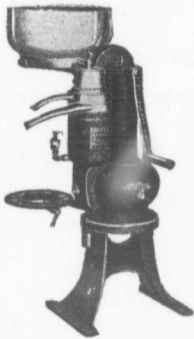


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### The Maritime Winter Fair

Ideal weather and large attendance favored the Winter Fair recently held at Amherst, N.S. All classes showed improvement this year over former years, both in number of entries and in the quality of the animals shown. In the beef cattle classes there were 145 entries; dairy cattle, 86; sheep, 265; swine, 136; live poultry, 1,482; and in dressed poultry, 306.

#### POULTRY

Poultry with over 1,600 entries made the largest poultry show ever held in the Eastern Provinces. There were 500 entries more than last year. As usual Barred Rocks were most numerous.

New exhibitors and larger entries in the sheep classes go to prove that in the policy of the Provincial Government for the encouragement of sheep husbandry is making progress. Competition was particularly strong in the middle wool breeds, especially in Shropshires, Scotchdowns, Oxford, and Hampshires. The awards were placed by J. H. Grisdale, Ottawa.

#### SWINE

Most of the awards in the swine class went as usual to Prince Edward Island. The number of entries in the swine exhibit was not so large as it has been but for quality and trueness to breed type, the exhibits were the best yet. Feta's Brodie, Little York, P.E.I., captured for the third consecutive time the cup for the grand championship pen with his fine Berkshires of bacon type. The grand championship sow, a Yorkshire under 15 months was shown by J. W. Callbeck, of Summerside, P.E.I. The Atlas cup, for the best bacon pig, went to a Tamworth, owned by Wm. Gibson, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

#### BEEF CLASSES

The Shorthorn classes were keenly contested by C. A. Archibald, Truro, N.S.; Cecil Coates, Napan; Harold Etter, Westmoreland Point; Albert Anderson, Sackville, N.B., and J. E. Baker & Son, Baronfield, Archibald's Mary May won the grand championship; also the grand championship for best animal in the show. In the Hereford and Grade classes, W. W. Black, Amherst, captured most of the premier awards.

#### DAIRY CATTLE

In the dairy contest Holsteins, Ayrshires, Jerseys and Guernseys were all represented. The entries were more numerous and the competition keener than ever before. In the Holstein classes, Samuel Dickie, Central Onslow, N.S., won first on aged cow, first on three-year-old and first and second on heifers. Logan Bros., Amherst Point, and Harding Bros., Wolford, N.B. also had entries in the test. Competition was keenest in the Ayrshire classes where there were no less than five exhibitors. The awards were very evenly divided. The exhibitors were Andrew McCrae and Sons, East Royalty, P.E.I.; McIntyre Bros., Sussex, N.B.; Retson Bros., Truro; Fred S. Black, Amherst and C. A. Archibald, Truro.

H. S. Pipes & Son, Amherst, N.S., won the major portion of the awards in the Jersey class. Jas. E. Baker & Sons, Baronfield, N.S., and J. R. Semple, Brule, also carried off part of the prize money. Maritime fairs always have the strongest classes of Guernseys of any of the Canadian fairs. Jennie's May, a Guernsey owned by Roper Bros., Charlottetown, P.E.I., gave 56 pounds of 4.5 milk per day. The grand championship was won by a grade Holstein owned by T. W. Keillon, Amherst, N.S.

NOTE.—Owing to lack of space due to publishing the reports of the farmers' deputation to Ottawa we were unable to get this report in Farm and Dairy last week.—Fair Editor.

### The Sheep Industry in Canada

Some interesting facts in regard to the sheep industry in Canada are brought out by the Live Stock Commissioner, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, in a press bulletin recently issued from Ottawa. The commissioner calls attention to the facts of the very unstable foundation upon which our sheep industry rests so long as we depend so largely on the United States for an export market. He recalls the master of the quarantine restrictions, which confronted the industry a year ago, and which created conditions for which our breeders were not prepared and which in the end depressed sales to a marked degree. Although during the greater part of the past season the market has been a buoyant one, the feeling of confidence in a continuous demand for Canadian sheep in the United States has steadily declined.

#### OUR HOME MARKET

It is fortunate for the sheep industry that other and very encouraging outlets are available. The home market is not unworthy of consideration. The past year more than 600,000 carloads of lambs were shipped to East Buffalo from Ontario. In 1907 almost 1,000 carloads went to that city. The Toronto and Montreal markets have absorbed practically all of the offerings during the past season and at prices equivalent to those paid for similar grades in Chicago and Buffalo.

Notwithstanding the proximity of the United States, the nearest outlet for the Canadian product is still to be found in the British and, possibly at an early date, in the European markets. The English wool market includes a wide distribution of the product of the great wool producing countries of the world, including Australia, New Zealand and the Argentine. If the sheep industry in this country can ever be developed to reasonable proportions, there is no reason to expect that any more natural or reliable market can be found for surplus Canadian wools.

#### OUR GREAT AND NATURAL OUTLET

It is clear also that the great and natural outlet for our surplus meat products, including those of mutton and lamb, is to be found across the sea, where the producing power of the land is unable to yield sufficient for the necessities of the crowded populations of long inhabited countries. Great Britain has hitherto absorbed all the surplus of the world's meat supply, but it seems probable that she is shortly to have competitors in the market for foreign meats. There is a movement in Austria and Germany which will eventually result in the opening up of these countries to a chilled and frozen meat trade. A steady market is without doubt thus assured for all the mutton that Canada can produce.

As Farm and Dairy readers are aware, the Federal Government is interesting itself in the sheep industry of the Dominion and is making a thorough investigation, with view to the adoption later of a policy which may lead to its general encouragement and development. The members of the Investigation Commission on sheep, so far, has completed their researches in the United Kingdom. They are to spend the next few months in studying conditions in the Dominion and are now engaged in interviewing a number of prominent Canadian sheep breeders.

Trade figures for the first eight months of the present fiscal year show an increase of \$72,436,533, or nearly 17 per cent, in Canada's total exports as compared with the eight months ending with November last year.

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