

NO HOLSTEINS AT OTTAWA—WHY?

The Members of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association Desire to Find the Reason—Will Wait on the Government

The members of the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Cattle Breeders' Association are aroused over the fact that Holstein-Friesian cattle are not kept at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. They feel that this is an injustice to the breed, as well as to the breeders of this class of cattle. The matter was discussed at considerable length at the annual meeting of the association held in Toronto last week. Breeders were present not only from Ontario and Quebec, but from the provinces of Manitoba and Nova Scotia as well. All were agreed that energetic steps should be taken to insure the keeping of this class of cattle at the farm.

The matter was brought up by Mr. R. P. Hicks, of Newtonboro, who referred to an editorial that had appeared in "Farm and Dairy" relative to this matter. Mr. Hicks believed that the association should have the matter before the Dominion Government. It was essential that Holsteins should be kept at Ottawa for the benefit of the farmers of the country, as well as of the thousands of people who visit the farm each year. The following resolution, moved by Mr. Hicks, and seconded by Mr. W. W. Brown, of Lyn, was submitted to the meeting and carried unanimously:

"The absence of representatives of the Holstein-Friesian breed of cattle at the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa has forced itself upon the members of this association as being an omission that is not in the best interests of the dairy farmers of Canada. We take the position that the Holstein-Friesian cow has established her position firmly as being the most suitable and most profitable cow for all dairy purposes through her achievements in under public tests at the winter fairs, her 7-day and 30-day tests under the Record of Merit rules, and also under the Record of Performance of the Dominion Minister of Agriculture. We are firmly of the opinion that dairy farmers in Canada, and visitors to the farm more particularly, are constantly influenced in the direction in which lies their best interest through the lack of good individuals of this breed being kept for the purpose of comparison with other breeds, and for the educational influence that such a representation would exert upon visitors at the farm. This association, now in session, representing a total membership of nearly 800 of the prominent breeders of dairy cattle, request that at as early a date as possible a good representation of Holstein-Friesian cattle be placed at the Central Experimental Farm, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture."

DEPUTATION APPOINTED

After the resolution had been carried, the view was expressed that, in order that the Government might see that the association was in earnest in the matter, it would be well to appoint a deputation to wait on Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, to lay the resolution before him and urge him, as strongly as possible, to improve the conditions complained of. Messrs. J. E. K. Herrick, of Abbotsford, Que.; D. C. Platt, of Millbrook; R. P. Hicks, of Newtonboro; E. C. Hardy, of Brockville, and P. Clark, of Ottawa, were appointed to act as a deputation to wait on the Government.

"We ought," said Mr. F. E. Came, of Montreal, "to go to the Government shoulder to shoulder in this matter. Not only should Holsteins be kept at the Experimental Farm, but they should be good ones. No other class of dairy cattle is attracting the

attention throughout the country that the Holsteins are. There are more Holsteins than all other breeds of dairy cattle combined. Why, then, should this breed be overlooked at the Experimental Farm?"

DISCRIMINATED AGAINST

"There is too strong a flavor of French-Canadian and Guernsey cattle at Ottawa," said Mr. R. S. Stevenson, of Ancaster. "It may be, although it hardly seems possible, that Holsteins are being discriminated against because our association has not united with the National Record Board. Our association is about the strongest in Canada, and our rights in this matter should be respected."

Dr. English, of Hamilton, claimed that as Holstein cattle are one of the leading dairy breeds, representative herds should be kept on not only the Holstein Farm at Ottawa, but on all the other Experimental Farms as well. "We will be very negligent," said Dr. English, "if we do not speak to members in the House of Commons and get them to use their influence on our behalf. If we show the Government that we are in earnest in this matter we should be able to get what we want."

"When I went through the barns of the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa some years ago," said Mr. W. G. Ellis, of Bedford Park, "I wondered what could be their object in having some breeds represented on the farm while others were not. It is most unfortunate that the Holstein breed is not one of the breeds represented. Their absence will be taken by many farmers as a lack of endorsement by the Government of this breed. This is not in the best interests of the farmers of the country, not to say anything of the breeders."

WILL ASK POLITELY

Some of the speakers were so aggressive in their remarks it led to the view being expressed that it would not do to give the impression that the association was going to attempt to force the Government to keep Holsteins at Ottawa. It was thought that it would be best to simply lay the matter before the Government and ask that Holsteins should be kept at the farm, taking it for granted that the request would be complied with.

A Proposed Dead Meat Industry

Mention of a proposal that has been made to the Dominion Government, to establish a great dead meat industry in Canada, was made by Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Ottawa, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, recently, while addressing the members of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association.

"My department," said Dr. Rutherford, "has been endeavoring to find the real cause of the decreased production of hogs. While the decrease has not been as great as has been reported, we have found that it is serious. The department has been busy with the packing establishments of the country, and thus we are able to keep pretty close track of the number of hogs being slaughtered. The packers have advised us to conduct experiments to demonstrate to our farmers what it costs to produce hogs. We have not cared to undertake work of this nature, as we have felt that our farmers are pretty well informed on this point. My impression is that our packers are in a measure to blame for the shortage of hogs, inasmuch as they have taken advantage of the situation, when hogs have been plentiful, to pay the farmers a low price in order that they might earn large dividends for themselves. Instead of using these extra profits to pay better prices when hogs were scarce."

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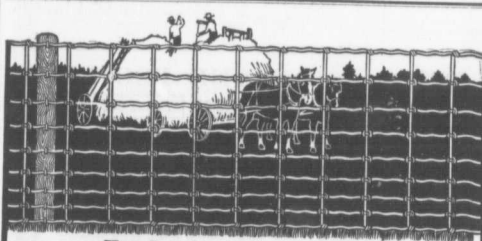
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