

Shorthorns the past few years, have endeavored to boom prices above the intrinsic value of the animal, and not having sufficient capital, have been forced to go to the wall. These are the kind who injure any line of trade, and when they are cleaned out business will return to a normal basis in keeping with the legitimate market demands. We understand that one or two Canadian breeders have lost by these failures, though we hope it is nothing serious.

Aside from this little ruffle on the surface in connection with the Shorthorn business conditions are favorable for a brisk trade at reasonable prices for several years to come. Just now the outlook in Canada is more hopeful perhaps than that south of the line. There is a feeling of confidence among our breeders, which, coupled with a good active demand from the West, and elsewhere, warrants good business for the next few years at least. The day of fancy prices may be past for a time, perhaps, but the demand for good cattle at reasonable values is just as vigorous as it ever was. And this is the kind of trade our breeders should encourage, as it will help the average farmer and through him the beef cattle trade of this country.

Goes to Illinois

Mr. J. W. Hart, Superintendent of the Kingston Dairy School, has resigned to accept a more lucrative position in the same line of work in connection with the Agricultural Experiment Station of Illinois. Mr. Hart succeeded Mr. Ruddle as superintendent at Kingston, upon the latter's appointment as Dairy Commissioner for New Zealand in 1898. He has done good work at Kingston.

Hon. H. M. Cochrane Dead

The late Senator Cochrane, who passed away on August 12th last, after a lengthy illness, was best known in this country as a breeder of high-class Shorthorns. The Hillhurst herd has long had a reputation for merit and quality and has done much to raise the standard of our cattle in all parts of the Dominion. Mr. Cochrane was a pioneer in the handling of Shorthorns. Among his famous purchases was the Shorthorn cow "Rosedale," a cow that had not her superior in all England. From Rosedale Mr. Cochrane raised a calf that sold for \$3,500. Shortly after this Mr. Cochrane paid 1,000 gs. for another cow, Duchess 97th, which is among the highest prices ever paid for a Shorthorn cow. It is estimated that Mr. Cochrane in one year, 1870, paid out over \$60,000 for Shorthorn cattle in Great Britain for importation to Canada. In this way he greatly aided the industry and established a herd at Hillhurst that had a reputation all

over America. The sale of this herd, held at Hamilton the day before his death, a report of which appears elsewhere in this issue, is a tribute to Mr. Cochrane's skill as a breeder and importer.

Mr. Cochrane early interested himself in the development of ranching in the West. He was president of the Cochrane Ranch Co. and of the British-American Ranch Co. He was, in his 80th year when he died and had been a member of the Dominion Senate since 1872.

Selecting the Breeding Boar

The sire is more than half of the herd, because, of the parents, he usually exerts the greatest influence on the conformation of the offspring. This, of course, is true only when he is the more intense bred. It is not enough that he be purebred; it is important that he come of a line of ancestry remarkable for uniformity and individual merit. If he be the chance result of a line of indiscriminate breeding, he is not likely to prove an impressive sire. His stock can scarcely fail to be very irregular in type. This point cannot well be overemphasized, for it is just here that the novice in breeding is most apt to make mistakes. It is a too common practice to select and buy breeding stock from among the winners at our exhibitions, taking care only to stipulate that they be eligible for registration. Frequently a phenomenal showyard animal is an accident of birth, and even though he be registered in the herd book, is none the less a "scrub" in point of breeding, and can reproduce his good qualities only by accident. It is unfortunately true that a certificate of registration is not always a certificate of merit. The only safe way to select breeding stock is to visit the long-established herd of some breeder of repute, and buy after seeing the sire and dam, and if possible, the grand-sire and grand-dam of the animal selected. Choose a hog from a large even litter; fecundity is an hereditary trait, and it is essential to profitable hog raising; and the evenness of the litter is a valuable guarantee of the excellence of his breeding and of his consequent prepotency.

The offspring of immature parents should seldom or never be used for breeding purposes. They are apt to be lacking in constitution and vigor; this is especially the case with the offspring of an immature dam. Few things will more quickly lead to the deterioration of a herd in size, vigor and fecundity than the continued use of immature females.

In conformation the boar not only must be of the improved bacon type, but must have the distinct and unmistakable masculinity of appearance which is easily recognized but not easily described. Masculinity does not necessarily imply undue coarseness; it consists rather in a bold, fearless, "come on,

who's afraid?" expression of countenance than in any peculiarity of conformation. A certain amount of coarseness is unavoidable, especially in an aged boar, but he must not have such excessive roughness as would indicate poor feeding qualities, nor is it desirable that he be of extreme size.

F. W. Hodson,
Live Stock Commissioner.

The Farmer Suffers

The Toronto and Hamilton Electric Railway Bill is still before the House of Commons. The mayor and alderman of Toronto have been visiting Ottawa three or four times a week to try to defeat the bill. The York County Council, on the other hand, representing the farming community, sent a deputation to Ottawa the other day to support the bill.

As to the merits and demerits of the objections to the bill we are not in a position to judge. What we do say, however, is that the building of the road should not be blocked by any mere fatuous or sentimental objection on the part of Toronto. Toronto is not the whole thing. There are other interests just as important. The question should be looked at from a broad standpoint looking to the future development of both city and country alike.

As we stated a few weeks ago we believe the interests of all concerned would be better served by having all electric railway franchises granted by the Provincial rather than by the Dominion Parliament. Let the provinces deal with such matters and let them deal with them in a broad and national spirit without any special favors to the municipalities through which the roads pass or to the promoters of the road. The people cannot submit forever to this constant bickering and lobbying for electric railway franchises. The only way to stop it is to pass legislation that will enable franchises to be granted without endangering the municipalities and giving reasonable privileges to promoters. It is the farmer who suffers most by this constant blocking of radial railway building, and it is time something were done to stop it.

Not Effective Till Next Year

The Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, has decided not to bring his bill regulating the seed trade into operation till next year. This decision has been reached because it will be impossible as the present crops are nearly all harvested and threshed, for the trade to offer such seed as is described in the bill for sale by Sept. 1st, the date specified in the bill.

Don't forget the big sale of Yorkshires at Guelph on August 20th. If you want a good sow or boar be there.