

Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association.

This Association will hold its next meeting in the City of London on some evening of the week of the Provincial Fair. Through the absence of the secretary in the North-west, the date has not been definitely arranged, but will be announced in the next issue of the ADVOCATE. Programme as follows:—

Paper on the Proper Classification of Sheep at Fairs.—By J.C. Snell, Edmonton.

The Value of the Sile and Soiling Crops for Sheep.—By John S. Pearce, London.

The Proper Method of Getting up Fleeces for Market.—Jno. Hallman, Wool Merchant, Toronto.

What a Canadian Sheep-raiser Can Learn in England.

Hon. Chas. Drury is expected to be present and give an address. Others have promised to assist in the programme, but we have been unable to learn the subject on which they will write or speak. Full programme and date in next issue.

Driven Out by Dogs.

During the last thirty years a "National Stockman" correspondent has had many sheep destroyed by dogs—most of them not killed outright, or even mangled, but the life literally frightened out of them. Referring to this indirect but most important source of loss, and to other related points, he says:

"Sheep are very nervous and can be scared to death easily, especially if fat. Any person who handles sheep knows how hard a sheep's heart will beat when chased by dogs. Heavy sheep often drop dead without a mark on them. Dogs kill sheep to satisfy hunger, but one sheep would do that. The taste of blood and excitement keep them at it long after hunger is satisfied. Half of all the killing done on my farm was by hounds; the other half by all sorts of curs. An expert dog will always catch by the throat close to the jaw. I have seen scores of sheep killed, and not a mouthful eaten. Two dogs will kill from one to fifty sheep in one night. It is not often that one dog goes at it alone. The first time a flock of sheep is worried by dogs, they lose one-half of their value; the next time the other half. We have no sheep here. When I say we, I mean three townships. The dog drove them out. Men who do not half feed or clothe their children will keep two poor dogs. They will hunt and 'set the dog where he the lambs may get.' The owners of dogs are responsible for all damages they may do, just the same as if it were done by a horse or a cow. But the trouble is a dogman has no property but dogs and children, so the sheepman has to bear the loss. This is a grievous wrong, and calls loudly for 'prohibition' of the dog nuisance. Not one dog in every thousand pays his keep, while the damage runs into millions of dollars."

Statistician Dodge, of the Department of Agriculture, estimates that the country loses 5,000,000 sheep annually, mostly on account of dogs.

A system of pressing bran into cakes, thus reducing the bulk four-fifths, has been patented in the United States. This should prove mutually beneficial to feeders and millers, as it can be transported much more cheaply than by the old methods.

The bill to establish a department of agriculture, with a minister of agriculture in charge, in England, is making satisfactory progress, and no doubt before the end of the present session, the new department will be fully equipped, so says the Agricultural Gazette.

[Papers Read Before the Holstein Breeders' Association, at Guelph, March 12, 1889.]

What the Future of the Holstein Shall be in Canada.

BY F. C. STEVENSON, ANCASTER, ONT.

Mr. President and Gentlemen:—In attempting to foretell what shall be the future of anything, we must necessarily be guided to a great extent by the past. In the first place, let us take a hurried glance at the origin of the Holstein-Friesian race of cattle, noting the prosperity of the people of the country where the cattle originated, and where they have been kept in nearly absolute purity of breeding for nearly 200 years.

The Holstein-Friesian cattle, as they are now called, originated in the Lowlands of Holland, in what at present are the provinces of North Holland and Friesland. The Friesians, who settled Holland about 200 years ago, owned large herds of these cattle; and the extra care they gave them during winter, coupled with the abundant pasturage of the Lowlands during summer, had a favorable effect, and their cattle soon excelled those of all the surrounding countries. Step by step the black and white cattle advanced until they reached the high point of excellence at which they now stand. The history of Holland shows that the revenue derived from dairy produce exceeds that derived from all other sources combined, and also exceeds in value that of any other country in the world. These facts, I think, prove to us that the dairy interests of Holland are of immense value, and have become so from the excellence of their products, which are derived from and founded on the excellence of their cattle. The first importation to America of which there are now any descendants, was made in the year 1861, since which time numerous importations have been made and large numbers bred. The American breeders having, as a rule, a better knowledge of the art of breeding than their Dutch predecessors, have succeeded in improving the breed, especially as regards the butter-producing qualities of their milk. And I believe that, as a class, the Holsteins of America are to-day better than those of Holland. Many enormous records have been made in the United States by the Holstein cow during the last three or four years; and these appear to be continually increasing; and the end is not yet, provided good judgment is used in selecting and breeding.

In the production of butter the Holstein has gained great proficiency. I believe that the largest average weekly record of butter yield for a herd of over twenty cows has been made by Holsteins, and I can name one herd that last year had 100 cows and heifers, that averaged 18 lbs. of butter in a week. This, I think, is the best evidence of the capacity of the breed, especially when you consider that it is only within the last few years that breeders have been trying to develop the butter-producing qualities of their herds.

As to the future of the Holstein in Canada, judging from what she has done in the past, I fail to see how anyone can doubt but what she is the coming cow for the dairyman, and also the general farmers of Canada. If we look for a moment at the extraordinary popularity that this breed has attained in the United States within a few years, among all classes of farmers, except perhaps, the beef raisers, there seems no reason to doubt but that the breed must become equally popular here in Canada, as the conditions are almost similar. But in order that the Holstein may fill the place in Canada that she is capable of, the breeders must do their share. It will not do for us to sit down and say we have the best dairy cow in the world. We must give the public some proof that the Holstein is superior, not only individually but as a breed, to both the Jersey and the Ayrshire as a dairy cow, and as an all-round breed for the general farmer is superior to all others.

In order to do this it will be necessary for us to substantiate our claims by careful and actual tests, more especially for butter; and to the attainment of this end every breeder should make an especial effort, not only with his thoroughbreds but also with grades. We should by all means strive to elevate the standard of breeding. Endeavor to place at the head of your herd a bull of the true dairy type of Holstein. Do not sacrifice the milk and butter farm to the beef farm, as some breeders in the United States are doing, as we have beef breeds now that can hardly be improved on.

In conclusion, I would like to urge the breeders who have the future of the Holstein in Canada in their hands, to do their utmost to place them where they should be.

The Quality of Holstein Milk.

BY E. D. SMITH, CHURCHVILLE, ONT.

In the Province of Ontario there has been a good increase in the number of cheese factories and creameries, of late years, and private dairies are beginning to do a better and more profitable work; so that the dairying business now presents a future full of brightest hopes. The wide-awake farmer, alive to his own interests, sees the two-fold advantage of the dairy cow—a good profit from her milk, and an enriching of the soil. Hence it is very important that we as farmers, breeders or dairymen, should carefully inquire into the merits of the different breeds, and select that breed which approaches most nearly perfection as a dairy animal.

After due consideration and study of the breeds, I am strongly of the opinion that the Holstein stands far ahead of all others as the most useful and most profitable dairy cow. Too much cannot be said in favor of the dairy qualities of this noble breed. It is not my intention, however, to speak of all the noble and good qualities of these cattle, but I will confine myself to a few remarks on the quality of their milk.

In the first place I will endeavor to find out how rich the milk of the average Canadian dairy cow is, and then compare this with that of the Holstein.

From the report of the Bureau of Industries for 1886, I learn that there were 31 creameries in Ontario, and that they required on an average 26 lbs. of milk to make one lb. of butter; in 1887 they required 25.1 lbs. This milk was obtained from grade, Ayrshires, Jerseys, Devons, Shorthorns and other breeds, and it may justly be considered a fair and average sample of milk for the Province of Ontario. In comparing Holstein milk with this, I feel confident that I can show that the former is at least from 10 to 15 per cent. better for butter or cheese.

In Ontario there are no creameries supplied exclusively with Holstein milk, so that it will be necessary to go to private dairies to get the requisite reliable information. I will, therefore, go to a few of the largest and best herds in America, and give the results of their tests. A very large percentage of the Holsteins in Ontario come from the herds from which I am about to quote. Smiths, Powell & Lamb have kept a careful and accurate account of the tests made by them. They had, in 1888, one hundred cows and heifers in their herd that averaged over 18½ lbs. of butter in seven days. It required 19 lbs. of milk on an average to make one pound of butter.

T. G. Yeomans & Son have kept similar accounts from a smaller herd, but a good one. They had in 1888, nine 2-year-old heifers that averaged 12 lbs. 13½ ozs. of butter in seven days; four 3-year-olds that averaged 17 lbs. 6½ ozs. in a week, and fifteen 4-year-olds that averaged 20 lbs. 12.8 ozs. in seven days; 38 cows (including 17 2-year-olds) have averaged one pound of butter from 21.3 lbs. of milk.

Thomas B. Wales had six 2-year-olds that averaged 16 lbs. 5 ozs. of butter in seven days, and six over two years of age that averaged 24