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Manitoba Livestock Associations

Continued from Page 13

lost to the country as screenings, a committee be formed to look thoroughly into the matter and prepare a proper case for submission to the provincial and, if necessary, the Dominion government, so that alterations can be made in the existing legislation to allow of screenings coming back to the farms. This committee to be formed of the presidents of the livestock associations and representatives of the Grain Growers' Associations. The opinion of the meeting was asked in regard to the acceptability of special fast stock trains being put on the separate lines on set days so as to ensure the livestock for sale being delivered promptly and with the least possible shrink. The suggestion was welcomed, and the matter was referred to the joint executive. The meeting closed with a report on the Western Livestock Union, which has already been reported in these columns. The officers for 1915 were elected as follows: President, H. E. English; vice-president, J. Barron; directors, A. C. McPhail, C. W. Weaver, J. H. Dalgleish, D. W. Agnew and J. Chapman.

Joint Convention

The joint meeting of the Manitoba Livestock Breeders' Association was held on January 12, in the City Hall, Brandon. A very large attendance of breeders was present and the interesting and instructive program provided was very heartily appreciated. J. D. McGregor was in the chair, and among those present were: Hon. George Lawrence, minister of agriculture; President W. J. Black, of the Agricultural College; the presidents of the Livestock Breeders' Associations, and Duncan Anderson, of the Dominion department of agriculture. Professor Jones, of the Animal Husbandry Department of the Agricultural College, gave an outline of the experimental feeding work at present being carried on by his department. The work had not been in progress for a sufficient length of time to allow of any definite results being announced, but it was felt that by the end of the feeding period a great deal of very valuable information would be available for publication. Experiments were in operation to determine the relative value in the feeding of hogs of the self feeder, oat and barley chop fed dry or wet, all barley or all oats fed dry with roots or finely chopped alfalfa. A new phase of the work at the college has been the addition of a meat department. For this division steers are bought on the stock yards, used for feeding experiments, then slaughtered, judged as carcasses, and then used in the college dining room. The steer feeding consisted of three different feeds: oat sheaves, oats and barley chop, and sheaves and roots. The relative value of Red Top and Timothy hay for horses is being tested, and another experiment is being carried out to compare the value of grains as horse feed. Sheep breeding, too, is being attended to, and in this connection it was mentioned that it had been found difficult to get screenings from the milling companies, they using them ground up with bran and shorts to be sold for feed. However, the sheep were fed roughage in the proportion of one sheaf to two sheep per day, and all the wild hay they want to eat, fed in the sheep racks. The value of silage and roots (mangel) for keeping up the milk flow in cows is being tested.

Conditions in Manitoba

Miss E. Cora Hind spoke by special request on livestock conditions in Manitoba. The address was very enthusiastically received, and the mass of accurate information which it contained will be very beneficial in opening the eyes of the breeders and grain growers to conditions as they exist in the province today. After dealing with the conditions at the Union Stockyards, the prices of the year, the attitude of the packers on the hog question and the effects of foot and mouth disease, Miss Hind asked in the words of the great American senator, "Where are we at?" Are we to go out of hogs and cattle and back into grain? Emphati-

cally, no. Far too many of the farmers have done that already. Cattle, hogs, and sheep are going to be scarce. They are scarce now, if you look at the great feeding lots of the United States and compare the numbers there to those of former years. Cattle and hogs will be scarce in the Canadian West.

The livestock commissioner of Alberta has stated over his own signature that while Alberta raised 1,000,000 hogs in 1914, she will not raise 500,000 in 1915. The litters that last year came in February and March in that province will this year be conspicuous by their absence. The number of young cows and heifers and breeding sows that have passed thru the Winnipeg yards to the slaughter pens is nothing short of grievous. There will be a market for all kinds of stock in 1915, for the man who has been able to hang on. There will be a market in 1916 also. Are western stockmen then to go on in the old way and take chances? The "No" is as emphatic to that as it is to the question, "Shall we stop breeding and rearing?" What then?

Time to Co-operate

"The time has come (indeed it came long ago, had we but had the vision) when the cattle and grain men and women, too, must co-operate. Years ago the livestock men and the grain growers met together in Brandon and could not agree as to which was the most important, and went their separate ways. To me that was a parting of the ways that should never have taken place. One of the best things that has come to pass in a long time is that they are together again this year, and may the bond thus united ne'er be severed in the years to come. Just ask yourself some plain questions. Had there been a co-operative packinghouse at the Union stockyards would the other packing houses have thought it wise to put a drastic closure on chop-fed hogs? Had there been a co-operative feeding plant at Winnipeg would it not have been possible to bring back from Fort William the seventy thousand tons of screenings sold to the United States and feed the stock that men could not handle on their own farms for lack of feeding done co-operatively? This could have been accomplished at a profit. Hay has been available at very reasonable prices notwithstanding the threatened scarcity earlier in the season. A co-operative cold storage plant, with branches throughout the country, would mean an equipment that would enable the farmers to hold for the best markets. One of the great blessings which the Grain Growers secured for this country was the right of the farmer to load his own grain direct to cars. It does not mean that all grain will go that way, but it has been a very wholesome check on the elevators. Co-operative packing houses, feeding plants for storage and marketing facilities would have just such a healthy check on the present packinghouse and abattoir interests. I am not making any attack on the present abattoirs and packing plants. They have served the public well, furnished excellent commodities, of which as Canadians we have a right to be proud. They have dealt very fairly on the whole, making mistakes sometimes, as in the one previously cited in this address. But in the words of Captain Miles Standish, "If you would be well served, you must serve yourself, you must not leave it to others." First, last and all the time, what the livestock and grain interests of the West need is co-operation, and don't forget that in order that co-operation be a real success it must not be co-operation between livestock breeders and grain growers only, but between the men and women of both the cities and farms."

Minister of Agriculture Speaks

The Hon. George Lawrence gave a very optimistic review of the progress which agriculture had made in the province during the past year. The showing was extremely satisfactory. He referred to the successful raising of excellent alfalfa seed at Neepawa during the past year. He expressed gratification at the improvement which had taken place in the production of dairy products, and showed that Manitoba led the other provinces both in quantity of output and quality of product. He sounded the



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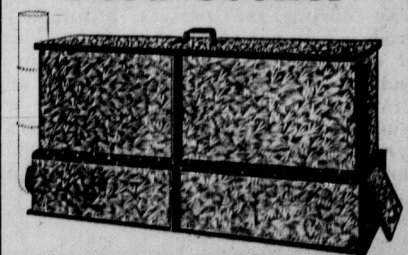
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DATED at Winnipeg this 23rd day of December, A.D. 1914.

BONNAR, TRUEMAN, HOLLANDS & ROBINSON,
Solicitors for the Applicant.