

cussed; their stock would be criticised or praised and in this way information about good cows was spread from one to another.

#### FIRST ATTEMPTS AT RECORDS.

This is now all changed. The different breeds are scattered all over the world and information about them is necessary to be recorded as correctly as possible, so that parties at great distances may know something about all the ancestors of the animal they are purchasing. The first attempt at such records was in establishing herd books containing the breeding or genealogy of the animal, nothing else. These have now been published for about 50 years, and are nearly all that is required for some classes of stock. But the dairymen who was trying to improve his herd in production began to find that such records were of little help to him unless they went further and told him something about the production of the animals recorded.

We see, therefore, that our forefathers improved the different breeds of dairy cattle even with their imperfect means of recording. Are we, their successors, able to keep on improving with our better advantages, or are we to fail in the task? At no time in the history of our great country have dairymen had such opportunities for improvement as at present. At no time has dairy produce been selling at better prices. Are we going to take advantage of these opportunities? Are we going to improve our dairy herds and by so doing increase the individual production and profits? If there is anything we need in this country it is more improvers and breeders, instead of dealers in live stock.

### Market Value of Good Feed for the Horse\*

J. H. Grisdale, Agriculturist, C. E. F., Ottawa.

For 100 years we Canadians have been trying to improve our horses. For 30 years we have been making strenuous efforts in that line. As might be expected we have achieved something. As is much to be regretted we are still far short of what might be expected, of what is highly desirable and of what is absolutely necessary before we take the place we should in the horse breeding world. We have spent millions on importations; if importation is to prove the salvation of the industry we must spend millions more. I am not so sure, however, that in importation lies the secret of success.

I admit good breeding important and importation most certainly the basis of progress. But too many of us neglect another factor entering in no small measure into the production of the best horses of any breed, but perhaps more particularly into the development of the individual as well as the breed or breeds of heavy horses. That factor of so great weight and influence is good feeding. None will deny its necessity, few apparently consider it to be of the importance it really is. That at least seems to be the case when one observes the treatment accorded the colt by the average Canadian farmer, more particularly as he flourishes in Eastern Ontario and Quebec, but in no small measure through the Dominion.

#### DRAFTERS AT THE TOP.

A glance at any horse market quotations shows the general classification to be drafters, chunks, general purpose, expressors and drivers. With the exception of an occasional extra fine individual of some other class the drafter commands the top price. For instance, today the best drafters bring \$250 to \$400 each, while the next price is from \$175 to \$250 for extra good expressors or drivers; the chunk and the general purpose must be content with \$150 to \$175. The chunk and the general purpose, more particularly in this Eastern part of Ontario, far outnumber the drafters. In my opinion the great number of chunks or

\*An address delivered at the Ottawa Winter Fair last week.

their chunkiness to feeding methods or rather the lack of feed. In other words "chunk" means "starred colthood." The Good Book says no man by taking thought can increase his stature, but it does not say a word about horses. Moral, get busy, feed the growing horse, see if he can't be made to grow enough to raise him two or three degrees or grades when he strikes the market.

There is no doubt it can be done. It is done in many cases, as witness the fine type of horse it is possible to find in this country, if one is willing to hunt long enough. What we want to see is every colt getting the chance to develop that is his by right of birth. By right of birth because no man unwilling to give the colt a chance should ever think of breeding.

#### GOOD FEEDING IS PROFITABLE.

Further, it is a profitable proposition. The spread of prices of from \$50 to \$200 between chunk and drafters shows good returns from the small extra amount of feed required to help the right bred colt past the 1,400 or 1,500 pound mark and so into the big money sort that gladdens the seller's heart and makes the buyer smile despite the long price he must pay.

The feeding is a simple matter, yet at all times requires judgment. It must begin with the dam while yet the colt is long unborn. She should work steadily at moderately heavy work. Constant and uniform work with right feeding is the thing. Her food should be somewhat different from that given the average work horses. Bran should enter somewhat more largely in the rations. Clover hay free from dust and mould should in some small measure form part of her feed. She should be kept in fair flesh and improving rather than losing in weight. She should work right up to the last day before foaling.

After foaling, work her very little and at work no likely to tax her strength and cause overheating. Shut colt up while at work. If she is

old. Give a good pasture and a little grain if possible the first summer. Keep him growing and in good flesh. Most Eastern Ontario colts are ruined between the ages of 12 and 30 months. The colt should reach the three-year-old mark in good flesh and growing rapidly.

At three years old he is worth just twice as much if properly raised as he usually sells for raised by the average farmer.

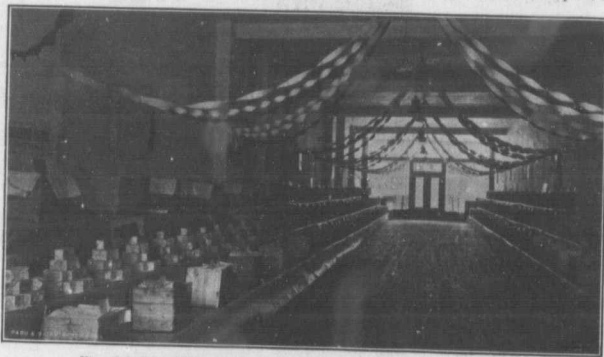
### Comments on the Sheep Industry

Robt. McEwen, Middlesex Co., Ont.

Just now when interest in sheep breeding is at low ebb and farmers throughout the Province have either abandoned their flocks or reduced them almost to the vanishing point, R. H. Harding's article, which appeared in *Farm and Dairy*, January 13, is timely and worthy of consideration. Even when wool was selling as it was a few years ago, at 10 and 11 cents a pound, breeders freely admitted that there was a profit in the business. That being the case and with current prices for lambs, mutton and wool, one looks for a revival which is not yet apparent.

If the causes for this delay are recognized, remedies can the more easily be applied. The argument perhaps most frequently advanced as to why sheep are not being bred is the danger of the loss from dogs. There is serious loss we know, but there is good reason to believe that the scare head lines of the reports of losses appearing in the press, encouraged possibly by the owner of the sheep who finds this necessary in order to receive fair compensation from the municipality, deter the timid from embarking in an undertaking with this risk attached to it. When the contemplated legislation is enacted, making it obligatory upon all townships to pay not less than two-thirds value for sheep killed by dogs, a greater confidence will be established in the business.

It is sometimes asserted that arable land in Ontario is becoming so valuable that a profit can-



View of the Dairy Exhibition held at St. Thomas at the time of the Dairymen's Convention

The exhibit this year was the largest and the quality was the best on record. The exhibit was displayed in a vacant store, which was tastefully decorated. A report of the exhibition was given on page 12 of *Farm and Dairy* last week.

idle see that she has a good pasture, a little extra feed will pay. Feeding the colt through the mare is a good practice.

#### TEACH THE COLT TO EAT.

But teach the colt to eat early in the game. Bran and whole oats are good, one to four of oats or thereabouts. Give all it will eat. Give some hay. Wean when eating well. Keep colt always in good flesh. The first winter run loose if possible in box. If this is not possible then out every day.

Feed well all the first winter, giving all the good clean grain and bran it will eat up. It should weigh about 1,200 pounds at 12 months

not be shown through sheep. If tenants in England and Scotland can live more luxuriously than farmers do here and pay a rental of \$10 to \$15 an acre through the profits of sheep, Ontario land owners ought yet to find something attractive in the trade.

In order to fix attention more particularly on sheep and that a knowledge of all the details of breed characteristics, methods of winter and summer feeding, and the profits to be derived from the sheep breeding industry of the province, something more than at present is should be at our Agricultural Colleges. If the Professors were brought more directly in touch with the work and