

The
Farmer's Advocate
and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

ESTABLISHED 1866.

VOL. XXXIX.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., MARCH 24, 1904.

No. 600

EDITORIAL.

The Stockmen's Convention.

The calling of the National Convention of representatives of Stock-breeders' and Farmers' organizations, recently held at Ottawa, was a fortunate conception. The readiness of the response to the call for such a gathering showed clearly the felt necessity for such a conference of leading stockmen from the different Provinces of the Dominion. In a country of such vast proportions and magnificent distances, there is danger of sectionalism or provincialism creeping in and influencing the minds of people, to the exclusion of the broader and better national spirit, which tends to the upbuilding of a united country and the engendering of confidence in the disposition of the men of one section to deal fairly and liberally with those of other sections. The coming together of representative men for comparison of views and opinions, and for open-minded, dispassionate discussion, seldom fails to result in a better understanding and a more charitable estimation of the motives and purposes of each other. If the late convention bear no other fruit than this it will have proved to be well worth its cost. And we may add, that a finer representation of sterling, intelligent, broad-minded and progressive men has seldom, if ever, appeared in the Capital City.

The idea of a National Association of Stockmen, and of National Records, in these times of empire building, is a popular one, and although yet somewhat vague and crude, it commends itself to the careful consideration of the people interested, and would appear to be capable of being worked out in practice. But from the fact that it will be largely in the nature of an experiment, it was reasonable that the existing breed societies should claim the right to control the records they had established and supported until some other system had been demonstrated an improvement. The convention unanimously adopted a resolution in favor of one record for one breed in Canada, and invited the Dominion Department of Agriculture to test the system of national registration, by opening records for breeds of stock for which none are in existence in this country. Whether these records will be required to have back of them an organized society, in whose name letters of incorporation under the Dominion Act in that behalf shall be granted, does not yet appear. Some of the existing breed societies are now incorporated, others are not, while one of the provisions of the Act, we believe, is that only one record association for one breed will be incorporated. Until such new records are instituted, as those contemplated in the resolution requiring registration in Canadian records in order to pass our customs lines free of duty for breeding purposes, it is presumed that matters will go on as at present, American certificates of registration being accepted.

The question of the place of location of the offices and records of existing breed societies, which engaged so much of the attention of the meeting, while apparently of secondary importance, provided the records are efficiently kept, was properly settled by leaving it to the directors of each society to decide where they shall be maintained. It would appear at first sight desirable, if not necessary, for the sake of uniformity, under a system of national records, that all should be centered at one place, but in view of the fact that the scheme is at present merely tentative, it was

too much to expect that the representatives of the Breeders' Associations would surrender their records without first consulting the members of those associations at an annual meeting, or by some other means.

One matter that we submit must receive careful consideration by the breed societies, if harmony in the future is to prevail, is that the Provinces shall be granted equitable representation on their directorate, on the basis of registrations, or some other satisfactory ground; that the nominations of the Provincial Breeders' Associations shall be accepted and the expenses of directors attending meetings be provided for.

Another thing that should commend itself to the Dominion associations is that where the funds at their disposal admit, liberal grants be given for prizes at leading shows in outlying Provinces. It will be found good business policy for any breed society to spend money freely in this way to advertise the breed, and to open markets where in the future an increased demand may be reasonably expected. By these means a feeling of good-will towards the parent society may be maintained, and the results made mutually beneficial.

The fixing of the date for the next annual meeting was left in the hands of the Dominion Live-stock Commissioner, and no officers were elected and no organization formed, it being thought advisable to leave this till another year, when the objects of the proposed association would be better understood, and organization could be more intelligently completed.

Directions to Contributors.

Have you anything to say which can be of real practical value on the farm or in the home to anyone else? If so, we extend you a hearty invitation to say it in the columns of the "Farmer's Advocate," where you will have an appreciative audience extending over every portion of the country, and may thus have the privilege of helping very many thousands of persons. However, although the great desideratum in regard to articles is that they be really helpful, there are other essentials that should be remembered as well.

(1) Articles should be concise. If ten words will explain what you want, why use twenty? Remember, we have little space for superfluous words in the "Farmer's Advocate."

(2) In writing, stick to the point.

(3) If you wish your MS. returned, enclose stamps for that purpose.

(4) Sign your name and address to every communication. If you do not wish them published say so, and your wish will be respected.

(5) Write on one side of the paper only.

(6) Do not roll your manuscript. Fold it flatly and put it in an envelope.

(7) Write as legibly and as neatly as you can, and if you have any doubt as to the spelling of a word "look it up" in the dictionary.

(8) Be prompt. Do not delay forwarding practical information or an important item of agricultural news till "next week." Send it now.

These conditions are not hard, and in suggesting them we have full confidence that our contributors will understand and comply, and so at the same time improve their own compositions and save us much valuable time.

W. C. Nelles, Norfolk Co., Ont.: Please find enclosed \$1.50 for my renewal for one year for your valuable paper, which is the best paper that I have ever seen for the money.

Seed Fairs.

One of the encouraging signs of the times is the holding of seed fairs in many of the smaller towns throughout the country. The Maritime Provinces seem to have developed this scheme farther than other districts, and this year have a circuit of these fairs, at which they have leading authorities address the exhibitors and visitors on subjects relating to seed-growing and breeding. These fairs are also held at various places in Ontario with splendid success. Their importance can scarcely be estimated. They are the fingerboards that point men to a school of investigation, and when once an intelligent community sets itself to discover means and methods of improving its conditions, that community will not be one from which charitable institutions secure their recruits.

One cannot attend a seed fair and come away with the idea that it is all in the soil, or climate, or special act of Providence that one man grows better crops than another. He immediately remembers that "like begets like." The man who has the winning seed this year, was most probably in the show last year, or somewhere up the country preparing for the show, and in all probability the prizewinners this year will be back again next year. There is a deep fascination in moulding the forces that go to produce either plant or animal form, and in the breeding of seed grain there is an opportunity for anyone to indulge the fancy. Let any one try by selecting to produce a strain of wheat, oats or any other grain that in a few years' time will produce stalks whose average yield will be several grains more than the average when the experiment was first begun, and he will feel something of the satisfaction that every other benefactor of his country enjoys.

This is a class of work that many of our well-to-do farmers who are retiring to the private life of the small towns might take up with interest to themselves and profit to others. If this work, together with gardening, growing of plants, both for vegetables and fruit, grafting and such other similar occupations, were followed, instead of the idle, loafing life that one so easily falls into about the towns and villages, the small boys would always prefix the word Mr. to the names of retired farmers, rather than the often too significant title "old." Among such men the seed fair should become a trial ground where the most intelligent of plant breeders would receive annually the reward of his intuitiveness and skill.

Under the heading of "Bovine Aristocrats," the Superintendent of the St. Louis World's Fair Press Bureau, sends out a special article written by A. C. Cantley, in which it is represented that cattle from the finest herds in the world will "lock horns" in the greatest competition ever witnessed since history began to record the achievements of mankind, and among the aforesaid competitors he includes Aberdeen-Angus, Galloways, Red Polls and Polled Durhams. How he proposes to induce the latter to "lock horns" is a conundrum that will bother even Chief Coburn to solve, but it is probably no tougher than some other subjects which he has tackled since he assumed the management of the live-stock department of the show.