

## LIVE STOCK.

### A National Live Stock Policy.

BY H. S. ARKELL, LIVE STOCK COMMISSIONER.

The production of live stock in Canada is now in the strongest position that it has ever been in the history of the country. This fact is true whether as referring to cattle, sheep, swine or poultry. Notwithstanding the difficulties of labor and the consequent shortage of feed, we are steadily increasing our stocks and it is worthy of note that our total animal exports of all descriptions and from all sources have increased since 1913 from \$29,704,128 in that year to \$142,245,193 in 1917. The increase in our exports of cattle and cattle products has been from \$2,406,052 in 1913 to \$27,565,817 in 1917; in sheep and sheep products from \$397,644 in 1913 to \$9,054,543 in 1917; in swine and hog products from \$5,764,609 in 1913 to \$63,134,475 in 1917; in poultry and poultry products from \$156,452 in 1913 to \$3,675,960 in 1917 and in dairy produce from \$20,970,371 in 1913 to \$38,834,398 in 1917.

In the opinion of those who are giving close study to the prospective development of agriculture in Canada, it is the belief that the live stock industry may easily become one of our most important national assets. In our grain trade we are in competition with Russia, India, the Argentine and other great wheat producing countries where both land and labor are considerably cheaper than in Canada. After the conclusion of the war, the normal world production of grain can be again attained almost within a year and with the consequent rapid readjustment of grain prices, Canada will probably find it to her advantage to sell her grain in the form of meats and produce, demand for which is bound to continue for many years to come. Our agricultural future, therefore, is likely to be determined on the basis of our live stock production. Such is the firm conviction of those who are giving the subject most thought. This conclusion suggests further that, while not minimizing the efforts which must be made to promote all agricultural industry providing an adequate revenue, it must become the fixed national policy of this Dominion to develop and extend live stock production and live stock commerce in a manner and on a scale not hitherto undertaken.

It must not be forgotten that the huge stream of exports, consisting not only of munitions but as well of wheat, bacon, cheese and other agricultural and animal products, has provided a revenue which, in a measure, permits us to postpone the undertaking of a permanent constructive export policy such as must become absolutely essential in order that we may be enabled to discharge our steadily increasing financial obligations. In addition to the national indebtedness resting upon the country from the period prior to August 1914, we have to consider the obligations directly from the expenditures incurred during the war. No further statement need be given as to Canada's interest in developing her productive capacity to the utmost. Immediate national interest obliges the nation to find the solution for this problem through the development of her natural resources. It is not too much to say that, apart from the human element, the Dominion has no greater commercial asset than the possibilities we possess for extending our live stock production and in the opportunity now presented of creating a permanent and expanding export trade in meats and its by-products and in dairy and poultry produce.

There are several important considerations which are materially contributing to the advantageous position which Canada has achieved as assuring the success and stability of such a movement. The name of Canada is held in the highest esteem in the Mother Country, in

France and amongst the other allied nations. It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of the trade asset secured for Canada through the service which her sons have given to the Empire and in the cause of world civilization. If we can hold this reputation in our business relationships, our future success is assured. It is to be borne in mind also that measures undertaken by the Federal and Provincial Departments of Agriculture which have proven practically successful in stimulating production and in improving marketing methods, are now in operation throughout the country. Our meats and other products are under Federal inspection as regards freedom from disease and, in certain instances, as regards quality. Plans have been devised which are resulting in the return to country points of large numbers of stockers, feeders and breeding cattle, which, under existing conditions, would otherwise have been exported or slaughtered. Co-operative marketing is being encouraged. The important live stock markets of the country are under Federal Control. A great stimulus has been given to improved breeding methods and to the value of quality through the system of distributing pure-bred sires, which has been in operation during the past four or five years. The larger producing areas are provided with reasonable abattoir and cold storage facilities. The banks are taking an increasing

mediate attention. A more elastic system of live stock credit must be secured before we can expect any expansion in production commensurate with our resources.

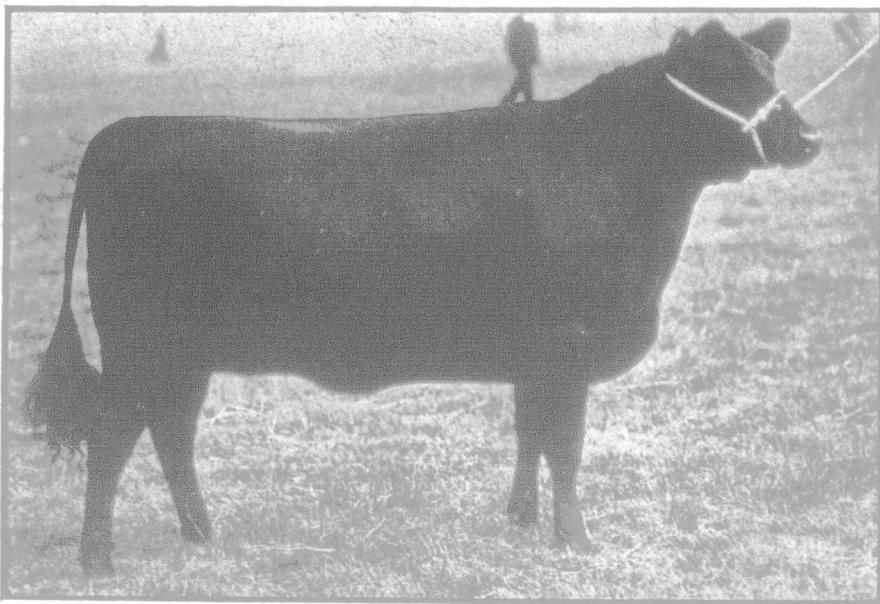
It is an economic fact that no industry can grow without the support of capital. We must at once, therefore, set ourselves to the task of devising a system of live stock credits which will enlist the support of the banks and our other great financial institutions, thus throwing the powerful stimulus of the money power of the country into the business of live stock production.

The Federal Department of Agriculture, through the Live Stock Branch, has placed trained officers at each of the stock yards throughout the country and their services have been utilized very widely by farmers and feeders in connection with the purchase and sale of their stock. Based upon information supplied by these officers regarding prices, movements, etc., a Market Intelligence report has been issued which is providing the producer with information that is placing him in a steadily stronger position in selling his product. This service must now be extended to the issue of daily reports for the public press and to a telegraph service which will make it possible for a producer in any part of the country to obtain current markets information by paying the cost of the wire. It is questionable if any more powerful or effective scheme can be devised than through such a system of daily markets information which will enable the farmer to obtain the last cent which his cattle or hogs are worth.

The Dominion is ridiculously lacking in terminal cold storage accommodation. It is a fact that no refrigerator accommodation is available on the harbor fronts at Montreal or Halifax. In consequence, the produce trade is obliged to bear excessive charges for insurance and drayage. The development of a meat trade has been continuously hampered because of this fact and those engaged in the export meat business have been obliged to face delays, losses and risks of which very few people are at all aware. Millions of dollars have been spent in providing harbor facilities and Canada is enjoying the greatly increased revenue through the shipping facilities provided both for Canadian and American business. Cold storage accommodation at the harbor fronts will very greatly increase this revenue, will develop our ocean ports, will provide traffic for our railways and will make possible the creation of a permanent dead-meat trade with Great Britain. Until such accommodation is provided our produce business must severely suffer and it will be impossible to prevent the sale of our high-class Western and Eastern beef to United States concerns to be marketed through American channels.

We have yet to refer to the perfecting of our trade connection with the Mother Country and to the advertising of our product on the export market. It is our firm conviction that this can best be furthered by requiring that our products shall be sold by standard grades under Government inspection. If we are to successfully compete with our rivals on the European market and if we are to obtain a dependable reputation for the goods we sell, it cannot be done by any haphazard system of marketing. Canadian eggs are now under inspection for export purposes and the advantage is already clearly apparent. Other countries have similar systems of guaranteeing their product. In this manner alone will it be possible to make the name of Canada a standard for excellence and value on the export market.

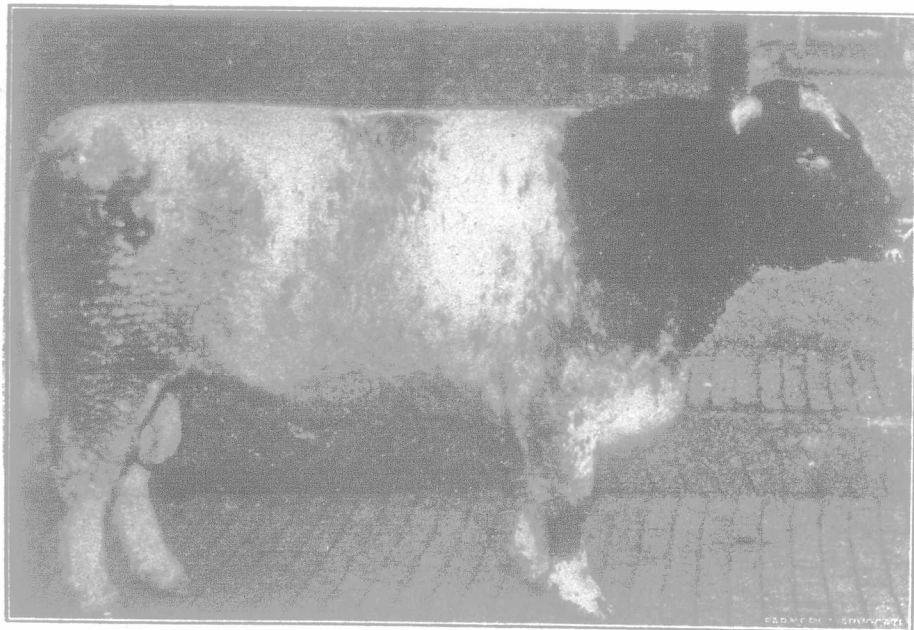
By way of summary the Dominion has now one of the grandest opportunities ever presented to any country of developing a profitable and comprehensive export meat and produce trade in the European market. Financial and economic reasons oblige the country to deliberately foster this enterprise as a definite national policy. It will require nerve, foresight and scientific business direction to bring it to complete success.



A Good Aberdeen-Angus of the Erica Family.

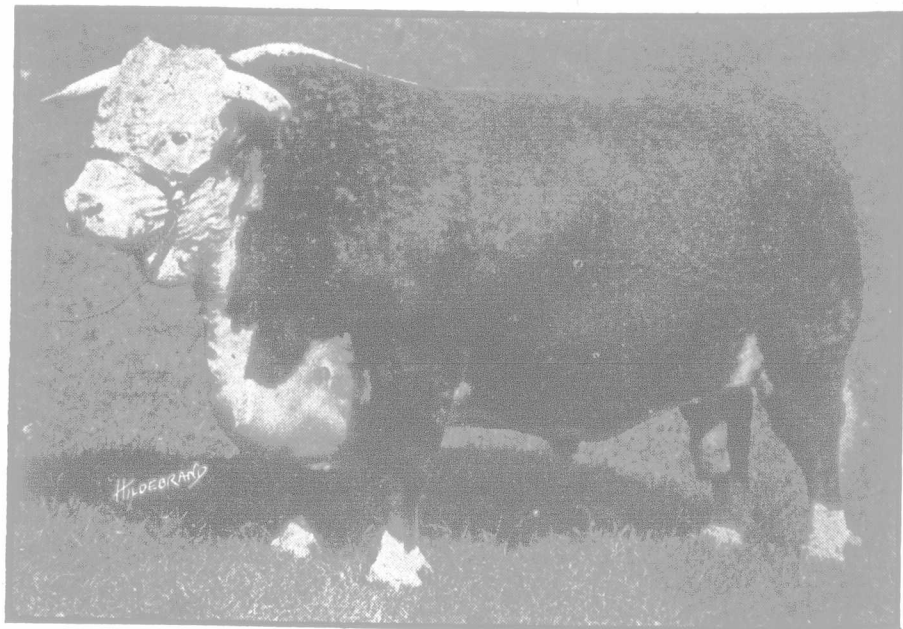
and useful interest in the development of live stock production. Finally, it is to be noted that the Dominion is in a particularly advantageous position as regards railway mileage to give adequate and necessary service not only in handling the great bulk of business in the older settled districts, but, as well, in opening up and extending production in new territory. In a word, Canada has reached that point in the development of its industry where, given the proper incentive in the way of a steady market outlet and a firm confidence amongst farmers in the future of their business which such trade will inspire, she will be able to make rapid and continuous advancement to the advantage of the whole Dominion.

I wish to point out certain of the most important features to which, in my judgment, particular attention must be given in perfecting and making really effective a national trade policy such as I have endeavored to outline. The importance of quality and finish in our live stock is not to be over-estimated. The need, therefore, for the continuance of energetic measures to promote the more general use of high class pure-bred sires and to improve methods of breeding and feeding is more than ever obligatory. I wish to insist, however, more particularly in this article, upon the financial and marketing factors of the situation which require im-



Village Supreme.

A Shorthorn bull which recently sold for \$16,500 in U. S. A.



Ardmore.

A Hereford bull which brought \$31,000 at public auction in U. S. A.