

hogs of the bacon type annually. The high prices of grain and potatoes are leading some of our farmers to market their hogs in anything but suitable condition, and the dealers are complaining. Our greatest difficulty is the production of a regular supply the year round. At present over 75 per cent. are marketed during the months of November and December. As regards quality, I need only say that thirteen out of fifteen prizes offered for bacon hogs at the Winter Fair, Amherst, came to this Province.

POULTRY AND EGGS.

The poultry industry is increasing in importance year by year. Only a short time since, the average dressed chicken weighed from two to three pounds, and brought from 25 to 30 cents on the market. Now, fair supplies can be obtained, from five to seven pounds in weight, at from 10 to 12 cents per pound. An unfattened chicken is now rarely offered for sale.

The egg production last year was about 20 per cent. below that of 1906. Up to that time it had been rapidly increasing, and it will continue to increase. In 1907 the prices ranged from 13½ cents per dozen, in June, to 18 cents, in September, and the total value was about \$250,000.

THE AUGURY OF IMPROVEMENT.

To you, listening to my story, the situation may seem discouraging; to me, it is full of hope. Our people are for the most part of Scotch descent, and inherit from their fathers the desire for education. The reason our industries have been declining is that our educational opportunities have not been determined by their requirements, but by a superstitious regard for what might be termed a brilliant past. The mind of the average Prince Edward Island farmer is active, and his application intense. When his labor has been intelligently applied in his business, his progress is rapid and certain. Let me illustrate. Three years ago, the good-seed movement on Prince Edward Island had its beginning. Previous to that time the seedsmen of Ontario had been sending us their fourth and fifth grade seeds, which contained a large percentage of weed seeds and dirt, and our people bought what they could buy cheaply. As soon as the results of the investigation carried on by the Seed Division were placed before them, they no longer asked for cheap seeds, but for the very best quality. Now they have gone a step further. They will this year meet Ontario seed in the markets of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, and before five years have passed, Prince Edward Island seed will be offered for sale in the principal markets of Quebec and Ontario. Do not think this is only enthusiasm of youth or of narrow vision. I have placed the facts before you and stated my honest convictions. I know our Province, and I know our people and their requirements. The educational reform inaugurated by Dr. Jas. W. Robertson is already bearing fruit, and we are entering on an era of prosperity, the equal of which we have not previously experienced.

BRITISH COLUMBIA AS A MARKET FOR PURE-BRED STOCK.

(Address by Dr. S. F. Tolmie, of Victoria, B.C., before the National Live-stock Convention, Ottawa, in February, 1908.)

It was only a few years ago that one of your prominent politicians declared that British Columbia was nothing but a sea of mountains, not worth building a railway across. Apparently the eyes of the Easterner are being opened; he is beginning to realize that there are rich valleys between these mountains, and that even the mountains are yielding up their share of wealth to the man enterprising enough to go after it. Many changes have taken place since that famous statement was made. We have now one railway running across the Province from east to west, doing a thriving business. We have two others under construction in the same direction, and a fourth is expected in a very short time. British Columbia is on the eve of an era of prosperity such as she has never experienced before, and our Eastern friends may well turn their eyes westward, not only for a market for pure-bred stock, but for other products of the farm and factory that we may need from time to time.

LIVE-STOCK CONDITIONS AND VALUES IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

Going into the subject of pure-bred stock, I will very briefly outline general stock conditions in British Columbia. This will place you in a position to better appreciate what I have to say. Stock conditions generally in British Columbia are in a very prosperous condition, in that satisfactory state for the stock-owner where generally high prices prevail and the demand exceeds the supply. The demand for heavy horses has been brisk until the temporary stagnation in the lumber market began. Since that time the demand has not been so great. Previous to that time it was necessary to import a number of drafters from Ontario and the Northwest Provinces at prices ranging from \$600 to \$1,000 per team. Light horses of good quality are always in demand, and sell from \$175 up, according to quality, and a number are imported from Oregon and Washington every year.

Dairying is making rapid strides on the coast. In 1897 the output of the creameries was 119,000 pounds,

which sold wholesale for 26c. per pound. In 1907 the output was 1,651,804 pounds, at 32 15-16 cents per pound. We still import \$2,000,000 worth of dairy produce annually. Good dairy cows bring from \$50 to \$75 each, and up. I consider the Fraser River Valley one of the richest dairying districts in this country. An important side line to the dairy business is the production of pork. Live hogs sell from 6c. to 8c. per pound. All are consumed on the block or sold to the Chinese. We import thousands of dollars' worth of the cured products of the hog every year. No pork packing is done in British Columbia.

Nearly all the beef is produced on the range. No stall-feeding is practiced, owing to the high price of feed and the low price of beef. The practice of selling all beef off grass in the fall is one of the causes of the prevailing low prices, from 2½c. to 3½c. on foot. Arrangements could be made with advantage to carry on more winter feeding, as 4½c. and sometimes more is paid in the spring.

The quality of the sheep produced is excellent, but the industry has not been developed as it might be. This is partly due to predatory animals, and partly to the fact that nearly all of the open range tributary to the railway has been taken up by cattlemen, and the laws of the Province do not permit sheep grazing on these lands. Only a few range flocks of 1,000 head are kept. We consume 70,000 Washington sheep, 20,000 or 30,000 frozen Australians and a number from Alberta annually, and occasionally import a few carcasses from Prince Edward Island. Lambs sell from \$4 to \$6 per head; live sheep, 5c. to 6c. per pound; frozen carcasses, at 12c. to 18c. per pound.

BREEDS OF STOCK KEPT.

Nearly all the pure breeds of stock are represented in British Columbia. The Clydesdale is easily the favorite among the heavy-horse breeds, and a number are brought to the Province from Scotland and Eastern Canada every year. These horses sell from \$1,000 to \$3,000 each for stallions, and mares range from \$300 up, according to quality. Local ranch-bred Clydesdales, mostly from imported stock, raised under range conditions, sell for from \$400 to \$500 for stallions and upwards and less for mares. Clydesdales raised on farms at the Coast bring somewhat larger prices. A few Percherons of good quality are produced in the Province. A number of stallions from the United States have been syndicated of late years at prices ranging from \$2,000 to \$5,000 each. A few Suffolk Punches are bred, and give satisfaction, but are not increasing in popularity very fast. Only a few Shire stallions are to be seen. This breed has not been pushed in the past. The Standard-bred is the most popular light horse, and its representatives are of fair quality. I think the breeders might make the breed more popular if more attention were given to size, conformation, soundness, style and speed at the trotting gait. Stallions and mares sell from \$300 up, according to quality. Hackneys have become popular lately. Some excellent stallions, but few mares, are to be found. Stallions sell from \$1,000 to \$3,500, and mares sell from \$300 up, according to quality. Thoroughbreds are bred in some parts on a limited scale. With the climate of British Columbia very similar to that of the Old Country, these animals are produced to perfection, as is shown by their performance at California and Washington tracks. Retired racing stallions and mares can be purchased from \$150 up. A few French Coach stallions have been syndicated in the Province, at from \$2,000 to \$4,000 each. Shetlands are becoming quite numerous, and sell from \$100 to \$250, according to quality. Horses of first-class quality can be produced in any part of British Columbia. On Vancouver Island they can be grown to perfection. In the Fraser Valley they attain greater size than elsewhere, while the range-bred horse is famous for its flinty feet, wonderful muscles and great endurance.

The Fraser Valley and other parts of the Coast are particularly well adapted for dairying, and here we find the dairy breeds most numerous. Jerseys are very popular. There is a good demand for cows of this breed in the cities for family use, and in the creamery district. Pure-bred cows sell from \$75 to \$150; calves from \$35 to \$50; yearlings from \$75 to \$125. Ayrshires are fast increasing in popularity, and some very good individuals of this breed are to be found. Yearlings sell from \$60 to \$100 each, while \$350 has been paid for a single cow. Holsteins give great satisfaction. A few excellent herds are kept, and recently some valuable importations have been made from California and New York. About the same prices prevail as I have quoted for the other breeds. I think the Holstein breeders could push this excellent breed more, with great advantage in British Columbia. Guernseys have not made much progress, and are few in number. Red Polls are proving themselves very valuable in many parts. Nearly all the pure-bred beef cattle are produced in the range districts. This line of stock is gradually being dropped by Coast breeders.

For the big ranch range-bred bulls give the best satisfaction, as they are better accustomed to the conditions. Ask a ranchman how he likes an Ontario-bred bull on the range, and he will tell you he is no rustler. He does not take well to the range grass, and when the snow flies he humps up his back and hangs round the buildings looking for feed, or, as a cowboy aptly described it to me in Kamloops, "he humps up his back, his hair stands on end, and he looks about as lonely and homesick as a Hindu in Vancouver."

On account of his superior rustling abilities the Hereford is preferred on the big ranch. On the smaller ranches, where winter feeding is carried on, the range-bred bull gives better satisfaction, and as the ranges

are cut up and settled, this form of cattle raising will come more into vogue. On these smaller ranches the Shorthorn is preferred to the Hereford, on account of his greater size and earlier-maturing qualities. These two breeds are used almost altogether in the beef-breeding districts. Polled Angus and Galloways are rare. A herd of West Highland cattle has been established during the last year. Range-bred bulls sell from \$60 to \$80 for yearlings, with a somewhat better price for those of extra quality. A car of good Washington-bred Herefords was sold last year at \$100 a head, delivered at the ranch. There are some establishments in the Province breeding these range bulls on a large scale, but they do not quite fill the demand, and I am informed by some prominent cattlemen that there will be a market for a few carloads of good Herefords and Shorthorns around Kamloops and in the Nicola Valley next May.

Some excellent pure-bred flocks of sheep are kept, nearly all breeds being represented. Oxford and Shropshires are the favorite breeds. Lambs sell at \$15 to \$25; yearlings, \$25 to \$50; ewes, \$20 to \$35.

Berks. and Yorks. are the most popular breeds of swine, though many other breeds are represented. Owing to market conditions little attention is paid to bacon types. Six-month-old boars fetch \$15 to \$20, and up, according to age and quality.

There is a limited but growing market in British Columbia for good herd-headers and first-class females of all the breeds represented there, at considerably better prices than what I have quoted for good animals, but I would like to advise all who anticipate taking advantage of that market, no matter what class of stock they are handling, that they should get in touch with the prospective purchaser first, and dispose of the greater part of their consignment on order, rather than to ship that great distance on the chance of securing a market for their stock.

MISTAKES, COMPETITION AND OPPORTUNITIES.

My remarks would be of little value to the breeders here who expect to market stock in British Columbia if I did not point out some of the mistakes of the past. Judging from some shipments sent to British Columbia, Eastern breeders seem to labor under a misapprehension as to what is good enough for that Province. While we have received some very excellent animals which have proved of great value to our herds, others have been far short of the mark, and I doubt if good judgment was displayed in shipping animals which never should have escaped the veal stage of their lives, to a new and developing market. I think, in many cases, the animals did the vendors more harm than the benefits that would be derived from their sale. Owing to the great distance between the buyer and seller, the British Columbian has to depend on the word of the vendor to a great extent. He has to buy a "pig in a poke" as it were. I regret to say that the buyer has not always found the stock up to his expectations. For example, a prominent dairy breeder made a small importation of highly-recommended females from the East, for which he paid a good price, and did not get one good one out of the shipment; all were sacrificed on the block after a fair trial. In another case a much-lauded bull was sent out to head one of our prominent herds, and in competition with a very medium field of locally-bred stock at a spring show, he was placed fourth in a class of five by an Eastern judge, and on being put up at auction afterwards his owner did not receive a bid on him. Another cause of dissatisfaction with Eastern stock has been that a number of animals have developed symptoms of tuberculosis shortly after their arrival; large percentages of some shipments being affected with this disease. In one case a valuable cow, which had been shipped out at a high price, died from tuberculosis within six months after her arrival. In other cases animals have had the T stamp on their ear, showing that they had been rejected by the Government test. It is useless to ship animals of that kind to British Columbia, as the Provincial Government inspectors have been instructed to quarantine any animals appearing with this mark. Naturally, these results have created an impression that some Eastern breeders are looking on British Columbia as a dumping ground for stock they cannot sell at home, and a feeling of distrust is perceptible in some quarters.

In catering for the market in British Columbia the herds and flocks of Oregon, Washington, California and Idaho will have to be considered as competitors. Within a few hours' ride from our southern borders personal selections can be made from breeding farms of repute in those States, and a double advantage gained by having the tuberculin test applied by Government officials, and the purchaser assured that he is not introducing disease into his herd. A greater number of breeders have been replenishing their herds in that direction of late years.

From what I have said already you will notice that we have not entirely escaped the stallion-syndicating evil. While some of the horses sold in this way in British Columbia at long prices were good, others have been very poor specimens, and in some cases affected with hereditary unsoundness. While legislation might assist in protecting the farmers against this evil all over the Dominion, still I think a great deal more can be accomplished by education.

I would like to see this matter of hereditary unsoundness pushed at every stock-judging class in the country where the horse is the subject under consideration. I think it would have the effect of increasing the value of the horse stock of the country in a very short time.

SHEEP HUSBANDRY NEEDS ENCOURAGEMENT.

One of the most urgent needs in British Columbia