

The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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CIRCULATION STATEMENT.

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HASTY ACTION MIGHT BE DANGEROUS

The success of the Guelph Winter Fair depends upon the support it receives from the breeders of pure bred stock. No matter how much the Government might do to assist the fair, were the breeders to cease to exhibit their stock its failure would be certain.

The discussions at the live stock conventions held in Toronto recently revealed the presence of a strong belief in the minds of many leading breeders that if the success of the Fair is to be assured it must be moved from Guelph to Toronto. How strong the opposing views are has yet to be determined.

It is not surprising that this agitation has been started. According to the report of the executive committee of the Winter Fair, as presented last month at the annual meeting

of the Dominion Cattle Breeder's Association, the exhibit of beef animals at the Fair in 1904 was 120; each year since the number of animals shown has decreased until last year only 75 beef animals were on exhibition. In order that the stalls might not appear too empty a supply of stock was secured from Toronto Junction. While other departments of the Winter Fair last December were even better than usual the figures quoted deserve careful consideration.

Now that so many of the leading breeders' organizations have appointed committees to inspect the possibilities of the Union Stock Yards as a centre for the holding of the show it is imperative that these committees shall be given every opportunity to report before further steps are taken to increase the accommodation at Guelph. Hasty action at this stage of the proceedings might prove serious.

GROWERS SHOULD PROTECT THEMSELVES

It is time that the farmers in Ontario who grow vegetables for the canning factories, were doing something to protect their interests. A few years ago a large number of the factories consolidated and formed one company. There were still, however, a considerable number of independent factories. Recently, however, these factories have united. This means that the buyers who represent the factories, are thoroughly organized, and the farmers will have to accept practically whatever prices the canners decide to set.

Last year the price paid for tomatoes by most of the factories, was 25 cents a bushel. At London, Ont., the growers were paid thirty cents a bushel by an independent factory. If this independent factory was able to pay thirty cents a bushel, why could not the other factories pay the same? The growers will never receive full value for their crops until they organize and take concerted action.

THE MILKING SHORTHORNS

The development of the milking propensities of the Shorthorn breed was a question that was discussed at the recent meeting of Shorthorn men at Toronto. The opinion seems to be that there is room for improvement in this regard. The question that must arise is "will efforts to develop the milking qualities depreciate to any material extent the beef producing qualities of the breed?"

The Shorthorn is known generally as the leading beef breed of cattle. The breed as we find it in Canada has been bred solely for its beefing qualities. Through long years of careful breeding and selection these qualities have been brought to a high state of perfection; will these qualities be sacrificed if breeders of Shorthorns turn their attention to the production of milk.

To make positive statements regarding the possibility or impossibility of securing any particular development through breeding would be foolhardy. There are many strains

of Shorthorns in which it is not difficult to secure a fairly satisfactory dairy performance. Whether or not this would depreciate the beef qualities is a debatable point.

We have no doubt that the milking qualities of the Shorthorn can be greatly improved. In fact it is quite possible to get a profitable production of milk and beef in the same animal. It stands to reason, however, that it is not possible to attain the highest degree of development in the production of milk and beef in the same animal.

CREAM GRADING IN MANITOBA

In the matter of grading cream, Ontario dairymen must take their hats off to their confreres in Manitoba. While this question is a ripe one in Canadian dairy circles, Manitoba is about the only province in which the question has passed successfully from Council Chambers. There it has been tried and it has proved successful.

The question of grading cream, its advantages and disadvantages, was thoroughly discussed at the recent convention of the Manitoba Dairyman's Association. It was introduced by Mr. Geo. Matheson of the Shellmouth Creamery. This creamery has taken the initiative in this work and brought the scheme to a fairly successful issue. Elsewhere in this issue appears Mr. Matheson's paper concerning cream grading. While the system has been in operation only a comparatively short time at the Shellmouth Creamery, the success of the venture bids fair to make it more general throughout Manitoba in the near future.

The consensus of opinion expressed at the convention was that grading was necessary to insure satisfaction in the trade, and the production of an article of known quality and worth. The decision was arrived at after the advantages and disadvantages had been thoroughly aired. Consequently, it should carry considerable weight with all engaged in the industry.

It is generally recognized that some steps should be taken to better the conditions of the butter industry of Canada. The inauguration of a system of cream grading presents a means towards improvement in this direction. Our columns are open to opinions regarding this matter.

A SUCCESSFUL SHOW

The horsemen of Ontario have again demonstrated their ability to hold a successful show in Toronto without coming under the wing of "society." Last week's exhibition held in the St. Lawrence Arena was attended by from 1,000 to 1,500 people daily, many of whom had traveled long distances. The management is to be congratulated upon its success.

The show was well worth going a long way to see. While the entry was no larger than a year ago, the quality of the exhibits was the very best that this country can produce. This was true particularly of the Clydesdale exhibit. The strings that

lined out in the stallion classes were of a very high order, hardly a weak animal among them. The Shires made a good showing, also, especially in the female classes. In these classes the English heavy draft horse was very little, if any, behind its Scotch rival in point of numbers. The show of lighter breeds was of a high order, and little of the prize money went by default of strong competition.

The Ontario horse-breeders have in their Toronto Winter Show an institution of which they may well feel proud, and should continue it on the line already laid down. It would be a mistake to move this show from Toronto, the natural center of the province. The horse-men, however, have good cause to feel that Toronto has not given them the consideration they deserve. Toronto should not act quietly or both it and the show may be the losers.

THE GOVERNMENT GRANT TO FAIRS.

The Ontario Association of Fairs and Exhibitions has made application to the Ontario Government for an increase in the grant to the agricultural societies of the province of from \$70,000 to \$100,000 a year. This request requires careful consideration. The present annual grant to agricultural societies, including office expenses and the expenses of the expert judges, is approximately \$80,000. Were the desired increase given it would bring the annual expenditure up to \$110,000. That is a large sum of money.

One point in this connection deserves attention. Last year, owing to the operation of the provisions of the new Agricultural Societies Act, some forty agricultural societies passed out of existence or were merged with other societies. They formed about one tenth of the societies in the province. The grants they received were released and made available for the use of the remaining societies. Thus existing societies last year automatically received a considerable increase in their grants. This year, it is probable, a number of additional societies will cease to exist, still further increasing the grants to the remaining societies. It is true that a few additional societies have been established but the number does not equal a half dozen all told.

Are our agricultural societies, on the whole, making good use of the money they receive? It is doubtful if they are. According to the annual report of Mr. J. Lockie Wilson, Superintendent of Agricultural Societies, the societies in Ontario last year expended some \$700,000 of which only about \$250,000 was spent for agricultural purposes as set forth in the Agricultural Societies Act. This is rather an astonishing statement. It is true that certain legitimate expenses of our agricultural societies, such as those for expert judges or money spent for the erection of buildings, are not taken into consideration in the distribution of the government grant. All told, these are not likely to exceed \$100,000 a year. Does the province receive good value for the other \$350,