

Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Meeting.

The Shorthorn breeders of Canada held their tenth annual meeting in Shaftesbury Hall, Toronto, on February 13th. The president, Mr. A. Johnston, in the chair.

It was decided to appoint two general vice-presidents in addition to the vice-presidents for the provinces. The following are the officers for 1896: President, A. Johnston; first general vice-president, Jas. Russell; second, J. I. Hobson; vice-president for Ontario, R. Miller, Brougham; for Quebec, Jas. Cochrane, Millhurst; for British Columbia, J. H. Ladner, Ladner; for Prince Edward Island, Hon. D. Ferguson, M.P., Charlottetown; for New Brunswick, Senator Josiah Wood, Sackville; for Nova Scotia, O. Chase, Port Williams; for Manitoba, John E. Smith, Brandon; for Northwest Territories, M. McInnes, Calgary. The retiring directors were re-elected with the exception that J. Davidson, Ashburn, and D. Rae, Fergus, replace J. L. Cowan, Galt, and F. L. Patten, St. George; the latter and W. Dawson, Vittoria, taking the two vacant places in the "A" list.

The financial statement was an excellent one, showing a cash balance of \$4,786.54, besides other assets that bring the total assets up to \$10,524.04.

The president, in his address, among other things referred to the lowering of the annual fee to \$3 instead of \$4, and of the penalty fees for animals over 18 months to 25 cents for members and 50 cents for non-members. These changes commenced on January 1st, 1896. He also spoke on the recent increased railway charges on small cattle shipments, and the secretary read a letter from the president to the railway authorities on the subject. The following resolution was passed, to be sent to the two railway traffic managers: "That we, breeders of Thoroughbred Shorthorn cattle, consider that the recent change in the railway tariffs for shipments of purebred stock in small lots will make it impossible for the breeders to do business at a profit, and unless the railway authorities encourage the breeders by giving them very favorable rates for the shipment of stock it will mean inestimable loss to the farmers of Canada, and also to the railroads of the country, if breeding high-class cattle for export is not encouraged to the greatest possible extent."

Mr. R. Gibson read an interesting paper on "The Shorthorn sales in England during 1895." He pointed out the necessity of using good sires here in order to compete with the stock that English farmers raise, the latter using only first-class high-priced bulls. Mr. Gibson also suggested that it might be possible to start a trade in purebred stock between Canada and South America.

Mr. Hill addressed the meeting on the subject of having the live stock present at Toronto show by Thursday noon of the first week. After some discussion a motion favorable to the request was carried, with only three dissentient votes.

Capt. Robson read a thoughtful paper on "How are we to improve the standard of our Shorthorns?" He condemned fads, which could only last for a time. We must breed from good sires. He would pay attention to the development of both beef and milking qualities in Shorthorns. He objected to the tubercle test being imposed by the government on all imported cattle.

Mr. R. Miller, Brougham, read an excellent paper on "What is Character?" which we give in full in our cattle department.

The following resolution was passed:

"That, in the opinion of this association, everything has been done that can be done, both by the government and the press of the Dominion, to regain the privileges taken from us by Great Britain, viz., the privilege of selling our cattle in their inland markets.

"That we most emphatically repeat that we have no pleuro-pneumonia or contagious disease of any kind in Canada, nor have we ever had, except in quarantine, when it was immediately stamped out, and every possible chance of infection destroyed.

"That it is not fear of disease that makes the farmers of Great Britain object to our cattle, but the fear of competition. The former might be removed, but the latter never can.

"Therefore, having lost the British market—we believe, completely—for our own store cattle, we would respectfully urge upon the government at Ottawa the desirability of removing all quarantine restrictions on our side between Canada and the United States, and of asking the United States to allow our cattle to pass into their country without quarantine.

"No disease having ever found a foothold in Canada, and none having been found in the cattle of the United States for several years, there can no longer be any necessity for any hindrance being placed in the way of the freest traffic in purebred cattle.

"It has been acknowledged by all breeders, and has hitherto been a principle of all governments, that the improvement of live stock needed not only all the scope, but all the encouragement possible to give the industry.

"We have suffered from want of that scope for some years, in order to go on with the improvement of the different breeds. We need the privilege of going into any herd in America or Great Britain and buying the animal whose form and breeding suits our needs, no matter where it may be found.

"While there was a possibility of regaining what was a doubtful advantage at best, viz., the shipping of our store cattle to Britain, we held aloof from asking anything that would prejudice the case; but now, when we are convinced that all chances in that direction are gone, we humbly ask that we may be allowed every assistance to regain the trade that was profitable to us, and beneficial to the country."