

port or a herdbook, or electing executive committees from the old stand-bys, they have fulfilled their mission. Governments can do much to further the projects mentioned, but after all it is the individual cattleman, and associations of such individuals, on which the future of a profitable cattle trade depends.

Our fat stock shows have not received the encouragement they should; few breeders think of using the knife on a pure-bred male, and the shows lack the competition that should be there. It might be well to amend the rule calling for an exhibitor (whether in grade or pure-bred classes) to also be the breeder; it should not be forgotten that the ability to buy and gauge feeding-cattle is a valuable commercial qualification, the acquisition of which should be encouraged. The project of finishing Western steers in the East is experimental only in the working out of details to ensure the maximum of profit.

In its continual cry for more and better cattle, the "Farmer's Advocate" has shown a spirit of foresight and patriotism which has the additional advantage of ensuring material results in the shape of dollars to the farmers, if its advice is followed.

NOMAD.

The Live Stock Conventions

Among breeders of pure-bred live stock, the annual convention week of the associations is always looked forward to with unusual interest, and remembered with feelings of pleasure. From the close of the show season in the fall until it again opens the following summer, it is the only occasion upon which the men having at heart those lofty ideals which promote the well-being of all that is highest and best in agriculture—stock-raising—meet upon one common ground to promote their mutual interests. Previous conventions may have boasted of greater crowds, but it is doubtful if for genuine all-round success the meetings of 1903 were ever excelled. Mr. G. H. Greig, who a few months ago was appointed Live Stock Commissioner for Manitoba, took advantage of his position to have the details of the programme for the various meetings and the judging school which followed well arranged. The Dominion Department of Agriculture co-operated with the provincial associations by supplying three expert lecturers and live-stock judges, namely, Prof. J. H. Grisdale, Col. D. McCrae, and Duncan Anderson, each of whom delivered several addresses, and in turn took part in demonstrating desirable and undesirable animal form, by means of living specimens, which the Commissioner, at considerable pains, had secured for the occasion.

SHEEP AND SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

It had been intended that all the meetings of the week should be held in the J. I. Case show-room, where a convenient space, having its floor well padded with sawdust and surrounded in amphitheatre form with seats, was set apart for animals to be used for illustration. However, the extremely cold wave which visited Winnipeg at that time had not been anticipated, and when the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association met on Tuesday, Feb. 17th, at nine o'clock, it was found to be too cold for comfort. Little delay, however, was occasioned, for the very representative gathering of sheep and swine raisers that had already assembled soon repaired to a very commodious apartment in the City Hall.

With President W. G. Styles in the chair, the meeting was brought to order, and the Secretary read his report, which showed the association to be in a very prosperous condition, having at present a cash balance on hand of \$178.79. The President then gave his annual address, in which he deplored the fact that so much pork and mutton had to be shipped into this Province to supply home consumption. He believed that there may have been a time when hog-raising did not pay, but that was not so at present, and he hoped that something might be done to stimulate the interest in this branch of farming.

Mr. G. H. Greig, in a short but pithy address, proposed that steps be taken to have a Winter Fair in Manitoba on lines similar to that at present held at Guelph, Ont. He pointed out the great need there was for educational shows, and in that respect the Winnipeg Industrial was an emphatic failure. At such winter shows as the one mentioned, and others at Chicago and Amherst, there were no fake attractions, and yet in every instance the attendance was phenomenally large. At these places animals were slaughtered and the carcasses judged and lectured upon, and the people realized that there was something to learn, and they came out to see it.

Duncan Anderson being called upon, said the show at Guelph had been a wonderful success, having far exceeded the most sanguine expectations, and was now greater than the City of Guelph could accommodate. He believed it was only a matter of time until smaller shows of the same nature would spring up all over the Province of Ontario. The members present expressed themselves as quite in favor of the idea, and on motion of Andrew Graham, Pomeroy, it was de-

cided to leave the matter in the hands of the executive.

Dr. Thompson, representative to the Winnipeg Fair, reported an unusually large show of sheep and swine last year, and declared that if the increase continued it would be necessary to enlarge the present available space, as the number of breeders appeared to be increasing.

THE BACON HOG.

At the afternoon meeting Prof. G. H. Grisdale, Dominion Agriculturist, was the first speaker, taking as his subject the bacon hog. "If we are going to keep the right kind of stock," he said, "we must know stock." All who have had to do with animals know that there are forms which differ from others in utility. The thing is to study animal form more closely, and there is no point so unimportant as to be allowed to pass unnoticed. He then went into an explanation of the score-card, describing its uses and abuses, and showing how necessary it was to learn the correlation of parts. The bacon hog was becoming more and more the backbone of agriculture in Eastern Canada, and he could see no reason why it should not be so in the West. To begin with, it was absolutely essential to have the right type of hog, and that was one capable of producing a large amount of lean meat. The best bacon hog had good quality, fine hair, a clean skin free from wrinkling, and with firm flesh, and be possessed of a style and symmetry when walking similar to that of a gentleman. Beginning at the head, he then went over all the parts in detail, and by means of charts illustrated the points which he intended to impress upon the audience. The Pro-

as such they should always be fed, as it was the wrong principle to breed from them. The first essential in a sheep was a good back and a well-developed leg. The ribs should be well sprung, and the loin strong. They should also exhibit good quality, and a desirable animal should stand squarely on its feet. In discussing the proper care of the equine race, he emphasized the importance of exercise for all classes in winter, and especially for breeding ewes. A warm house was not advisable, but they should be kept dry, and oats he considered the best all-round feed that could be supplied the ewes.

THE EVENING SESSION.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Sparling, President of Wesley College, the evening meeting was held in the Convocation Hall of that institution. A number of prominent speakers were present, but although most interesting, the addresses were much more general and less descriptive in character than during the previous session. Hon. Thos. Greenway strongly advised the farmers to go more into stock-raising, as by so doing men could be employed the year round and the labor problem in a great measure solved. He regretted very much that pork had to be imported into Western Canada in such large quantities to supply home consumption. The same, he declared, might be said of the poultry industry; and if there was one Province more than another in the Dominion where dairying ought to be profitable, it was Manitoba.

Chas. W. Peterson, late Deputy Commissioner of Agriculture, Regina, said that half a million dollars' worth of pork had come into the West during the past year. He thought Manitoba farmers ought to finish the Western cattle while on their way to the British market. He also spoke very strongly against the importation of inferior horses from the United States to Canada.

Hugh McKellar, of the Dept. of Agriculture, Manitoba, in speaking of the progress made by the breeders' associations, thought that Manitoba stockmen should be in a position to supply incoming settlers with all the live stock which they needed without having to look to the other Provinces for a large portion of the supply.

J. A. M. Aikins, K.C., a member of the Agricultural College Commission, in an interesting and oratorical style, elaborated upon the charms of an agricultural education until those present whose shadow had never haunted

such halls of learning yearned once again for the days of their youth, that they might participate in the joys and fortunes incident to scientific agricultural training.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The officers of the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association for the following year are:

President, F. W. Brown, Portage la Prairie; First Vice-President, James Bray, Longburn; Second Vice-President, Andrew Graham, Pomeroy. Directors: Representing the sheep breeders—A. Wood, Souris; John Renton, Deloraine; James Riddell, Rosebank; D. E. Corbett, Swan Lake. Representing swine breeders—J. A. McGill, Manitou; W. G. Styles, Rosser; J. J. Stewart, Gladstone; H. L. McDiarmid, Headingly. Auditors, R. Waugh and Hugh McKellar. Representatives: To Winnipeg Fair board, Chester Thompson; to Brandon Fair board, A. D. Gammon. It was decided to leave the selection of representatives to the other fair boards to the executive committee.

THE CATTLE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATION.

The twelfth annual meeting of Manitoba Pure-bred Cattle Breeders' Association opened in the City Hall on Wednesday, Feb. 18th. After the usual introductory business, the President, J. G. Washington, Ninga, gave the annual address from the chair. In reviewing our export cattle trade he said it had only existed fifteen years, but the progress made had been steady and continuous, until now it was in a very satisfactory condition. In regard to the quality of the stock, however,



CECIL (3352).

Clydesdale stallion, rising three years. First and champion, Ottawa, 1902, and second prize in three-year-old class, Canadian Spring Stallion Show, Toronto, 1902. Bred by Lords A. & L. Cecil; sired by Macara (6992); dam Minuet, by Cedric (1067).

IMPORTED AND OWNED BY ROBERT NESS, HOWICK, QUE.

fessor also took up the feeding of this desirable member of the farmyard. He believed the time would come in Manitoba when the farmers would aim to follow some rotation, and then the bacon hog would become their salvation. With the right feeds, including pasture in summer, hogs could be raised quite economically. To begin with, there was nothing better for growing pigs than rape, and it can be grown luxuriantly in this Province. At the Dominion Experimental Farm they had made pork at a fairly good rate on rape pasture, without feeding but little else. He believed in sowing it in rows, 22 inches apart, at the rate of two pounds per acre. It soon comes up, and for a short time it should be cultivated, but in about seven weeks it was ready for use. A quarter-acre was sufficient for about ten pigs, and when about one pound meal was given to every pig weighing one hundred pounds, they would eat the rape voraciously and rapid gains would be made. The speaker strongly advised the use of artichokes. The pigs soon learned to dig them, and very economical gains had been made by their use at the Ottawa Farm. As Prof. Grisdale has made the bacon hog a matter of considerable study, his lecture was very clear and instructive, and was listened to with the most intense interest by the splendid gathering present.

THE MUTTON SHEEP.

Col. D. McCrae was the next speaker, and had as his topic "The mutton sheep." He believed cross-bred sheep usually fed best, but when bred