

# The Farming World

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## Inter-Provincial Trade

**D**URING the past few weeks several events have transpired of vital importance to the live stock interests of the Dominion. These have been noted previously in these columns, but they will bear repeating. On October 30 we announced that the United States Government had decided to send inspectors to Great Britain to tuberculin test all cattle purchased before being shipped to the United States, thus leaving the way clear for American breeders to import direct from the Old Land rather than through Canadian channels, as many of them had been doing previously. Following this, on Nov. 6, came the announcement that the Washington authorities had decided to adopt the same course in reference to animals purchased in Canada destined for the United States, thus putting a stumbling block in the way of free exchange of stock with American breeders. To this, however, there cannot be very serious objection if it does not lead to something more drastic, or is not manipulated by the inspectors in a way that may work serious injury to Canadian breeders. Then came a third announcement on Nov. 13, which was in the shape of a warning to the effect that if Eastern breeders were not more on the alert, and did not bestir themselves, there was a chance of the whole Western Canadian trade, especially in the Territories and on the Pacific coast, being diverted to American channels. In other words, American breeders are making a strong effort to capture our Western market for pure-bred stock for themselves.

These three movements may be fraught with the gravest consequences to Canadian breeders. They may mean in the near future the loss of the American market for our surplus stock, and which has proven such a profitable one, while the encroachment of American breeders upon our western trade may cause that market to be lost to Canadian breeders unless a big push is made to retain it. Has our live stock industry, therefore, not reached a most critical period—a time when strong, definite and persistent efforts are required to place the industry on a surer footing? From our own point of view we see several grave problems before our breeders which must be promptly and successfully met. The united and determined action of the breeders backed by substantial government assistance can accomplish wonders. But there should be no waste of time. If we are likely to be deprived of the American trade efforts should be made to build up one at home or elsewhere. As we pointed out a few weeks ago there is a splendid opening just now for making a trial shipment of some of our best cattle and sheep to the Argentine and which might lead to something of importance later on.

However this may be, the question of importance just now is the development of the home trade. In our opinion we are only at the beginning of

what can be done in the way of developing the market for pure-bred stock in Canada itself. Our great Western country is developing very rapidly and is destined to become a very large purchaser of good stock. It is in the Western States where there is the greatest demand for good stock at the present time. And so Western Canada will in a very short time be our very best market if it is not so to-day. That is the goal upon which the best efforts of our breeders and those interested in the development of our live stock trade should be directed. "Canada for Canadians" works well in many lines, but it will not hold the Western market for Eastern breeders unless they make a strong and determined effort to capture and retain it.

At a meeting of the executive of the Dominion Short-horn Breeders' Association held last Monday in this city Live Stock Commissioner Hodson presented some figures relative to the Canadian live stock trade that bear directly upon this important question of inter-provincial trade. On our northwest ranches there are 200,000 head of cattle and the annual increase is 20 per cent. This means 40,000 calves every year the half of which will be females. Mr. Hodson estimates that the number of bulls required annually for these herds will be 3,600 and that about 2,500 will be furnished by the Northwest itself. This means a market for a little over 1000 Ontario bulls every year. In addition to this there is a market in British Columbia for a thousand more. But to quote Mr. Hodson: "If we want that trade we must get after it and get there quickly." As we have already pointed out the Americans are already after this trade. During the first three months of this year there were imported from the United States for use on the ranches around Calgary \$125,000 worth of cattle. This trade is certainly worth having.

Mr. Hodson also referred to the large market in the West for Ontario stockers. In the first seven months of this year 178 car loads of stockers left Ontario for the West, valued at \$128,000. Stockers from this province, nine to fifteen months old, are selling at Medicine Hat at \$15 to \$18 each. Taking the whole of the territories stockers of this class range from \$13 to \$21 each, and over a year old from \$25 to \$28 each. The average price received for Ontario stockers sent West this year was \$17.15 each. It is estimated that there are 40,000 calves knocked in the head in Ontario every year. If, as Mr. Hodson points out, Short-horn bulls were used on good dairy cows the calves would be too valuable to be "deaconed."

Dealing with the efforts now being made to build up inter-provincial trade, Mr. Hodson said:

"We are trying to arrange for a rate of \$100 per car of 20,000 pounds from Ontario to the Northwest, this rate to apply both to stockers and pure-bred animals. We are trying to arrange for a rate from Quebec and the Maritime Provinces to the Northwest of \$125, and we are also trying to secure a rate from Ontario to British Columbia of \$125.