

The Live Stock Conventions

The past winter has been remarkable for the educational campaign along agricultural lines in Western Canada, a fitting culmination being the convention held at Brandon, February 27 to March 2.

New features were introduced notably, a provincial spring stallion show at which a very fine lot of draft stallions were exhibited; the exhibit of Clydesdales being especially fine. The interest evinced was keen, although the membership shows a slight falling off, possibly due to the migration.

MUTTON AND BACON MEN DELIBERATE.

The Sheep and Swine Breeders opened the ball with their annual meeting with Dr. Thompson presiding, the following satisfactory financial statement being presented:

RECEIPTS.	
To Cash on hand.....	\$ 50 90
" Cattle Breeders' Association, 1904, rent.....	\$30 20
" Horse Breeders' Association, 1904, rent.....	\$30 15
	60 35
" Government grant.....	200 00
" Membership fees.....	59 00
" Office rent.....	22 90
	\$393 15
EXPENDITURES.	
By Office rent, telephone, furnishings, etc.....	\$ 84 15
" Convention expenses.....	17 05
" Stationery, printing, postage, etc.	15 95
" Diplomas.....	23 40
" Directors' expenses.....	25 10
" Secretary's salary.....	100 00
" Loan to Horse Breeders' Association.....	50 00
" Balance in hand at bank.....	77 50
	\$393 15

The election of officers resulted as follows:—President, E. R. James, Rosser; vice-president, Geo. Allison, Burnbank. Directors—Representing sheep, John Rankin, Hamiota, Leicesters; T. Jasper Harding, Oxford Downs; A. C. Hawkins, Swan Lake, Shropshires; James Riddell, Rosebank, Shropshires; directors representing swine, Stephen Benson, Neepawa, Yorkshires; T. E. M. Banting, Banting, Tamworths; Jos. Laidler, Neepawa, Berkshires; Andrew Graham, Pomeroy, Yorkshires; representative to Industrial Fair Winnipeg, W. G. Styles; to Brandon fair board, A. D. Gamley; auditors, Dr. A. G. Hopkins and Geo. Batho, Winnipeg.

The executive of the Sheep and Swine Breeders consists of the presidents, and Andrew Graham.

The prevalence of noxious weeds has stimulated the interest in sheep considerably, and was shown by the call of some of the sheep men for lectures and demonstrations of their favorite stock. We understand the Secretary had endeavored to secure an authority from Minneapolis on sheep feeding on screenings. The programme was however full to overflow and the time available was even too short for the discussions, etc., as it was.

The representation on the directorate seems to be a little onesided at present, considering the present relative commercial positions of sheep and swine; Dr. Hopkins giving notice of motion to provide additional directors, as in the Cattle Breeders, so as to overcome the difficulty. Geo. Allison gave notice of motion to make separate associations for sheep and swine.

President Thompson gave an interesting address and welcomed the members and referred to their loss, by the death of a noted sheep breeder the late D. E. Corbett. The Doctor touched on the question of hog prices at Winnipeg as follows: "Our object in meeting together is to learn all we can from each other, and from the professors who will lecture to us at our annual conventions about sheep and swine feeding, breeding, etc.

You have no doubt seen many letters in the papers from farmers saying there is no money in raising hogs at 5c. a pound live weight. I am pleased none of these letters are from members of our association. The farmer who cannot raise hogs and make some profit at 5c. a pound live weight should learn more about the business. I believe every member of our association makes

it pay, but our profits are not what they should be, or would be if we received a fair market price for the animals we have to dispose of

The Winnipeg abattoirs control the price of hogs in Manitoba and I believe they are as great a combine as there is in the country. I say this because the price of hogs in Winnipeg is generally 1c. per pound less than in Toronto and Chicago. (Winnipeg prices are below Chicago very rarely. Ed.) while their products are much higher in Winnipeg than in either of the places named. Their managers must work overtime to devise the means of squeezing the prices down for the farmer and up for the retailer.

The past year has been a successful one from the standpoint of the breeders of pure-bred swine. The demand has been good and I believe fully up to the supply. Prices realized have been very satisfactory. The market for pure-bred sheep has been very good, but the demand has been limited, but I believe it will be greater year after year. The price of wool and mutton are both good, and if sheep can be protected from dogs and wolves, I believe they will pay as good or better than any live stock. Lately we have heard a good deal about noxious weeds, and the harm they are doing, which we are free to admit, but they are doing some good in teaching farmers that they must farm better, keep more stock, and grow more timothy, clover, corn and roots. I think you will admit sheep are the greatest helpers a farmer can have to keep down weeds. I believe the time will soon come when sheep will be kept on many farms in Manitoba.

Jas. Riddell, Rosebank, advocated sheep in place of weed inspectors. Agriculturist Grisdale's address on Bacon production and the discussion which ensued, is held over for our next issue, as it is valuable enough to give in its entirety. Mr. Grisdale gave a demonstration on judging hogs in the Kelly block, where he had a crowded and enthusiastic audience; owing to severe burns from a stereopticon explosion, C. M. McRae, Ottawa, was debarred taking part. The afternoon and evening sessions were jointly given over to the various live stock and seed grain interests. At the stockmen's matinees demonstrations on swine by J. H. Grisdale, on poultry by F. C. Elford, on horses by Robt. Ness and C. D. McGilvray, were given to crowded houses, while at the evening meetings, stereopticon and chart pointed a moral and adorned a tale at the hands of the lecturers.

HORSEMEN FEEL THE COLLAR.

The Horse Breeders of Manitoba held their fifteenth annual meeting on the morning of Wednesday, February 28, and after listening to President Benson, elected officers. Mr Benson drew the attention of the members and others present to the work of the past year, and advised their earnest consideration of the making of stallion lien notes given by syndicates non-negotiable, and referred to the question of the minimum valuation of horses coming in from the south. He gave high commendation to the Dominion veterinary department for its good work in stamping out glanders, and to the farmers for the way they were reporting the presence of that dread disease.

Dr. Thompson, representative to the Industrial, gave a lucid report and made several valuable suggestions as follows: "I have pleasure in reporting a good show of horses in almost every section. The year before we had the Dominion exhibition, which was very largely advertised, and the premiums were much larger than last year, but although there were a number of horses from Ontario and British Columbia, yet last year we had only twenty-one less entries than at the Dominion exhibition, showing that there was no falling off from Manitoba or the Northwest Territories in either numbers or quality. Last year the directors tried the experiment of getting along without a manager, which I believe was a great mistake, and I know it will not occur again.

They also tried the experiment of having the fair extend into two weeks. This I also believe was a mistake, and I am sure it will not occur again, but I would be pleased to have an expression of opinion from you on the subject. Every-one attending the fair the first week will have an idea of what had to be contended with; the rain came down in torrents and the grounds became almost impassable. We could not get the horse

ring into condition to show the horses at the time advertised, and as we had one less judge than the year before, the judging was late in being completed and it gave the judge far more work than any judge should be called upon to undertake. I certainly would not consent to such an arrangement again. We are assured the sewers will be extended into the grounds in such a way as to thoroughly drain them and that the grounds will be put into first class condition before our next exhibition. I also expect the stables will be much improved and our premiums made larger.

I thank you for the kindness I have received from every director and member. I feel I should thank every exhibitor of horses for the way he put up with inconveniences, and their kindly assistance to me.

J. G. Barron moved, Geo. Allison seconding, that the exhibition board be requested to confine the fair to one week. The motion was carried unanimously.

The secretary presented the following audited statements of receipts and expenditures, after which the officers were elected.

RECEIPTS.	
To Cash on hand.....	\$ 5 18
" Government grant.....	200 00
" Membership fees.....	50 00
" Winnipeg City, grant for horse Show.....	250 00
" Sheep & Swine Breeders' Association, loan.....	50 00
" Balance due bank.....	5 82
	\$585 90
EXPENDITURES.	
By Balance of office rent, 1904.....	\$ 30 15
" Office rent, telephone, furniture, etc.....	84 50
" Convention expenses.....	21 15
" Printing, stationery, postage, etc.	25 45
" Director's expenses.....	63 15
" Diplomas.....	10 50
" Horse Show Ass. grant from City.	250 00
" Secretary's salary.....	100 00
	\$585 90

OFFICERS FOR 1906

President, J. G. Washington, Ninga; vice-president, John Graham, Carberry; directors, Clydesdales, John Wishart; Shires, Dr. A. G. Hopkins; Hackneys, T. Jasper, Harding; Thoroughbreds, R. I. M. Power, Carberry; Standard breds, W. H. Galbraith; Shetlands, J. E. Marples, Deleau; auditors, Geo. Batho and A. P. Ketchen; secretary-treasurer, Geo. H. Greig. On motion the association created G. W. Grant Wright, secretary of the Saskatchewan, and C. W. Peterson secretary of the Alberta Live Stock associations, honorary directors of the Manitoba Horse Breeders association. Dr. S. J. Thompson was appointed representative to the Winnipeg Industrial, Henry Nichol to the Brandon Fair board. The executive is made up of the presidents, Dr. Hopkins and the secretary.

A motion to bring a Clydesdale judge from the Old Country was not carried, although it provoked some discussion. The meeting unanimously endorsed the principle of the Horse Breeders' Lien Act.

Secretary Greig read a letter from Arch. McNeilage, secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society of Great Britain and Ireland, announcing that that society will present two gold medals for registered Clydesdales of any age, at the Winnipeg exhibition, one for the best Clydesdale stallion any age, the other for the best Clydesdale mare or filly any age, registered either in the stud book of this society or in the Clydesdale stud book of Canada. This announcement was greeted with applause and a vote of thanks was passed. Mr. Galbraith, said that the ordinance of Wisconsin covering similar ground to the new Horse Breeders' Lien Act had been in force a year and was already working well in weeding out scrub stallions. Mr. Grant Wright, of Regina, was asked to speak on the conditions in Saskatchewan, and explained how they found their act working. He said the altered pedigrees, of which many were offered, were nearly always found to be with American stallions.

On the principle of making syndicate stallion notes non-negotiable, Mr. Galbraith expressed the opinion that though he was personally opposed to stallion syndicates, at the same time he feared that if such legislation was passed it would have the effect of keeping out many desirable horses where men could not afford to purchase horses individually, as it had in the Dakotas.