

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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do your share in the great dairy business, and provide your wife with the boon of an ice supply. Once with ice, always with ice, as the medicine vendors say. January and February is the time for the work. Do it now.

Time to Act.

It is to be hoped that the 1909 annual meeting of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association will be marked by a practical step towards the establishment of a record, in the form of an appendix to the Herdbook, or otherwise, for the dairy performance of Shorthorn cows in officially supervised yearly tests of milk and butter-fat production. All the special dairy breed societies in Canada have made provision for such official testing and record of performance. The Holstein and Ayrshire breeders are availing themselves of the privilege, and if breeders of the Red, White and Roans are to continue laying claim to dual-purpose quality or attributes in their cattle, they must fall in line. Talk does not develop milking quality in a breed, neither does talk maintain it. United effort is required, and as a guide to such effort, as a premium upon it and as an evidence of success in developing or maintaining milking quality, the keeping and publishing of authentic records of milk and butter-fat production is necessary. Farmers in search of herd headers are becoming increasingly disinclined to accept dual-purpose claims on trust. They rightly insist on figures as evidence. Shorthorn breeders must make up their minds either to go in for the development of milking quality in earnest, or else witness their breed decline steadily in popular favor; its field restricted on the one hand by the special dairy breeds, and on the other by competition from the Dobbies, and to a less extent from the Herefords and Galloways. On the other hand, let the breeders of Shorthorns develop a liberal degree of milking quality in their cattle, while retaining the beef conformation, of course, and they will be able to preserve and widen their field of usefulness, because a dual purpose stock is absolutely necessary for the economical breeding and raising of good beef on ordinary high-priced land.

Beef may be profitably produced on cheap land with a class of cows that give merely enough milk to suckle their calves. It may be produced to a limited extent with such cattle on grain farms, particularly those devoted to the raising of that great beef-making feed, corn. But when it comes to such conditions as prevail in Eastern Canada, commercial beef cattle cannot be economically bred by using only a special-purpose beef breed, and the alternative plan of crossing beef bulls on dairy herds to produce feeding cattle, is not, on the whole, a very advantageous line of breeding to follow up. We need a dual-purpose breed, and will need it worse as farm lands increase in purchasing and rental value. If the Shorthorn is not bred and handled to fill the bill, other breeds will be. Why, a short time ago we quoted an American Aberdeen-Angus breeder who urged the more general development of milking quality in the polled cattle in order better to meet corn-belt conditions. Whatever it will be—Aberdeen-Angus, Hereford, Red Poll, Holstein—the beef stock of the future, good or bad, will be largely bred from cows that can milk. What is more, we can get milking quality, combined with good beefing conformation and quality, if we place proper emphasis on milking capacity, develop the heifers, record the performance of good dairy stock, and then breed judiciously, with an eye to beef form, combined with milking capacity, as indicated by scales and Babcock test. A Record of Dairy Performance for Shorthorns is the first and a most effectual means to such end. The Dominion Department of Agriculture stands ready to assist. It remains for the breed association to make the move, and open the way for effective individual effort. There is not a year to lose. Now is the time to act.

Breeders' Meetings.

The numerous annual meetings of breed societies, announced to be held in Toronto next week, should appeal to the membership to indicate an active interest in the objects and aims of these organizations, and to add to their usefulness in improving the character of the live stock of the country, on which the profit and success of its agriculture so largely depends. The markets of the present time are growing more discriminating than formerly, demanding a better quality of product in all lines, and only by the use of the blood of the pure breeds of stock, coupled with intelligent management and judicious feeding, can the best meat types, milk producers and quality be obtained.

The main objects of these breed societies are the improvement of the various classes of farm stock, advertising and popularizing the breeds, by means of pedigree records and exhibition premiums, and the securing of favorable transportation rates, all of which have, by organized effort, been, to a gratifying extent, achieved in the last decade or two, but are yet capable of improvement and worthy of careful consideration. Some of the regrettable features of these annual meetings are the comparatively meagre attendance of the membership, and the tendency in some to run into ruts to re-elect directors who have failed to bring strength to the society, or have apparently shown more concern to advance their personal interests, or those of their friends, than those of the association as a whole. New blood is needed from time to time, and may be useful in suggesting improved methods of management, as well as in inspiring confidence in the disinterestedness of the directorate.

Since the funds of these societies are made up mainly of fees contributed by the membership scattered over the whole Dominion, it would appear that any surplus accruing over and above the necessary expenses of administration should be distributed with a view to equalization, whether in the form of a lowering of the fees, or the offering of prizes at leading fairs in the various Provinces, in proportion to the membership in each Province. While in some of the associations this idea has been partially adopted, there is reason to believe that in others, little effort has been made to meet this reasonable contention, with the result that considerable dissatisfaction is from time to time finding expression through the press and otherwise. The magnificent distances of the Dominion render it expensive for members of the

extreme East and Western Provinces to attend meetings which are held in Ontario, owing to the much larger proportion of members in this Province, in the case of many of the societies. These two facts, minority of membership and expense of attendance, logically account for the limited attendance from the outlying Provinces, and should appeal to the generosity of those more favorably situated, in regard to distance from the place of meeting, to deal liberally with those less strongly represented numerically in the councils of the society.

Still the Banner Province.

There is a tendency in some quarters to speak as though the welfare of Canada depended on the Western grain crop. The West is all right, and the filling of the Western Provinces helps industry in the East, but the prosperity of Canada does not by any means hang on the Western grain crop. The Province of Ontario produced last year half as much again as all the three Western Provinces together. Ontario has possibilities of a more varied nature than any other Province or State. The West may beat us in wheat production, and California can raise oranges, but in no other section of America can so many lines of agriculture be equally well developed. Ontario is all right. J. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, before the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association.

Co-operation Between Town and Country.

The farmer has been judged by the city man as being mean and close in money matters, forgetting that until recent times the farmer has not had much money to handle. He dealt in produce, and the little cash he got naturally looked large to him. But while not flush with coin or bank notes, he has always been generous with what he had. His house and barns have been open to the visitor to come and stay and put up his horse, and no questions asked. We must not say the city man is generous and the farmer stingy. Say they are both generous, and let us seek to get them together, said President G. C. Creelman, of the Ontario Agricultural College, at the Dairymen's convention in Brantford. He suggested that Boards of Trade might reach out and take in farmers, interesting themselves in such enterprises as establishing cheese factories and creameries, and similar allied industries. The need is for closer co-operation between farmers and city men.

HORSES.

Choice Brood Mares Needed.

Among the interested horsemen in attendance at the Ontario Horse-breeders' Exhibition at West Toronto recently was R. H. Taber, of Condie, Sask. Discussing the horse industry with a representative of "The Farmer's Advocate," he was most emphatic in his plea for brood mares of the very best type. "If farmers are to make satisfactory progress in improving their horses," said Mr. Taber, "they must refuse any price for a mare that has size and quality. The main factor in improvement is choice brood mares. Without them we cannot improve. On the average farm we find small general-purpose mares instead of strong, heavy ones that will rear colts of substance that command a high price on the market. When a man decides to raise colts he should raise either heavy or light. In any case, there will be enough misfits to supply the general-purpose class. Then why not use either the best light mares or choice draft mares, and breed them to the best stallions of the same breed that can be found?"

"It is absolute folly to cross breeds. Why should any man breed a heavy mare to a Hackney stallion? Every man, in order to succeed, must have before him a definite aim, and an ideal to which he gradually works. Without this ideal much time will be lost, and the improvement will be slow. There is no reason why the average man on a hundred-acre farm should not keep three or four good mares for breeding purposes."

Few good draft mares are exported from Canada, but the loss is the same as if they had been exported when they are sold to be used as work horses in towns and cities.—W. P. Kydd, Norwalk, Ont.