

**Freight Rates on Breeding Stock.**

In addition to what has been published on the above subject in the last two issues of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, we might say that the Dominion Minister of Railways has made an official statement to Parliament that the Government had not sanctioned the 4,000-lb. classification as required by law; therefore the railways were not entitled to so classify, and if they have been charging more than the old rates, the excess could be recovered. Of course shippers prefer not to have any unpleasantness with the railways, but rather to have the rates made reasonable. However, as we stated in last issue, the railway companies are not entitled to collect any freight rates not previously approved by Order-in-Council, nor can they classify so as to defeat this provision except by sanction of the Governor-in-Council,—a very important safeguard if the interests of breeders and farmers are closely looked after. Mr. John Earls, chairman of the Canadian Joint Freight Classification Committee, writes that the present management of the G. T. R. was not responsible for the 4,000-lb. classification, as it was arranged last November by an "almost unanimous" vote of the different roads concerned. As intimated in our last issue, he also states that a modification has been made which he thinks will be more satisfactory to shippers. A letter from Mr. Arthur White, Toronto, District Freight Agent, states that Mr. Hays, the present General Manager of the G. T. R., was not aware of the 4,000-pound classification, which does not meet with the approval of the new management of that road. It has already been modified, and Mr. White states he would not be surprised if still greater modifications are yet made. That we did not overstate the case on behalf of the breeders of the Dominion is already apparent. Among others, a leading Ontario breeder just writes us that he had to lose the sale of several valuable young bulls, destined for the Maritime Provinces, owing to the exorbitant rates. The railways would, therefore, lose a good deal of carrying trade directly, but the most serious result would be in the future deterioration, numerically and otherwise, of the cattle stock of this country.

**Agriculture in New Brunswick.**

The report on agriculture for the Province of New Brunswick for 1895 shows that all branches of farming are in a flourishing condition. The yield of grain last year was bountiful, but, because of the drouth, hay and grass were below the average. Most of the farmers follow mixed agriculture, raising a portion of all the common grains and roots, with as much hay as possible. These, as a rule, are fed to horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, which are kept in sufficient numbers to consume all the products of the farm, thereby providing manure to maintain the fertility of the soil.

As a rule the New Brunswick farmer owns all the land he tills; this is so generally the case that a rented farm is the exception.

Apples are becoming an important crop over the larger portion of the Province, and it is now generally conceded that a very large and profitable business could be done in growing them.

Regarding the stock of the Province, it is recommended in the report that owing to the advance in dairying a better lot of cows than they now have is necessary. It is, therefore, considered wise that the Government import stock of the most suitable breed, to be disposed of to suitable persons on terms that would best fulfil the object intended. Without some such aid it would be a long time before the particular breeds of cattle desired would exist in such numbers as to satisfy the people engaged in the dairy business. It is also recommended that pure-bred sheep and hogs be introduced in the same manner.

A great number of agricultural society reports show that the agricultural interests are being looked closely after. Upon several occasions males of different breeds of cattle and horses have been placed in the hands of those societies by the Government, and in this way the quality of the stock has made rapid advance. It is evident from the report that the value of co-operation is well understood among the agricultural population of New Brunswick.

**Our Collie Dog Premium.**

Our readers will notice that we have withdrawn from our premium announcement, in this issue, the offer of young Collie dogs; Mr. Robt. McEwen, the breeder, of Byron, Ont., being desirous of discontinuing the arrangement of supplying them for the present—the supply, as a matter of fact, being just about exhausted. We might say, however, for the benefit of those who are working for Collies, but whose lists are not yet completed, that they will be supplied; but beyond that we positively cannot go. These valuable young dogs have given great satisfaction to the parties fortunate enough to secure them under such unusually favorable conditions; and those who have delayed beginning the canvass for the requisite number of new subscribers to the ADVOCATE until now have themselves to blame that they find the door closed.

**The Canadian Horse Show.**

As the time for holding the Canadian Horse Show approaches, everything in connection therewith is progressing favorably towards this being the finest exhibition ever held in Canada. At the recent meeting of the Committee a resolution was passed making Thursday, the 16th of April, Farmers' Day, when the admission for morning and afternoon will be 50 cents, and for an all-day ticket \$1; also that when preparing the catalogue special regard will be paid to bringing on classes of special interest to farmers. We draw attention to the fact that upon Wednesday, the 15th, railways will carry passengers to Toronto and return them at any time during the week for one fare; but if they go to the city on Thursday, Friday or Saturday, the railway fare will be one and one-third.

It is understood that the Governor-General will open the Exhibition on Wednesday, April 15th, at 2 p. m.

Since the prize list was issued several important prizes have been added to the announced large amount of premiums.

**A Prominent Horse Breeder.**

Our readers will appreciate the accompanying portrait of Mr. Robt. Davies, of Toronto, proprietor of the famous Thorncliffe Stock Farm, a brief description of which we give elsewhere. Horse breeding interests particularly owe much to the enterprising co-operation of Mr. Davies, in recognition of which he has been accorded and now occupies several positions of eminence in connection with our breeding organizations; among the more prominent being President of the Dominion Clydesdale Breeders' Association, President of the Canadian



MR. ROBT. DAVIES, TORONTO, ONT.

Horse Breeders' Association, and Chairman of the Joint Committee of Management in charge of the Canadian Horse Show to be held in the Armory building, Toronto, during the present month.

**The Dominion Cattle Breeders' Meeting.**

The Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association has arranged to hold its fifth annual meeting in Shaftsbury Hall, Toronto, on the afternoon of Friday, April 17th, which is the third day of the Canadian Horse Show. The meeting is to commence at 1 o'clock, when an important programme will be carried out. An address upon Transportation of Live Stock will be given by A. Johnston, Greenwood, Ont., the discussion upon which will be opened by Robert Miller, Brougham. An address upon the Present Quarantine Regulations will be given by John I. Hobson, Mosborne, discussion to be opened by J. C. Snell, Snelgrove. The effect of quarantine regulations and railway rates upon the sheep and swine industry will be dealt with by D. G. Hamner, Mount Vernon. We understand that a number of the most prominent and influential agriculturists of Canada have been invited to be present and take part in these important national questions. Secretary F. W. Hodson advises us that reduced passenger rates will be given on the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways.

**A Progressive Organization.**

The Legislature of Nova Scotia set an example that other such bodies might imitate with great advantage to themselves and the country, viz., adjourned for a day to attend the Provincial Fruit Growers' Convention, thus keeping themselves informed and in direct touch with those engaged in that prosperous Maritime industry. It affords the ADVOCATE great pleasure to note the effective work being accomplished and the splendid progress made by the Nova Scotia Fruit Growers' Association. Its record is most creditable alike to members and officers, and we congratulate them.

**STOCK.**

**Two British Horse Shows.**

*Shires.*—The seventeenth annual show of the Shire Horse Society was held at the Royal Agricultural Hall, London, Eng., Feb. 25th-28th. The entries exceeded those of the two previous annual shows, the total being 503, of which 263 were stallions, 223 mares, and 17 geldings. In 1895 the total number was 489, and in 1894, 475. The quality of the exhibit is claimed to have been a good average. The weight and massiveness of the younger stallion sections have upon some occasions been more marked, but, on the other hand, the mare and filly sections were never better than upon this occasion.

Among the visitors to the show were a goodly number of Scotchmen, who could find no serious fault with many of the mares, although they claimed that many of the prize-winning stallions moved badly behind, and had something about them, in spite of numerous excellencies, that would keep them from securing first-class recognition in the North. The Clydesdale fancier values a fore leg when it tapers to the fetlock joint (the prize-winning Shires did not all have this); with him it is more a question of quality than quantity. The *Scottish Farmer*, we notice, observes that while the Clydesdale breed is pressing its way to the South, yet there is no danger that either draught breed will extinguish the other any more than that the Shorthorn will entirely route the Aberdeen-Angus, or vice versa.

Last year a section was introduced into this show for stallions ten years old and upwards, when ten entries appeared; this year the same number of entries were in evidence. The first place was worthily filled by Hitchin Conqueror, now in his thirteenth year. He possesses remarkable freshness of limb, while his conformation has always enabled him to be a winner. He was lately sold by his exhibitor, Mr. Freeman-Mitford, Batsford Park, to Messrs. Thompson, of Barron's Park, Leicester, for 725 guineas. Next him came Mr. Sutton-Nelthorpe's Fear None, a younger horse than his superior rival by one year.

In the class for stallions 16 hands 2 inches, over 4 and under 10 years, 39 entries were present. It is needless to say that among them were a number of ideal horses. It is to be regretted that more of those massive Shires, with superior quality, do not come to our country to aid in producing the much sought draught horse. Stallions under 16.2, between 4 and 10 years, were out 29 strong. It is claimed that this section has been better filled on former occasions. The four-year-old stallions were generally considered to be the best male section at the show. Thirty-four entries gave the judges a task not easily disposed of. In three-year-olds, 41 entries appeared. The 63 two-year-olds will stand a deal of culling before they arrive at maturity. It speaks well for the prospects of the Shire breed when such a turn-out as this can be mustered in the face of the "horseless age" cry, which, however, we have no faith in. Many of the 49 yearlings were wanting in condition.

The mare and filly sections were well filled, and of a uniformly high character. In the section for mares 16 hands and over, five years old and upwards, twenty-six entries were present. The old winner, Rokeby Fuchsia, was again forward in fine bloom, taking first in her class. She is 9 years old and has followed the shows successfully during her career.

Eighteen mares under 16 hands, five years old and over, were as a class a good lot. The four-year-old mares furnished from among their 22 entries the champion female of the show in the mare, Catthorpe Naxos, owned by Mr. J. P. Cross, and bred by Mr. T. S. Hewer. She has risen since last year from the highly commended position, and it was the general opinion that she deserved her laurels. She is spoken of by the *London Live Stock Journal* as "having hind legs such as one seldom sees—indeed they are well nigh perfection, while her feet and joints are of most excellent quality. She is of fair height, has great width, length, and yet is not leggy." Nearly all of the 39 three-year-old mares met with commendable recognition by the judges. Two-year-olds and yearlings numbered respectively 65 and 53, most of which were well brought out and well received by the judges.

The gelding class might easily have been better filled numerically, but the almost entire absence of the common-looking sort gave the exhibit a substantial finish.

The championships were placed in the presence of the Prince of Wales and Duchess of York. The best mare over three years old was found in Mr. Cross's Catthorpe Naxos, and best mare, three years and under, was found in Mr. Grange's Queen of the Shires. The cup for best stallion, three years old and under, was awarded to Messrs. Thompson's Stonewall, and for stallion over that age, Lord Belper's four-year-old, Rokeby Harold, was selected as the winner, who also won the 100 guinea challenge cup for best stallion any age. His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales presented the cups and medals to their winners.

**THE LONDON HACKNEY SHOW.**

Following the Shire Show came the twelfth annual show of the Hackney Horse Society on March 3rd. The display on this occasion was the best ever seen. The following table of entries will prove the advance has been as consistent as it has