

Moving the Crop.

Great anxiety has been experienced during the past few months as to the weather, rainfall, &c., &c., and now that all danger of drought and frost are past the capacity of our railways for transporting the surplus is being discussed. The prevailing opinion is that the surplus will be greatly in excess of even the great crop of 1887, which means a vast amount of handling. We are pleased to be assured by Mr. Whyte, General Superintendent of the Western Division of the C. P. R., that his road is in a position to handle all grain that may offer. This will prove a great advantage to the Province and Territories, as this road must be regarded as the main outlet at least for some time to come.

The Manitoba Poultry Association.

Owing to the busy season and hot weather it was decided to hold no meeting of this Association until September, when it is the intention to hold regular meetings monthly or oftener. These meetings will doubtless prove of great interest, as it is the intention of the Executive Committee to make them exhaustively instructive on various subjects connected with breeding, caring for, exhibiting and judging poultry. Some of the members have promised to give prizes for the best specimens shown as object lessons. It is the intention to take up one breed at each meeting and discuss the points as per the American Standard of Excellence and the score card. Although there have been no meetings recently the membership has increased considerably.

Professor Robertson's Meetings.

As announced in our August issue, Professor Robertson, Dominion Dairy Commissioner, has been holding a series of meetings in Manitoba and the Territories. The Professor has lost none of his old-time earnestness, and is keeping himself fully abreast of the times in dairy lore. The meetings have not been so well attended as they should have been, but a large attendance could not have been expected at this season, when the farmers are engaged in harvesting operations, and in fact, was not expected, Professor Robertson plainly stating that the object of his visit was not so much to impart information as to ascertain the requirements of the country that he might be in a position to aid the dairy interests in the future. Professor Saunders accompanied the Dairy Commissioner to Manitoba and Glenboro, then went west to Indian Head, and will go to the west before returning.

The Veterinary Association of Manitoba.

This Association, although young, having scarcely completed organization, is displaying great vigor and should aid materially in elevating the profession and urging them on to the heights to which it is possible to attain. Dr. Rutherford, of Portage la Prairie, was, we understand, the promoter of the Association, and his untiring efforts have been largely instrumental in making it the success it is. The President, Mr. W. A. Dunbar, is a man of extended experience and great natural ability, and is well qualified to occupy the position to which his fellow veterinarians have been pleased to elevate him. The last meeting of the Association was held at Brandon on the evening of July 23rd, the first day of the Brandon Fair. The attendance was good, considering the great distance it was necessary for many of the members to travel to reach that point. Excellent and interesting papers were read on subjects of interest to the profession, by

the President and Secretary. Too much cannot be said in favor of associations of this kind, as nothing quickens a man's ideas on any subject like discussions on that subject, as it enables him to learn much, and sometimes what is of equal importance, if not greater, to unlearn something.

Show Condition.

At the meeting of the Pure-Bred Cattle Breeders' Association, on the evening of July 24th, Mr. D. F. Boissivain, of Cannington Manor, asked if "a standard of condition for showing" could not be established. This is a question that has been discussed for many years and as yet no practical solution has been offered. Much has been said about showing cattle laden with fat and the danger of rendering them unfit for breeding purposes. On the other hand, who ever saw a herd of cattle of the beef breeds kept constantly poor, whose progeny did not lose to a great extent the ability to lay on flesh readily and which would not produce decidedly inferior animals as beef producers. And who ever saw a dairy herd kept fat from calfhood up, whose offspring would not deteriorate in dairy qualities, converting the food into flesh to a certain extent at least, instead of putting it into the pail. It therefore follows that dairy cattle and beefing cattle require, for the best results with each, decidedly different treatment. It is quite possible that in this western country at least, a general purpose cow may be most profitable, and while not admitting that it is or asserting that it is not, this must be admitted on all hands, that the best milking strains are not the best beef strains. It is therefore advisable for the breeder to "take stock" of himself and his surroundings and see which is the more profitable for him, beef or milk and butter. This done, it is certainly wisdom to select the breed or animal that will yield the best returns along that line and both breed and feed for the very best results and that only, accepting returns from other sources as by products only. To make it plainer if under existing conditions beef is considered more profitable than milk, strain every nerve for the greatest yield of beef and accept the milk as a secondary consideration. If, on the other hand, dairying is more profitable, breed and feed for a dairy animal alone, and if the steer from the herd will make a few hundred pounds of beef, well and good, consider it a big product. If, then, a breed is for beef, it should certainly be shown in a condition to prove to spectators that it has extraordinary beef-making powers, and if for milk, in shape to show that they excel as milkers. In the latter instance, a lean, thin neck of at least medium length, fine head, free from any inclination to "meatiness," shoulders thin at the top with good depth and thick through the heart, not too closely "ribbed up," ribs wide apart and not too much sprung, hips wide, twist open and sufficiently wide to show plenty of room for the udder, are all points indicative of a good milker. To show that a cow excels in this respect it is advisable to have her in condition to show these points, and, indeed, if she is a good milker and has been giving milk for any considerable time, they will be prominent in spite of feed, as the feed will have gone into the milk pail. An animal shown in this form, however, would be a poor representative of a beef breed. On the other hand, the best beefers have a comparatively short neck, with shoulders thick and massive, closely ribbed up and ribs well sprung, carrying

a wealth of flesh on the quarter, showing a thick close twist and beef well down to the hock. Now, this animal to be shown at its best and sustain its reputation as a beeper must be in fair condition, or as some people would say, fat. It therefore follows that the animal that shows the greatest ability to produce flesh and carry it on the parts where it is most valuable to the butcher, is the one to which first place should be given. The difficulty to be overcome would seem to be to get the animals properly classified, not for condition, but their respective purposes. The difficulty is not encountered in exhibiting dairy breeds, such as Holsteins, Jerseys or Ayrshires, nor in those breeds whose chief merit is beef production, such as the Aberdeen-Angus or Herefords, but in the Shorthorns, whose owners are not, as a rule, satisfied to admit that they are either the best beef breed, or yet the best dairy breed, but insist on claiming they are both the best beef and best dairy breed. When the Shorthorn men can fully decide and agree among themselves as to this matter the difficulty will have been to a great extent overcome.

While there are many excellent milkers among the Shorthorns, no doubt enough to be moulded into as good a dairy breed as many of the exclusively dairy breeds of the day, yet their owners and exhibitors invariably dilate on their beef-producing capacity at much greater length, possibly not directly in so many words, but by calling attention to their level tops, straight bottoms, well covered crops, excellent neck veins, &c., &c. In view of all these facts, the Shorthorn should be considered a beef breed and judged accordingly, which would necessitate, as Mr. Leslie Smith stated at the time, the carrying of at least a fair amount of flesh, and if it is evenly put on there is seldom reason to object to the amount carried, and if it is uneven and lumpy it will not count for very much in the eyes of a competent judge. The fear of getting the stock in too high a condition for breeding purposes is much greater than is necessary or requisite. There is no greater safeguard in parturition than robust, vigorous health and good condition, and where one animal is lost from being too fat at that time, five hundred are lost from being too poor; in fact the writer, with thirty years experience with cattle, has never known one to be lost from being too fat if carefully fed during the last three weeks of pregnancy. It must not be understood from this that animals cannot be made too fat, as such is quite within the range of possibilities, but there is not a herd of pure-bred cattle to-day in Manitoba that is even approaching that condition. In closing, let me give a few examples. Britisher, the champion Shorthorn yearling, in fact the champion yearling of all breeds at the Chicago Fat Stock Show of 1889, was got by a bull in good flesh, or what would be ordinarily called fat, and a cow in equally good condition. Brant Chief, the champion of the Shorthorns, and which tried for the championship of the same show in the previous year, was got by a bull never known to be poor, Sir Christopher = 3877 =. Clarence Kirklevington, which was the most successful Shorthorn steer ever placed on exhibition, won all the honours for which he competed in the same show in 1884, and was bred and fed at Bow Park where nothing is allowed to be in what we in the west call breeding condition. The animals in good condition will invariably beget healthy, thrifty calves, and not be troubled with retention of the placenta or other parturition difficulties, nearly as often as those kept thin for health sake and hardened by exposure.