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A Plea for Fair Play.

In our issue of March 5th was published a brief report of a meeting of breeders of Polled Angus cattle held in Guelph, Ontario. It was at this meeting decided to organize a Canadian branch of the American Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Association, and a glance at the names of those present at the meeting and forming this branch of the American Association, which is to include all Canada in its beneficent embrace, shows that it is composed entirely of Ontario men. The fact that there are more pure-bred Angus cattle in Manitoba and the Territories than in Ontario is either unknown to these Ontario breeders or the right of western breeders to recognition in an association calculated to benefit the breed throughout Canada has been overlooked.

But this is quite in keeping with the general attitude of Ontario live-stock men toward the rest of the Dominion. They have several live-stock associations with names designating that their field of action is from ocean to ocean, but whose objects are entirely confined to catering to the interests of the Ontario breeder.

The Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, whose mission is Dominion in character, having headquarters located at Ontario's capital, and being managed from its inception by Ontario breeders, is not free from a charge of provincialism in its dealings. Men living down on the concessions are apt to forget that there is a West growing up.

Smut Preventives.

Once again seedtime is at hand, and we would be remiss in our duty did we not remind our readers of the importance of taking preventive measures against smut in the three important cereals, wheat, oats and barley. The fact that there was practically no smut on the grain last year is no proof that the 1902 crop will escape, but it may have a tendency to make some people careless and neglect taking precautionary measures. For wheat, probably nothing is more effective than the common bluestone treatment, using one pound of bluestone dissolved in a pail of water for eight or ten bushels of wheat. The solution should be sprinkled over the seed and the grain shovelled over several times to insure that every kernel of grain is moistened with the solution. It is not always convenient to have boiling water to dissolve the bluestone, and it will not dissolve in cold water unless it be placed in a sack and suspended in the water just below the surface, when, it is claimed, it will dissolve in a few hours. The amount of bluestone necessary to make a barrel of pickle can thus be dissolved readily by suspending it in an old sack across the top of the barrel just so that all the bluestone is submerged under water. For oats, formalin of late years come into general use, being found more effective than bluestone. A good recipe is six ounces of formalin to ten gallons of water, ten bushels of seed, dipping the seed into solution for five minutes, or even sprinkling may answer.

Barley answers well with barley, but requires stronger application, about nine ounces being recommended, or else it must be left to steep for ten or fifteen minutes in the solution.

It is well to treat the seed (with oats more particularly) a few days before seeding, and

shovel the grain over occasionally in the interval to facilitate its drying, in order that it may run through the seeder more readily. The ordinary force-feed seed drill will, however, sow it even when damp, but the feed should be set for about a peck more seed than required to ensure a sufficient amount.

A Disappointing Department.

About a year ago, under the auspices of the Canadian Forestry Association, a series of meetings were held throughout Manitoba and the Territories by Forestry Superintendent Stewart, with the ostensible object of disseminating information regarding the co-operative work proposed in the interests of the farmers of the West in the way of supplying trees and tree seeds free and furnishing expert advice regarding the laying out of plantations and growing of trees. At a number of these meetings, organizations called forestry circles were formed, for membership in which a fee of \$1 was charged, the dollar being forwarded, by instructions of the Forestry Superintendent, to Ottawa, to make the subscribers members of the Canadian Forestry Association. Every member of the central association was supplied with a copy of a monthly sporting magazine, the Rod and Gun, of which very excellent little paper the Forestry Superintendent is editor. It will thus be seen what an excellent scheme the formation of these little forestry circles proved to swell the circulation of the Rod and Gun. Apart from the very questionable value to the western farmer of this little sporting paper, we have yet to learn of any benefit accruing to the westerners, or for that matter to easterners, by their membership in this Ottawa association. The Governments of the eastern Provinces look after their own forestry regulations, and the Canadian Forestry Association is of no practical use located at Ottawa. The scheme of the Forestry Branch of the Department of the Interior, as we understand it, was intended to benefit the agricultural West, and to accomplish that object must have its headquarters in the West, where the conditions are understood and appreciated. It is a pity that the Department of the Interior, when inaugurating a scheme embracing possibilities for benefiting the West, should not have placed the carrying out of the project in the hands of thoroughly capable western men, and until that is done the work can never be made the practical success that it should be. Without any disparagement of the scientific qualifications of the Superintendent and his assistant, Mr. Ross, they, as easterners, can have little knowledge of western conditions and are out of touch with the people in whose interests they are supposed to be working. In evidence of the widespread interest taken in tree-planting, there were a very large number of applications last year, especially from Manitoba, for trees and for expert advice. The Department failed, however, to secure a sufficient supply of tree seeds of the most desirable varieties, such as the native maple, and were forced to supplement their stock with large quantities of ash seed, a slow-growing tree, scarcely suited to pioneer conditions, and made up their tree supply with a large stock of Dakota cottonwoods, a tree suitably only for certain localities, and condemned by most of the Prairie States, where it has been largely used, as short-lived and very subject to blight and other diseases. A practical department, such as this forestry branch should be, simply cannot be made a success by eastern men whose headquarters are at Ottawa.

What Shall We Sow?

THE RECORD OF STANDARD VARIETIES.

A study of Experimental Farm Bulletin No. 89 will prove interesting and instructive, as showing the results of tests of varieties running over a series of years. Copies may be had by writing the Experimental Farm, Ottawa. A glance at a few of the varieties that head the lists at our western farms will be of special interest at this time.

At Indian Head, in a six-years' average, our standard Red Fife wheat ranks second in the best 12 varieties, with an average of 44.12 bushels per acre, 2 bushels above the average of the 12, and only a few pounds below Huron, which heads the list. Preston, a hybrid from Red Fife and a favorite, standing at the head of the select 12 on all the five farms, stands sixth in both the Indian Head and Brandon Farm reports. At Brandon, Red Fife stands fourth on the list, with a bushel better average than the best 12, viz., 37.5. Goose wheat heads the list, with 40.48, with White Fife and Crown coming in ahead of Red Fife.

In oats, American Beauty heads the Brandon list of six-years' tests, with 95.32, with the Banner second, 92.24; the average for the best 12 being 84.27. At Indian Head the average for the 12 is 90.9 bushels, and the list is headed by Abundance, 95.15, American Beauty coming next with 95.9, and Banner ninth, with 88.30. The Banner ranks first of the best 12 on the five farms, with an average of 76.14; American Beauty second, with 75.33; while the average of the 12 best is 72.24.

Of the six-rowed barleys, the Mensury, the variety recommended by Mr. Bedford, heads the list at Brandon, with a 54-bushel average for six years, being nearly three bushels above the average of the best six. At Indian Head, Mensury stands third, with 59.41, a bushel above the average of the highest six. Odessa here heads the list, with a 61.19 average for six years, with Rennie's Improved next. Mensury also heads the list, with a good lead on the Odessa, on all five farms.

The Wheat Blockade Discussed in Parliament.

(Special)

Ottawa, March 15th.—Monday last witnessed by far the most interesting debate up to this time of the present session of Parliament. The wheat blockade was discussed for five hours by many of the leading members of the House, including the Premier and the leader of the Opposition. It is a hopeful sign that the Canadian Parliament should be thus seized of the vital importance of a question directly affecting agriculture and the needs of the Western farmer. His well-being is a mighty factor in the progress of the whole Dominion, and it augurs well for the future that statesmen from all sections of Canada recognize that sectional differences must be laid aside for the common weal. The chief grievances ventilated were the lack of elevator capacity and transportation power and the improper exactions of the elevator combine said to exist. Hon. Mr. Borden urged the Government to break the combine, and even consider Government ownership of elevators, and Hon. Mr. Laurier pledged the Government to do all in its power to remedy the existing evils. It was stated that doubling the capacity of the C. P. R. between Winnipeg and Fort William and the service of the Canadian Northern Railway would tend toward relief, but lack of accommodation east of Fort William seemed to be one great trouble. The announcement has been made, also, that a railway commission is to be created. The