

The Live Stock Conference at Ottawa

Faith Expressed in the Continued Prosperity of the Canadian Live Stock Industry

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ONTARIO PROVINCIAL WINTER FAIR

Dec. 6---GUELPH---Dec. 12

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Although VICTORY has been achieved and PEACE is in sight, the need for the greatest possible production is still urgent as it will take more than a year for production to become normal in the world. You will see at Guelph what many of the best farmers and stockmen are doing to help feed the world.

Watch next week's issue for programme of judging.

J. I. FLATT, President

R. W. WADE, Secretary,

HAMILTON

Parliament Buildings, TORONTO

TUESDAY and Wednesday of last week were live stock days at the capital city. On the invitation of the Minister of Agriculture, representative live stock breeders, packers and officials of the Dominion and Provincial Departments of Agriculture, met in joint session at Ottawa, to discuss the live stock industry in all its aspects, but more particularly the influence of present international developments on the future of the industry in Canada. The general conclusions arrived at by the discussions at all sessions were well summarized in the following statement issued to the press at the conclusion of the conference.

"Having had an opportunity of investigating particulars as to the European situation in regard to markets for our live stock products, we are of the opinion that demands for overseas shipment to Europe will be insistent and urgent for a long time to come.

"The depletion of livestock in Europe since the commencement of the war is enormous, and many years will elapse before they can build up their live stock industry to former numbers. In the meantime, the stock raisers of Canada have an excellent opportunity, not only to fill the European demands, but to establish this great industry on a firm and enduring foundation in the Dominion of Canada.

"J. Ogden Armour of Chicago, and other authorities have expressed the opinion that the price of live stock will not materially decline for a number of years, and taking into consideration the large number of people dependent upon the stock market is more satisfactory than at any previous time during the life of the industry.

"Canadian bacon has, by merit, established its name, and we would urge upon all producers to improve the grade and increase the quantity.

"The question of improving the grade of our cattle is also of vital importance, and it is only by a steady and increasing flow of live stock that Canada will be enabled to secure and maintain her overseas market on a satisfactory basis."

Europe's Depletion 115,000,000 Head. The great central fact that inspired the optimism that was characteristic of all the conferences was the well proven fact that Europe has lost, during the years of war, 115,000,000 head of live stock. Because of this a great demand is bound to exist for live stock for years to come and it was urged again and again that Canadian farmers should lay special stress on this branch of farming in the future. It was stated that Germany grows 10 months of the grain supply that needed for her people and that with all the countries the cereal supplies would be those most quickly replaced. The restoration of the live stock industry, on the other hand, is a matter of many years. It was further estimated that in the whole world there is a shortage of 3,000,000 lbs. of animal fats. Wool stocks are very low.

J. H. Grisdale, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, presided at the opening session. The principal speakers were Hon. T. A. Cramer, Minister of Agriculture, Chairman H. B. Thomson of the Canada Food Board, and H. S. Arkel, Live Stock Commissioner. In addition to developing the facts already mentioned, emphasis was laid throughout upon the important part live stock may be made to play in paying the national debt incurred by the war. The annual interest upon the war debt Mr. Thomson estimated at \$55,000,000, most of which will have to come "out of the top six inches of the soil." He added:

"It is my firm conviction that the live stock industry's development is the most important part of reconstruction work that can come before the Government. Great Britain will depend upon Canada and the United States for animal fats for some time to come. The abnormal demand for wool during the war, and the shortage of sheep, is shown in the increase in price of wool. In 1913 raw greasy wool was worth 14 cents a pound. In 1918 it had risen to 65 cents. The farmers of Canada won't be taking any chances by increasing their live stock operations in every direction. By increased production of live stock we can pay the interest on our National Debt, wipe it off entirely, and start the era of post war prosperity Canada is entitled to."

The Packers' Evidence.

Representatives of the packing houses basing their estimates on reports of their agents overseas, stated that the market for live stock products will not become normal for at least four years. At present the export of beef is limited only by the refrigerator capacity of the ships available. Mr. E. Fox, of the Wm. Davies Co., declared that the market for hogs is greater than Canada could supply. Denmark alone is short 1,500,000 hogs. Irish killings have fallen to 15,000 per week before the war to between 4,000 and 5,000. England's supply is 75 per cent of normal. Seven or eight million head of cattle have been lost to Belgium, while 800,000 head have been driven from Northern France.

In the second day of the conference, Food Controller Thomson not only again outlined the great opportunities for the Canadian farmer in live stock, but also took advantage of the opportunity to tell the farmers just what was expected of them and in doing so he assumed a somewhat critical attitude. For instance:

"There is no excuse if we do not put every acre into use, either to sell grain or to feed animals which will be turned into products for which there will be a great and keen world demand for many years to come."

"If we do what we should there is no reason why Canada should not handle its war debt with the greatest ease. In the same intelligence is put into our live stock industry at this time of great opportunity as Holland and Denmark put into their's after 1870, we should develop a business which would be valuable not only to the producer and the packer, but to the whole Dominion.

"We have everything in our favor. Canadian bacon is popular, Canada's name is valuable as a brand name, and there is the market for all animal products. The farmer should stop complaining about the price of feed and the higher cost of labor. Let him pay these higher costs once, and go on developing the business because the percentage of increase in these costs is not nearly so high as the increase in price he has obtained since the war."

Cabinet Promises Consideration.

The first evening of the conference the delegation met with representatives of the cabinet including Sir Thomas White, Acting Premier; Hon. N. W. Fowell, and Hon. H. A. MacLean. Various resolutions were presented calling for Government help to the live stock industry, cold storage at terminals, financing of exports and shipping to carry their products. The Ministers replied that the Government is already at work on some of these problems, particularly on arranging to finance exports and the securing of ships to take care of Canada's demand. Carcass contributions of other demands was promised.