

A PROPOSED PROVINCIAL DAIRY SHOW FOR TORONTO

THE proposal to hold a Provincial Dairy Show was revived by the dairy cattle breeders at Guelph Winter Fair last week. For several years the dairy cattle breeders have been dissatisfied with the accommodation provided for them at the Winter Fair. This year, owing to lack of space, a number of entries had to be refused and the dairy cattle were shown in different parts of the building. Owing also to the lack of space, extra classes of stock that the dairy cattle breeders would like to see added to the prize list, have had to be excluded.

As the various additions that have been made to the Winter Fair from time to time have not served to improve conditions much, and as there seems little reason to expect that future additions will improve matters to a satisfactory degree, affairs reached a crisis last week when the dairy cattle breeders signed a petition expressing a determination not to exhibit again at the Winter Fair unless conditions were improved. One of the breeders was asked to write to the management of the Live Stock Show held at Toronto Junction to find what provision they would be willing to make for the holding of a dairy test in connection with that Show.

A SUGGESTION WELL RECEIVED.

After conditions had reached this stage the suggestion was made that another effort might be made to arrange for the holding, possibly next fall, of a Provincial Dairy Show along the lines first suggested by Farm and Dairy some five years ago. The suggestion met with immediate approval and was acted upon without delay.

Five years ago it was pointed out that the dairy interests are the most important branch of agriculture in Ontario. It was contended that they were of sufficient magnitude to warrant the holding of a Provincial Dairy Show on the lines of the National Dairy Show held in Chicago and like the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition which has done so much for the horticultural interests of the province. It was proposed that the Eastern and Western Dairymen's Association should unite in holding a large central convention and exhibition of dairy products, at which special meetings could be held for the cheese and butter makers, dairy farmers, milk shippers and others interested in dairymen. By holding a separate dairy exhibition it was pointed out that many new classes might be added for dairy cattle and that provision could be made for extensive exhibits by dairy supply firms.

The proposal was endorsed by both the Eastern and Western Ontario Dairymen's Associations, as well as by the Avyshire, Holstein, and Jersey Cattle Breeders' Association, and by the Toronto Milk Producers' Association. All these organizations appointed representatives to a central committee which met in Toronto to deal with the matter. The City of Toronto agreed to furnish a building free of cost, and to heat it, and such liberal financial assistance was promised that when the deputation later waited on the Ontario Government to ask for its approval it guaranteed the financial success of the undertaking to the Government, something which no other organization of the kind had ever attempted. At that time Hon. Mr. Monteth did not look favorably on the proposal and it was later dropped on that account.

Owing to the fact that the accommodation at Guelph is not nearly sufficient for the present needs of the Show, it was felt by many that

the withdrawal of the dairy interests would enable the other branches of the Winter Fair to expand and would weaken that fair to any appreciable extent any more than the withdrawal of the Women's Institute Convention and Farmers' Institute Convention did a few years ago. It would also give the dairy interests a better chance to become better organized and to develop as have the horticultural interests since the holding of the Ontario Horticultural Exhibition. Now that it has been found possible to make a success of the Horticultural Exhibition on the grounds of the National Exhibition, where plenty of buildings are available, and as there is a proposal to tear down the present cattle sheds at the Exhibition grounds and put up better accommodation, it was suggested last week that the management of the Exhibition might arrange to put up a building that would not only accommodate the dairy cattle exhibits at the Canadian National Exhibition, but be suitable also for the holding of a Provincial Dairy Show later in the season.

WHAT THE BREEDERS SAY.

Farm and Dairy interviewed a number of the dairy cattle exhibitors at Guelph, and found all of them favorable to the suggestion. The following views were expressed by them:

Wm. Thorn, Lynedoch: "I am heartily in favor of the proposal to hold a Provincial Dairy Show. The show here is going so fast it is becoming too large for Guelph. Toronto is more central, and would draw 1,000 more Guelph draws 300. It is sometimes said that shows of this kind are a loss to a city like Toronto but the success of the Horticultural Exhibition and of its six or seven allied conventions, proves that this is not the case. It might be possible for us to hold our breeders' meetings in connection with such a show. It is a large and well-attended ground or which might be put there especially for the purpose, there need be no limit there to the expansion of such a show. The holding of a Provincial Dairy Show would be the best thing that has been done in a long time for the dairy interests."

M. H. Haley, Springford: "I am strongly in favor of the holding of a Provincial Dairy Show. Even if the management of the Guelph Winter Fair did embrace the present building, it would only have a temporary effect, as the various departments of the fair are growing so rapidly the extra space would soon all be used, and we would then be crowded as badly as we are now. Were we to hold a Provincial Dairy Show, our Cattle Breeders' Association would put on some more classes, and since the Dairy Show should become one of the greatest shows of the kind on the continent. If anyone will push this movement on the dairymen will fall in line, and it should go with a swing."

AN OPPORTUNE TIME.

John McKee, Norwich: "The Canadian National Exhibition grounds are the best location for a show of this kind. Now is the time also to make such a move as it is in the management of the Toronto Exhibition are planning to rearrange their buildings. The attendance at a Provincial Dairy Show the first few years might not be as large as it is at Guelph, but it would soon grow, and the breeders would be sure to back it up, as the provisions at Guelph have not been equal to the requirements of the Dairy Cattle Breeders."

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