

At the Ayrshire Breeders' Banquet

Admirers of the Scotch Dairy Cow Discuss Ayrshire and Other Matters Around the Festive Board.

THE opening session of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, held in Toronto on Feb. 9 and 10, took the form of a banquet in the Carls-Rite Hotel. Dr. C. C. James, Commissioner of Agriculture; H. A. Craig, Deputy Minister for Alberta; Dr. H. S. Tolmie, Live Stock Commissioner for British Columbia, as well as many prominent Ayrshire breeders, gave addresses.

Referring to the current report that country districts are not doing their share toward helping with the war, Dr. James said that during the past few months county councils of Ontario had voted grants of from \$3,000 to \$6,000 or more per month until the war is over for patriotic purposes. In some cases the patriotic funds provided equalled the entire taxes hitherto paid. As far as the supply of men was concerned, one valley in British Columbia, with a population of 15,000, had sent 1,400 men to the colors up to July, 1915. In one county in Nova Scotia, out of 161 men recently enlisted, 115 were from the farms. With the organization of county battalions in Ontario, at least 30,000 farmers' sons and farm work-mens of this year. When this happens, what about production? The authorities realized the fact that the production of foodstuffs was just as important as the production of munitions, and the Military Department was being advised that there was a danger of unbalancing the country if recruiting was carried to too great a length in rural districts.

Ayrshires in the West

H. A. Craig told something of what was being done by the Ayrshire breed in the Sunny Province. The Department of Agriculture had established seven demonstration farms, on each of which a good herd of cattle of one breed was kept. On their farm at Claresholm they had a nice herd of Ayrshires of high quality. Throughout the province the breed was making headway, but was being kept with competition from some of the other breeds. The Ayrshire was at a disadvantage in that, when the demand for dairy cows, consequent upon the rapid growth of their cities during the boom, was keen, a lot of very inferior specimens of the breed had been sent from Ontario to that province. Mr. Craig strongly advised the Ayrshire men to send to Alberta nothing but their largest and typiest animals of good producing capacity. There was a strong sentiment in favor of cattle of larger size and this would have to be taken note of if the breed was to hold its own in the future.

Dr. Tolmie stated that Ayrshires were making good in the B.C. foothills. An active cow of good grazing qualities was the one required in these districts, and the Ayrshire filled the bill better than any other. They had found difficulty to secure Ayrshires as needed in the work of distributing sties in British Columbia.

The Past and Future of Ayrshires

The history of the Ayrshire breed in Canada was briefly sketched by Alex. Hume, the well-known breeder of Campbellford, Ont. The Chicago fair, held 23 years ago, first brought to the notice of the world the splendid doing. The triumph that Canadian Ayrshire men had won at Chicago were repeated at the Panama and St. Louis Expositions, and he considered these as great milestones in the progress of the breed on the continent. Public sales also contributed to the advancement of the breed. The Ogilvie sales in 1903 and the Hunter

sales about the same time being the first of importance in Canada. At the latter bulls sold as high as \$700, cows \$600 and calves \$285, the average being \$210 for 44 head. In later years the establishment of a better class of Ayrshires at the O.A.C. and the inauguration of advanced registry and R.O.P. work were the greatest steps in advance.

Prof. H. Barton, in a clear cut speech on "The Improvement of Ayrshires," outlined some methods by which still greater progress could be made than in the past. He claimed that there was still urgent need for further and rapid improvement in the breed. Of the different factors that would contribute to that improvement the show ring, extended service of bulls, and the careful and systematic elimination of inferior animals were the most important. A full report of Prof. Barton's address will appear in a subsequent issue of Farm and Dairy.

E. L. Richardson and W. J. Stark, of the Calgary and Edmonton Fair Boards, respectively addressed the meeting briefly, and W. Bert Roadhouse and I. Lockie Wilson brought the greetings of the Ontario Department of Agriculture. The Jersey men had two representatives in the A. Bull. The greetings of the Holstein breeders, who were in session in an adjoining room, were conveyed to the Ayrshire men, these greetings being heartily reciprocated.

The Value of Variety in Crop Production

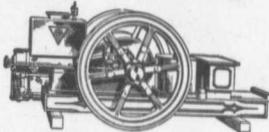
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past year are very interesting and important in showing the great variation in different varieties. One variety, viz., The Snowball, gave a yield of only 13 bushels per acre, and another variety, viz., The Husler, under similar conditions gave a yield of 366 bushels per acre. The Extra Early Eureka, a medium early variety, gave an average of 326 bushels per acre in 1915, and an average of 232 bushels per acre for the past five years. This variety is not only a large yielder, but it is also one of the freest from rot of all the varieties of potatoes under experiment. In the average results for the past nine years the Davies' Warrior stands first with 235, and the Extra Early Eureka second with 230 bushels per acre per annum. In comparing the varieties tested, it is longer period of time, the Empire State occupies the highest place in productiveness. These three varieties are all of good table quality, the Empire State being particularly good in that respect.

The State of Michigan has passed a law which prohibits the use of pictures of dairy cattle, name of creamery or dairy, a the manufacture and sale of oleo-margarine. Section of the law reads as follows: "No person shall use in any way in connection with or associated with the sale or exposure for sale or advertisement of 'butter', 'creamery', or 'dairy', or the name or representation of any breed of dairy cattle, or any combination of any such word or words and representation, or any other words or symbols or combination thereof, commonly used in the sale of butter."

In some sections of China manure is valued so highly that the manure heap is kept out in front of the house. The size of the pile is an index to the prosperity of the owner.

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