the animals have proved breeders there is certainly more general satisfaction to all concerned in having permanent numbers assigned at the time of registration, and it is just a question whether the system adopted by some breed societies of requiring the registration at or under the age of two years is not the wiser and safer plan. There was surely need of a shaking of the dry bones of the Scottish breeders in the matter of registration, and the new order of things should greatly strengthen the financial condition of both associations and place the directorate in a better position to advance the interests of the breed by offering special prizes and by other means which may in their wisdom be devised.

THE WESTERN WHEAT CROP.

For the Western Canadian farmer this is one of the most problematical seasons he has yet experienced. The spring opened late, the season continued backward, seeding was completed four weeks later than in average years, and growth has since been correspondingly tardy. The rains which usually came in June to stimulate growth and fortify the crop for the long, warm days of summer, were delayed until July, so that now (August 29th), at a time when the wheat crop is ordinarily ready for the binder, and some years much of it cut, there is just the first change of color in the head.

Apart from this circumstance of lateness, however, and the consequent impending danger of frost, the crops promise well, especially upon the western side of the prairies. Alberta is bearing large crops of oats and fall wheat, and is not as late as the Eastern Provinces. Saskatchewan fields, though late, give every promise of full yields, and are about 15 per cent. larger in acreage than last year, but Manitoba, especially the south-western section, has less evidence of a rich harvest, and there have been visitations of hail. Taking the prospects of the spring-wheat belt as a whole liberal estimates cannot place the total yields over 75 per cent. of last year's 90,000,000-bushel crop, which was exceptionally large, early and uniform. This year the erratic weather has resulted in producing a crop that is far from uniform, and cannot fail but be difficult to grade.

These are the crop prospects in Western Canada, but unpromising as they are, compared with the banner year of 1906, they are still much

brighter than those farther south, and are not much below the average for the past ten years. The peculiarities of the season have prevailed all over the continent west of the Mississippi River, but in the States the summer rains came too late to be of much benefit to the grain crops.

In the unpromising condition of the crop there is one great advantage, namely, the prices have been enhanced. At present the price of October delivered wheat is in the neighborhood of twenty cents per bushel higher than at a corresponding date last year, so that it is not improbable that the producers will realize as much for their crops as last year, and there is also the prospect that it will be handled cheaper and marketed more readily. In spite of these prospects, however, there is a general tendency following the example of the barks to handle money carefully and to make investments cautiously, which results in a predominating feeling of tight money. This attitude on the part of all classes is good for the country at large. Conservative progress is always to be commended, and Western Canada was tending to an expansion that was somewhat in advance of associated conditions and facilities.

MILK PLUS MEAT IN THE FARMER'S COW.

The statement by Professor Day in his interesting and suggestive contribution in this issue of "The Farmer's Advocate," that thoughtful breeders of some of the beef breeds are worrying not a little over the problem of combining in their cattle in a greater degree the milking with the beef-producing function is worthy of more than a passing notice and may well engage the serious consideration of professional breeders. It is a problem in which the general farmers of this country who are largely engaged in dairying, owing to the steadily increasing demand for milk and its products, are keenly interested. The days of successful ranching on a large scale in our Northwest Provinces being practically ended, owing to the grain-growing farmers having invaded the range territory to an extent which presages the extinction in the near future of a field which once promised to become a principal market for bulls of the special beef breeds, but has so far signally failed to realize that promise, and though doubtless mixed farming and the feeding of cattle will become more general in the West in years to come, yet the towns and cities of the new provinces will grow and be filled with a purchasing population, one of the staple needs of which will be milk and butter, which means feeding cows, and marketing their products. As more generally farmers become awakened to the fact, through the growing tendency to test and keep records of the production of their cows, that one good milking cow is worth more than two or three inferior producers, the demand for bulls bred from heavy-milking dams will logically become greater in ever-increasing ratio, and if the average farmer finds he cannot secure sires bred in milk-producing lines among the beef breeds, will he not be more likely to look to one of the special dairy breeds for his bulls, though he would probably prefer, as farmers of his class generally do, to keep a class of cows that milk well while in lactation and feed rapidly into beef when dry, while the steers they raise, fed on the skim milk, in calfhood will pay well for feeding into high selling beefs at an early age, thus disposing of the coarse grains of the farm which will be grown in larger proportion as the sensible system of crop rotation becomes more general, supplying manure to feed the farm and keep its producing capacity up to a profitable standard.

Presuming that the foregoing premise is sound,

the question of how the desired condition can be attained would seem to resolve itself into the need of action first of all on the part of the breeders themselves individually in seeking by selection and mating of sires and dams most likely to produce the ideal dual-purpose class of cattle. It is, we believe, generally conceded that, as a rule, the best milking cows even in the beef breeds are the best breeders, their progeny being strongest in constitution and the most kindly feeders, making the best use of the food they consume and developing into the most likely winners in the competition for truthfulness of conformation and quality of flesh from the standpoint of the butcher and purveyor of meat. This being admitted, is it not reasonable to suppose that a bull bred from a deep-milking cow will be most likely to transmit the milking tendency to his offspring, and that heifers bred from such cows, if intelligently treated during the first year or two of their lives, would, as a rule, prove better milkers than the average of their kind?

But it may as well be at once conceded that as long as the "nursery" system of allowing the calves to do the milking and their dams to submit to that process there will be little headway made in developing the milking function in any breed. On the contrary, is there not little room for doubt that there will be retrogression in that regard rather than progress, and that if indefinitely continued the system is liable to end practically in the milkless cow? Do not heifer calves to have any chance of making more than mediocre milking cows require to be fed for flesh and not for fat, and does not the best milking cow, milked from year to year by a calf, go back in her milk-producing capacity instead of improving. If this be true, need we wonder if the number of heavy-milking cows in some of the beef breeds is steadily growing less?

Is not the idea that calves raised on skim milk cannot be grown into mature animals of true conformation and superior fleshing capacity convincingly disproved by the splendid grade steers winning championships at our fat-stock shows, and which in the majority of cases were fed from the pail in calfhood? Is it not simply a question of keeping the calves in clean, roomy, well-ventilated sheds during the hot days of summer, and giving them a fair ration of bone and muscle-producing foods such as oats and bran, in addition to a liberal supply of skim milk; keeping them in growing condition; breeding the heifers to produce their first calf at two years old, milking a long term in their first lactation period; delaying the breeding for a second calf for a few months after calving, and thus fixing the habit of milking a long term? Such a start in the life of the cows, it would appear, should eventually make a great improvement in the milking capacity of females of any of the breeds. And this, with the system adopted of weighing and testing the milk of individual cows, weeding out the "boarders," and breeding from bulls bred from deep-milking cows, should in a comparatively short period palpably raise the milking standard of any herd. That this is not mere theory has been amply demonstrated in the development of the special dairy breeds. And the fact that in recent years the once prevalent notion that the ideal conformation of a profitable working dairy cow was a scraggy carcass with pin bones so prominent that one could hang his clothes on them, has been successfully discredited by the stern logic of the scales and churn, proving that beauty and smoothness of form may be combined with utility of the highest order in dairy work, would appear to make them all the more insistent competitors for popular favor, since, as before indicated, if the general farmer cannot find in the beef breeds a bull