

Issued  
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# FARM AND DAIRY

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### SHORTHORN BREEDERS WILL GIVE MORE ATTENTION TO DAIRYING

The Need for Such Action Admitted at the Annual Meeting of the Shorthorn Breeders Association Conditions in the East Have Been Forcing Farmers into Dairying. East Cannot Compete With West in Beef Production

THAT the eastern farmer, on his dear land, cannot compete successfully with the west in the production of beef cattle and, therefore, has been forced more and more into dairying, was admitted by Mr. Peter White, K.C., of Pembroke, Ont., the president of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, in his presidential address last week at the 26th annual convention of the association held in Toronto. For that reason Mr. White advised Shorthorn breeders to give more attention hereafter to increasing the milk producing qualities of their cows. He contended that by combining beef and milk production it would be possible for the average farmer to make more from his cows than he could by specializing in either line alone. At the same time he frankly admitted that the time has come in Eastern Canada when the breeders of Shorthorn cattle must give more attention to dairying.

The stand taken by Mr. White was endorsed by the members of the association who, recognizing the critical situation that confronts the breeders of beef cattle in the east, unanimously passed a resolution adopting Mr. White's address, and ordering that it be printed and copies sent to all the members of the association. Assistant Live Stock Commissioner H. S. Arkell, of Ottawa, commended the stand the association was taking, and quoted figures showing the great decline that has taken place not only in the east but in the west as well in the production of beef cattle's.

MR. WHITE'S ADDRESS  
In leading up to this subject Mr. White said: "This brings us to a point where, perhaps, it would be profitable to consider what the future has in store for the Canadian Shorthorn. A consideration of this question naturally involves something in the nature of a review of existing conditions.

"Canada is a rapidly growing country, and by heredity and geographical position is and will continue to be a beef-eating country. A few years ago beef could be produced on our western prairies at practically the cost of feed to herd it. Interest on land investment and feed entered, if at all, very slightly into the cost of production. This was the case not only in Canada but also in the neighboring republic. In both these countries beef could be grown at a fraction of the

real cost of beef grown under normal conditions.

"This has had two very marked tendencies which I fear not too many of us appreciate fully. First—As heavy milking propensities were not required, in fact were not desirable on the open range, and as we were breeding possibly more than we realized with the object of sniting the rancher, most of us, to a certain extent at least, lost sight of the fact that the Shorthorn is a milk cow, and we were rather encouraged to breed with the ideal of perfect beef form constantly in mind. Second—The eastern farmer, on high-priced land,



A Type of Animal that will now find Favor with Shorthorn Breeders

Shorthorn breeders recognize that the special dairy breeds are now the most popular with Ontario farmers. In their annual meeting they determined that henceforth they will endeavor to develop both the milk and beef producing qualities of their breed and produce a dual purpose animal that will be a greater profit maker than the special beef animal. The English Dairy Shorthorn cow here illustrated is of the type breeders will now strive for.

because he could not compete with this cheaply-produced beef, has been forced more and more into dairying.

#### DAIRY BREEDERS ACTIVE

"This has given the breeders of special dairy cattle an opportunity which they have been slow to grasp. I do not know that this is pleasant to listen to, and I feel that possibly some of you may be disposed to disagree with me, but these seem to be the facts, and if they are we might as well know and acknowledge them now, for on no other foundation than actual truth can we build successfully for the years to come.

"I do not mean and do not wish to be under-

stood as saying that the Shorthorn cattle are not still the most profitable cattle on the farm, for I believe that they are. I do mean and do wish to be understood as saying, that in recent years the Shorthorn breeder of good bulls has not had that share of the patronage of the eastern farmer to which he is entitled, and this to the detriment of both. I am, however, pleased to note that there now appears to be an increasing demand for Shorthorn bulls from good milking dams to head dairy herds.

#### CHANGED CONDITIONS

"To-day the bonanza beef business is a thing of the past. The settlers all over the north American continent (with the exception of Texas, and even there there is a shortage of 200,000 head) has driven the rancher to the wall. Only a few herds of any considerable proportions remain. Liquidation by the western cattle men has till quite recently kept up the market supply and only recently have we realized that beef is scarce and that beef is going up in price. Never again on this continent will it be possible to produce beef at a cost away below the normal cost of production; in a word beef will never again be cheap, in the sense in which it has been.

"In other words, the consumer of beef will have to be content to pay a price hereafter that will suitably reward the producer, the slaughterer and the retailer. I use the word 'suitably' advisedly because I very much fear that having had access to cheap beef the slaughterer and the retailer have been able, largely owing to the conditions and to lack of organization and understanding on the part of the producers, to take more than their fair share of the price that the ultimate consumer has been paying. My view is that with the beef business properly organized the slaughterer and the retailer can each be 'suitably' rewarded, the producer more suitably rewarded than hitherto, and at the same time the consumer pay a somewhat smaller price in proportion to the cost of production.

"An illustration of what may happen occurred on the Toronto market last week. The prices fell. This was attributed to the alleged fact that the shippers had glutted the market with unfinished cattle. Proper organization would have prevented glutting, if such there was, and if it were not a fact that the market was glutted it would have prevented such an excuse being given for hammering down prices.

"The beef growing of the future must be done.  
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