

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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### Death of Cows at Toronto Exhibition.

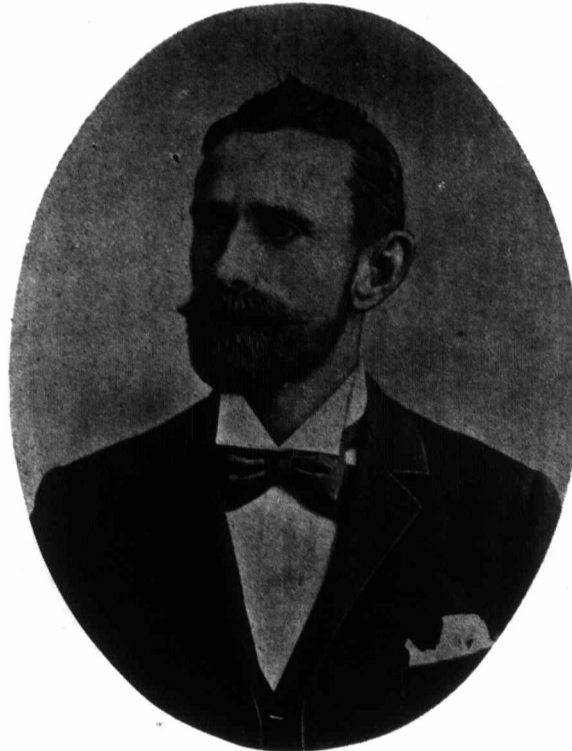
The sudden death of ten valuable cows at the Toronto Exhibition, as reported elsewhere, in our review of the cattle department, was the occasion, first, of absurd stories that they had succumbed to the heat and excessive feeding of green oats, followed by wild rumors of poisoning or some mysterious contagious disease. The admissions made, however, and the report of Dr. Wm. Mole, M. R. C. V. S., and H. E. Hurd, V. S., who conducted a post-mortem, set all those damaging stories completely at rest by showing that the cows died through the milk being returned to their udders during the night (after having been milked out, as the Association rules require, the evening before), with the design of making the udders look larger before the judges the following morning. This was a new-fangled and deliberate attempt to circumvent the plain rule of the Fair Association, and at the same time was a gross and ignorant violation of the laws of nature, the punishment for which followed like a bolt out of the blue. The stale, germ-laden milk being absorbed into the blood circulation, set up what is called septic or blood poisoning, some of the udders turning black with mortification in a short time. The Board of the Fair Association have decided to withhold the prizes won by any of the animals which died; the further penalty of withholding all the prizes awarded the owners to be considered at a later date. In the meantime, all the prize money in question has been withheld. The revelation was a shock to the Canadian public, and emphasizes again the virtue of that homely old adage, that "Honesty is the best policy." If this attempt be a sample of American smartness and innovation, we want no more of it in Canada. The orthodox method of improving the size and appearance of the cow's udder by breeding and feeding is still the safest and the best.

### Cheap Cow Feed During Drought.

Very many farmers have been regretting that they did not provide a supplemental summer food for their cows, as they daily saw them for weeks failing in milk and in flesh (while cheese and butter were bounding upward in price) without being able to prevent it, except by encroaching on the winter food. Mr. Wm. Murdock, manager of the London, Ont., Asylum Farm, kept his fifty head of cattle up in fine form from July 1st to August 15th on two and a half acres of sowed corn, in addition to the pastures. The corn was sowed at the beginning of May with a seed drill, every spout open. On July 1st the crop was commenced to be fed out, and lasted six weeks, giving the fifty head enough each day to satisfy them. It was very succulent matter, but the grass was so dry that the combination suited the animals well, keeping up flesh in all and milk flow in the cows. It would be well for those who have suffered this season from lack of cow provision to put this down in their memories and try a piece next spring. But do not forget to plan for an extra area of corn to fill extra silo space for summer feeding.

### Agricultural College Prospects.

We are pleased to learn from the officers of the Ontario Agricultural College, at Guelph, that the prospects for attendance during the approaching term, to begin on Sept. 26th, exceed anything in the past history of the institution. From all indications, 1899-1900 will be a banner year; which is, by the way, a fitting finale for the quarter-century



MR. F. W. HODSON.

anniversary of its existence. It is steadily increasing the firm hold which it has upon the thinking, progressive farmers of the country. All the departments are well manned for the work of practical and scientific instruction, and a great many important investigations are progressing in the different experimental departments.

## STOCK.

### Dominion Live Stock Commissioner.

As announced in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for August 15th, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, has decided to create at Ottawa a live stock branch in the department of the Agricultural and Dairy Commissioner, Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, and Mr. F. W. Hodson, of Toronto, Secretary of the Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations and Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes of Ontario during the past five years, has resigned these positions to undertake the duties of the new office. His stipend will be \$2,500, with subsequent increases, bringing it up to \$3,000 per annum. While editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, back in 1889, Mr. Hodson started the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and the following year the Swine Breeders' Association. A few years since he was appointed Secretary of the Cattle Breeders' Association, up to that time in a comatose condition. Of the joint organization or association representing these three bodies, and having direction of the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show, Mr. Hodson has also been the efficient Secretary. The membership has grown to over 600, and the annual receipts (including Government grants and those from the Provincial Winter

Show) to over \$8,000. The Winter Show gate receipts have advanced from about \$60 to over \$600, and the prize list from a few hundred dollars to over \$5,500 this year, some \$1,200 of which, in specials, were obtained at a small outlay, through the personal efforts of Mr. Hodson and his successor, Mr. Alex. P. Westervelt. A useful feature introduced at the last Winter Show was the block test for bacon hogs, which is being continued, and also extended, at the London (Ont.) Show in December next, to sheep, and probably in time to cattle, as at the great British Smithfield Fat Stock Show. Corresponding with the growth of the Swine Breeders' Association has been the Registration of pure-bred pigs, the ninth volume of which will shortly be issued by the Registrar (Mr. Wade), bringing up the total number of pedigrees to over 27,000. The development of the pure-bred live stock interests have been greatly assisted by the improved transportation facilities and lower rates secured through the agency of the live stock organizations during Mr. Hodson's secretaryship, tending to stimulate trade between the central breeding ground of Canada (Ontario) and Manitoba and the Northwest on the one hand, and Quebec, the Maritime Provinces, and Newfoundland in the east.

As to the duties connected with the new office at Ottawa, Hon. Mr. Fisher stated the nature when asking for the necessary appropriation at the late session of Parliament. The main ideas which he has in view are: 1st, to promote live stock organizations in some of the other Provinces, where they are very much needed; 2nd, to promote the live stock export trade; and 3rd, to investigate questions and disseminate information arising in connection therewith, such, for example, as the requirements of the British horse and cattle market, and the possibilities of the Argentine trade. One of Mr. Hodson's first duties will, no doubt, be the securing of better facilities and more favorable rates for the transportation of horses, and also for the carrying of our live beef cattle and sheep to Great Britain. A good deal has been accomplished to facilitate the carriage of pure-bred cattle, sheep, and swine in Canada (and what we have we must hold), but no one has yet grappled in earnest with the shipment of our fat and general stock, so that the profits of the farmer and feeder will not all be swallowed up in getting animals to market. Such matters, we apprehend, will very properly engage his attention, and that he will throw himself with energy and enthusiasm into the work we have no doubt. In attaining these objects and in securing for the smaller exporters fair play from the transportation companies, he will require and we hope receive all needed parliamentary backing. As our readers are aware, Canadian pure-bred live stock interests are now in a most healthy and prosperous condition, the demand for good breeding animals exceeding the supply, as our heavy importations from Britain indicate, so that Mr. Hodson is entering upon his new sphere of work under very favorable auspices. He has our best wishes.

### Our Scottish Letter.

Scottish Shorthorn breeders have been enjoying a specially good time during the week closing.

#### THREE DISPERSION SALES

have taken place, and the averages have been such as to show that the future of this branch of agriculture is full of promise. The herds dispersed have been those of Mr. Alexander Innes, Cushnie, Auchterless; Mr. James Bruce, of Inverquhomery, Longside; and Colonel Monro, Mains of Murthly, Aberfeldy. The first and the last of these sales were conducted by Mr. J. M. Fraser, of the great firm of Macdonald, Fraser & Co. (Ltd.), and the second by the famous London auctioneer, Mr. John Thornton. At Cushnie, Mr. Innes had an average of £20 10s. 8d. for 54 head; at Inverquhomery, Mr. Bruce got £40 12s. 1d. for 73; and at Mains of Murthly, Colonel Monro got £29 9s. 7d. for 91. The highest price of the week was 155 gs., paid at Inverquhomery by Colonel Smith, of Delnabo, for the roan cow, Rosewood LL., now eight years old. The runner-up in this case was Mr. Duthie, Collynie. Another cow of this same race of Rosewoods made 75 gs., and would undoubtedly have made double had she been followed by a calf; while yet a third of the same race went to Mr. Duthie at 85 gs., and her heifer calf went to Her Majesty the Queen at 66 gs. Another noted family in the herd was the Augustas. For a heifer of this race, Mr. Campbell, Kinellar, gave 105 gs., and Mr. J. Deane Willis gave 85 gs. for another. Twelve bulls made an average of £40 0s. 3d. each; and the character of the young stock is illustrated by the fact that nine two-year-old heifers made an average of £54 19s. each.

The Inverquhomery herd had a unique history. It was founded by purchases at a sale in Essex so long ago as 1851, and the cattle were brought by boat to Aberdeen. The cows, three in number, were purchased by Mr. Bruce's uncle and predecessor in the estate of Inverquhomery, and when he died and was succeeded by Mr. Bruce, who came home from Australia to take up his patrimony, no one about the place could tell anything about where the foundation cattle were bought. They came by boat from England in 1851, and the names of the two cows which bred Augustas and Rosewood were preserved. Mr. Bruce devoted himself to the improvement of the stock, and succeeded in a striking degree. By-and-bye, he exhibited several of the