AYRSHIRE NEWS

Farm and Dairy is the official organ of The Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, all of whose members are readers of the paper. Members of the Association are invited to send items of interest to Ayrshire breeders for publication in this column

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The following is a full report of the annual address of Pres. W. W. Ballantyne, of Stratford, delivered at the annual meeting of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, held recently in Toronto:

Through the mercies of a kind Providence we again meet in annual session in the "Queen City," to legislate in the interests of our Association, which is doing much to further the Ayrshire breed.

I congratulate the Association on its prosperous year. The increasing membership, increase of Registrations, and the healthy state of our finances bespeaks progress. Nor is this all, the splendid display of Ayrshires at all the leading exhibitions and the increased numbers of entries in the dairy test at the several winter fairs, indicate that the Ayrshire cow is gaining in popularity.

AYRSHIRES AT SEATTLE

The exhibit of Ayrshires at the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition held at Seattle, Wash., last September and October, in point of quality, was never excelled in America. To Canadian breeders, Mr. R. R. Ness, of Howick, Que., and Messrs. Robert Hunter & Sons, Maxville, Ont., who crossed the continent at great risk and expense, we owe a debt of gratitude. The winning by Mr. Ness of the Silver Cup for best 13 animals, open to all breeds, and in keen competition, was an honor of which Canadian Ayrshire breeders may be proud. These men, while not repaid from a financial standpoint, won many coveted positions, and added a few more trophies to their already large collection of honours. This grand showing at Seattle and New Westminster, B. C., was a great advertisement for the breed in that western country. The Pacific Coast States and provinces are naturally adapted to dairying, and it will be only a matter of time when numberless herds of dairy cattle with Ayrshires in the lead, will be scattered over the fertile valleys and slopes of the Pacific Coast.

The Western and Middle States, as well as our great Northwest, are seeking for Ayrshires. Their reputation as profitable dairy cows is fast spreading, and the exhibits at western fairs, both in the United States and Canada, have favorably impressed dairymen that they are a breed of merit. I regret, that rumors have come to me that some of the animals taken out to our Canadian West were not good specimens of the breed. Only first class animals should be sent to that new field. A few culls can do the breed an incalculable amount of harm. Ayrshire breeders should guard their interests in this respect, so that confidence in the breed and the breeders may be established and maintained.

SCOTLAND VISITED.

During the past year, I was fortunate enough to get a glimpse into the many fine homes and meet many of the leading Scottish Ayrshire breeders. To see the Ayrshire cow on her native heath, was a pleasure long anticipated, and it came in a way quite unexpected. Receiving an appointment on the Swine Commission to investigate the conditions of pork packing in Denmark and other European countries we were led to Ayrshire in Scotland, where in connection with the large dairies where cheese is made almost exclusively, large numbers of hogs are kept to utilize the by-products of the dairy. The many herds of splendid type Ayrshires, with "Utility" marked on every animal, was to me a revelation.

I had the pleasure of visiting the Highland and Agricultural Societies' Show at Stirling. With the exhibit of Ayrshires, I was disappointed. Too many of the show yard, vessel type, especially in the cow classes received honors to suit a Canadian. Utility animals were "not in it." Why the hard headed Scotchman continues to recognize this class I cannot understand. Generally speaking, the large majority of breeders are not in sympathy with the "vessel type." This is more noticeable when we get away from the show ring and into the byres and paddocks of the breeder-dairymen. Here the "utility" cow of splendid type is in evidence. They are cows of fine form, having vigor of constitution and grand capacity.

SCOTTISH MILK RECORDS.

The Milk Records Committee in Scotland are doing a grand work in bringing to the front cows and heifers that are making large records of milk and fat, and demonstrating to the public that the Ayrshire cow is a large producer. One gratifying feature of the work in Scotland has been the greater favor now bestowed on this work by many, who, if not originally hostile, were, to say the least, not favorably disposed towards it. Many farmers, who were for a time lukewarm, have joined the work, and it says a great deal for their sound common sense that they have done so. The work has cost the farmers and the Highland and Agricultural Society, a substantial sum of money, but they realize that it has been well expended.

When at the Highland and Agricultural Show I was consulted by a committee composed of Dr. Charles Douglass, Thomas Clement and John Speir, to discuss the milk records question with a view of endeavoring to have the yearly records test corresponds to a uniform standard, consistent with the prevailing conditions in both Scotland and Canada. I expressed myself favorable to any scheme that would bring us into closer relationship and strengthen Ayrshire interests in either land. Further, I asked them to memorialize our Association through the Secretary, stating their desires, and we would endeavor to meet them as far as our conditions would allow. This memorial has been received and will be laid before you for consideration.

It is gratifying to note the progress that is being made by the American Ayrshire Breeders' Association in the United States. They, too, are doing a grand work in their Advanced Registry test, demonstrating, like the Scotchmen, that they have many 15,000 lb. cows also.

THE YEARLY TEST.

With pleasure, I note that progress is being made in our Record of Performance test work. Ayrshire are proving their worth as never before. Canadian bred Ayrshires are not taking second place to their imported sisters. Our breeders have been slow in accepting this test, but more and more are they entering their herds in the test, as they realize its value. The weekly or monthly test may be good enough for some but it is no criterion of a cow's worth. The cow that can make a spurt may not have staying powers, and staying powers not for a month, or in fact a year is wanted, but an endurance which extends over a greater part of the life of the dairy cow, in which capacity and reproduction are strong characteristics. The Record of Performance test and Co-Operative Cow-Testing Associations are most valuable institutions. I cannot commend these tests too highly to Ayrshire breeders. They enable us to weed out the unprofitable cows, and demonstrate the great possibilities of the Ayrshire as an economical and profitable breed.

WINTER FAIR TESTS.

Ayrshires have sustained their reputation at all the winter fair dairy tests. To our friends, John McKee and N. Dyment, Ayrshire men owe a great debt of gratitude for their untiring energy year after year, both at Guelph and Ottawa, for upholding the dignity of the breed. The breeders who have done this work in the Maritime Provinces must not be forgotten. I understand that the showing of Ayrshires at Amherst last December was a rich one. Possibly our finances will allow of larger grants to these Winter Fair dairy tests. It might not be out of place at this meeting to restore the Championship prizes at these dairy tests.

ESTIMATE THE FEED.

I am more than ever convinced that were feed calculated and charged against the cows entered in the dairy tests, the general standing of the Ayrshires would undoubtedly be higher. I speak thus after close observation in superintending the dairy test at Guelph for the past few years. I think we should confer with the other breed Associations, and if the scheme is approved, bring this phase of the matter to the notice of the directors of the Winter Fair boards.

DESCRIBE THE ANIMAL.

A matter which should be considered is that of a better description of the animal on the registered certificate. So many of the certificates define the animal as "red and white," "white with a few red spots," or some other ambiguous description. The American Ayrshire Association calls for a diagram of the animal on the back of the application form, whilst the Holstein certificate calls for the exact markings.

With the advancement among Maritime breeders they should have representation on our Board of Directors, and, according to our secretary, they ask for this representation. This I leave for your consideration.

Many breeders are of the opinion that the Annual would be a good advertising medium, and have suggested its pages be opened for that purpose at a nominal charge.

I cannot close without referring to the debt of gratitude I personally and the Association, owe to the secretary. His untiring and zealous devotion to the work entrusted to him, redounds to his credit, and Ayrshire interests have been strengthened and furthered thereby.

HELP THE BREED.

A word to my fellow breeders in closing. We are the advocates of a breed of great merit. The cow cannot do it all herself. We must aid her. There are mediums within our reach with which we can demonstrate what the Ayrshire cow can do. The advocates of other dairy breeds are more active than we. Why is this? Are we too modest? If so, let our modesty give place to enthusiasm and make Ayrshire interests in 1910 pulsate from the Atlantic to the Pacific, with splendid records of milk and fat and with exhibits at all our leading fairs that will more than convince the public that the Ayrshire breed stands for all its promoters claim. What has been done in the past is only an earnest of what we can do in the future. Of course, this would be impossible were it not for the intrinsic merit and beauty of type of the Ayrshire cow. She possesses both to a high degree. All that was lacking was a medium to bring these strong points before the public. The Record of Performance test, the Dairy test, the Co-operative Cow-testing Association, together with the press, all combine to be this medium. It is for us to make use of these as occasion affords. Let us all work together for still another year to further popularize the Ayrshire cow. I thank my fellow officers and the members for their courtesy and assistance during the past year and ask for a liberal support for my successor.

Report of Swine Commission

Farm and Dairy readers and others interested in the report of the Swine Commission, which is published under the title of "Swine Husbandry in the United Kingdom and Denmark," can get copies of the same from the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, Ottawa.

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HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN NEWS

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The 25th annual meeting of the Holstein-Friesian Association of America, will be held at the new court house, Syracuse, N. Y., on Wednesday, June 1st, 1910, at 10 o'clock a.m., for the election of officers and the transaction of any other business, which may legally come before it. All persons interested in Holstein-Friesian cattle, whether members of the Association or not, are most cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Editor, Farm and Dairy.—The owner of the cow Bertha Black 2237, as it appeared in the list of Record of Performance cows published in Farm and Dairy, April 28, was given as Wm. Suhring, whereas it should have been Otto Suhring.—G. W. Clemons, Secretary, Holstein-Friesian Association.

ACCOUNT MADE OF SOLIDS NOT FAT

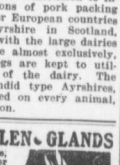
Because the official reports deal largely with the fat content of milk, it must not be supposed that Holstein-Friesian breeders make little account of the solids not fat; for such a conclusion would be wide of the mark. But because the fat content is so easily determined, so readily separated from the milk in cream and churned into butter, a disproportionate value has been given to the fat by the dairy public; her capacity for its production largely determining the sales value of a cow.

Holstein-Friesian breeders, holding that their breed is an all-round dairy breed, equally useful in straight milk production for the city or the condensery, for the making of any and all kinds of cheese, for the production of veal, for cream and butter, willingly submit their favorites to any test the public demands, and are at present largely engaged in showing what can be done in butter-fat production for both short and long periods of testing.

Butter-fat production is important, but food production is more important, and when the public turns to that branch of dairy husbandry for enlightenment, Holstein-Friesian breeders will have their data ready, and will make a convincing showing that they have in their great dairy breed the most wonderful of food producing means that is known. Animal food is necessary to the proper nourishment of mankind; but all over the world, animal food in the form of fish and flesh is becoming scarcer, its growing cost making it increasingly difficult for a large class of the people to obtain, so that more and more, eggs and milk, especially the latter, must be substituted. The people must be educated as to the food value of milk.—M. H. Gardiner, Supt. of Advanced Registry, Delavan, Wis.

I have only been a subscriber to Farm and Dairy a short time, but have noticed that better market quotations are published in Farm and Dairy than any paper I have received since I subscribed for it.—John Stortz, Wellington County, Ont.

THICK, SWOLLEN GLANDS



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