

appointed to meet him at Ottawa and arrange details. A special meeting of the Shorthorn Association was summoned, and a similar resolution put through, in spite of the opposition of a majority of the executive board.

A meeting of the committees appointed from the various associations was called at Ottawa, April 19th and 20th, but in sending out the invitations, Mr. Hodson, for some reason, absolutely ignored the Holstein-Friesian Association, which had passed a resolution favoring National Records, and had named delegates to attend the meeting. It was not until this association had sent a memorial to the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that we were given an opportunity to come into a scheme that had been matured a month before without any reference to us.

At the meeting in Ottawa (April 19th and 20th) the delegates representing the other associations formed a national board to manage the records, and appointed an executive committee, composed of a few men peculiarly susceptible to Mr. Hodson's influence, and through whom he practically dominates all the records. This, too, in spite of the terms of the agreement between the Hon. Minister of Agriculture and the affiliated associations, which expressly provides that there shall be no such interference by officers of the Department.

The majority of the associations have removed their offices to Ottawa, and have come under the National Record Board. Their secretaries have become simply registrars—clerks for recording pedigrees. We have always demanded a great deal more than this of our secretary. He is a practical farmer and breeder; a large part of his time is taken up in promoting the interests of our breed, by contributing articles to the press, by encouraging the official testing of cows for milk and butter, etc. We have, therefore, decided objections to being coerced into submitting our business to the management of a committee composed largely of Shorthorn breeders, who are now and always have been our strongest competitors. Again, our secretary cannot at once tear up his office at St. George and remove to Ottawa, as he is the owner of a farm and herd of cattle, and the secretaryship is only a part of his business. The salary paid him by the association (\$550 per annum), while adequate under present conditions, would not be more than half enough to support him in Ottawa, and the association would not pay a greatly increased salary for the amount of work done.

To recapitulate: We declare that we are already a national association of high standing; that the accuracy of our records has never been questioned by the railways or anyone else; that we are in favor of proper inspection of our certificates of registry by the Dominion Department of Agriculture; but we decline to submit to the coercion of the Live-stock Commissioner, tear up our business arrangements at almost a week's notice (for we were not consulted by him or anyone representing him until May 23rd last), and affiliate with a number of other associations, with whom, in the nature of things, we are and must be a competitor. This is a serious matter for us, and we do not want to take any hasty or inconsiderate action.

We trust that if the railways attempt to discriminate between this association and other so-called national associations, you will have this matter thoroughly investigated by your traffic officer. Signed on behalf of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada: Matt. Richardson, President; G. W. Clemons, Secretary-Treasurer.

Buying and Pasturing Beef Cattle.

Owing to the great slump which has taken place in the prices of beefing animals since the months of April and May, the question of buying feeders in the spring with the view of selling in midsummer has become a live one to many a grazier. This is so, for two reasons: First, so many farmers throughout the grazing portion of Ontario have laid their farms entirely down to grass and are depending upon buying feeders in the spring; and secondly, that the prices realized this summer have been so unprofitable that many graziers, even with the added weight gained by their animals, will not be recouped the prices paid, not counting anything for rental or pasture during the summer.

Although it is needless to predict a recurrence of these conditions in years to come, yet, as farmers and graziers, it is our duty, for our own financial safety to guard against them as much as possible. The very fact of there being an undue percentage of grass land will tend to stimulate unduly prices of feeders in the spring of the year, with the result that there will be a correspondingly heavy slump in the stocker market when the pasture must be relieved in the late fall.

What, then, must we do? The fact is that in this section of country, for the past few years, prices in the spring have been governed not so much by the market quotations as by the competition and operation of the graziers themselves in their intense anxiety to procure animals, and experience proves that present conditions partake altogether too much of a purely speculative

turn to suit the taste and disposition of the ordinary farmer.

To my mind there is only one remedy which suggests itself, and that is, so change our system of farm operation that we may, by cropping some and providing the necessary feed, take advantage of the low prices in the late fall, buy our feeders then, and feed them during the winter; that, with their first cost and the gain in growth and weight, we may have them at values which will return a satisfactory margin between the cost and the

Farmers and the Tariff Commission.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of August 17th, page 1149, I read with interest the article by John Lloyd Jones, re "Sheep and the Tariff," and as the Dominion Government has appointed a commission of Cabinet Ministers to enquire into the working of the tariff, and to hear the pro and con of any citizen or body of citizens re its better adjustment, I will ask the farmers to bear in mind some facts they are laboring under to their disadvantage, in the manner which sheep are being dealt with, both as to the product of wool and mutton.

In referring to the blue books of 1901-2 and 3, re imports and exports, I find there were imported into Canada from the British Isles, France and the United States in the years 1901-2-3, wool to the extent of 26,830,045 lbs.; or an average of 8,943,348 lbs. of wool in each of these years, and that free of duty. The imports of sheep were in the same three years a total of 302,480; or an average of 100,826 sheep for each year, and those subject to a duty of 20 per cent., ad valorem. All of those sheep were imported from the United States.

I am credibly informed that the United States charge us a duty of 12c. per pound on wool, 75c. on each lamb, and \$1.50 on each sheep that we export to their country, and we accept their wool free of duty, and only exact 20 per cent. (ad valorem) on the cost price of the number of sheep we import from them. We do not import any lambs for slaughtering purposes.

If we average those 100,826 sheep's fleeces of wool at 4 lbs. each, we find that 403,304 lbs. of wool has been imported additional, because it came in on the sheep's back, and no duty is charged on the wool. The average importation of wool is 8,943,348 lbs., plus 403,304 imported on the sheep, making a total of 9,346,652 lbs. that comes into this Dominion each year all free of duty.

In your issue of April 18th last, I showed that an average of 42,096,000 lbs. of rags were imported to this country annually. Therefore, the rags that are picked up in this country, and the wool imported besides the rags imported, all serve to affect the price of wool; more especially the rags, because they are bought at a fraction of one cent per pound. Just imagine, 9,346,652 lbs. of wool, and 42,096,000 lbs. of rags, a total of 51,442,652 lbs.!

The farmers would require at the very least to increase their flocks by about ten million more ewes to supply the demand for clothing only, if we had the same protection against others as they have against us. The United States paid their farmers 28c. for their wool this past season, and the Canadian farmer only received 15c. for his wool, and most of that in trade (called store pay).

In the face of all this, would it not be advisable for the several societies of farmers, principally the county and township agricultural societies, to have meetings called at an early date, and appoint delegates to wait on the Committee of Cabinet Ministers, and explain their objections, by sending the best men they can get. And do not try to save a dollar, but pay their expenses, and remember, farmers must be there in large and influential numbers, because they have the influence of the Manufacturers' Association to contend with, who are joined together for mutual benefit, consequently it will be necessary to strongly impress upon the committee your claim, so that they will act in your favor, which is only justice, and for the benefit of the commonwealth, as the prosperity of the country depends upon the prosperity of the farmers.

My own desire is the prohibition of the manufacture of rags altogether, and imposition of a duty the same against the United States and all other countries as they charge us. Do unto others as they do unto us is

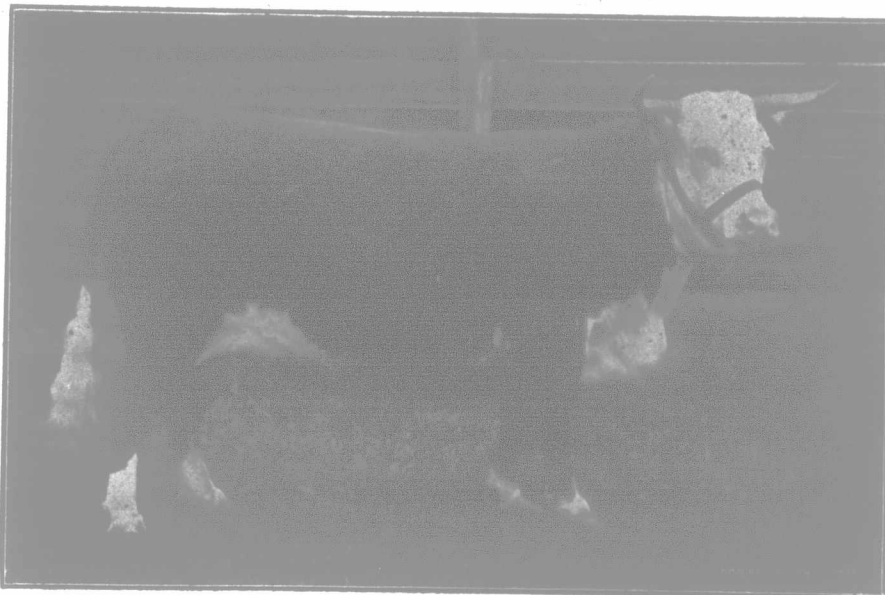


Jim of Devlin.

Champion Aberdeen-Angus bull, Highland Show, Glasgow, 1905.

selling price. In pursuing this system we should never lose sight of the fact that our animals should be so liberally fed during the winter that when turned upon grass the following spring they will be so far advanced in condition as to be ready for the early-grass market, when, if indications betoken higher prices later on, they can easily be held, and, on the other hand, we are prepared for the highest market of the season, which almost invariably comes early. Here, again, however, in the pursuit of this system, we are confronted with two difficulties, the hired help problem, and the quality of animals to buy. Having referred to the first consideration in a former article during the present year I will not again dwell upon it further than to emphasize the fact that I consider it a great mistake to so narrow the scope of our farm operations that we force ourselves to perform all the labor thereon. Such a system will never tend towards the best and truest interests of our country, nor yet towards our highest individual welfare.

In dealing with the quality of animals to



Lady Betty.

First-prize cow and champion Hereford female, Royal Show, England, 1905.

handle, I cannot too strongly dwell upon the fact that my own personal experience proves the truism, "Well bought is half sold," and this consideration applies to the quality of the animals in our possession much more than to the price paid. No matter how cheaply bought, we have not, generally, been able to obtain a satisfactory margin upon an inferior class of animals, whereas the good-quality bullocks have invariably returned a showing on the right side of the ledger.

THOS. McMILLAN.

Huron Co., Ont.