

The Agricultural Gazette

The Official Bulletin of the Dominion Cattle, Sheep, and Swine Breeders' Associations, and of the Farmers' Institute System of the Province of Ontario.

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THE DOMINION CATTLE, SHEEP, AND SWINE BREEDERS' ASSOCIATIONS.

Annual Membership Fees:—Cattle Breeders' \$1; Sheep Breeders', \$1; Swine Breeders', 2.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP.

Each member receives a free copy of each publication issued by the Association to which he belongs, during the year in which he is a member. In the case of the Swine Breeders' Association this includes a copy of the Swine Record.

A member of the Swine Breeders' Association is allowed to register pigs at 50c. per head; non-members are charged \$1.00 per head.

A member of the Sheep Breeders' Association is allowed to register sheep at 50c. per head, while non-members are charged \$1.00.

The name and address of each member, and the stock he has for sale, are published once a month. Over 10,000 copies of this directory are mailed monthly. Copies are sent to each Agricultural College and each Experiment Station in Canada and the United States, also to prominent breeders and probable buyers resident in Canada, the United States and elsewhere.

A member of an Association will only be allowed to advertise stock corresponding to the Association to which he belongs; that is, to advertise cattle he must be a member of the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, to advertise sheep he must be a member of the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association, and to advertise swine he must be a member of the Dominion Swine Breeders' Association.

The list of cattle, sheep, and swine for sale will be published in the third issue of each month. Members having stock for sale, in order that they may be included in the Gazette, are required to notify the publisher by letter on or before the 9th of each month, of the number, breed, age, and sex of the animal. Should a member fail to do this his name will not appear in that issue. The data will be published in the most condensed form.

F. W. HOPSON, Secretary
Parliament Building, Toronto, Ont.

Institute Memberships.

The following list of members has been received since the last list published:

Bruce South	29
Dufferin	4
Grey North	2
Lanark South	5
Lambton West	2
Norfolk South	2
Simcoe South	1
Waterloo South	5

Messrs. D. G. Hanmer & Sons, Burford, write under date of July 24th that they have 106 head of pure-bred Shropshires at the quarantine station at Pointe Levis. These animals were selected by one of the Messrs. Hanmer in person from among the best English flocks. Many of these animals are English prize-winners and will be exhibited at the forthcoming Toronto Exhibition, which promises to be a greater success than ever as far as the exhibit of live stock is concerned.

Mr. D. McCrae, Guelph, writes under date of July 24 that he has imported a herd of Galloways from Scotland. One animal which will head his herd was first at the Highland Society show at Kelso last year. We cannot have too many prize-winners in Ontario.

The Value of Live Stock Associations.

By Dr. James Mills, President of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont.

We have eleven or twelve live stock associations in the Province of Ontario. Some of them are strong, vigorous, and useful; others have a name to live, but are practically dead. Among those which are living and giving evidence of a vigorous, useful life are the Dominion Sheep Breeders' and the Dominion Swine Breeders' Associations. We have no hesitation in saying that these two associations are doing good work

The Sheep Breeders' Association was formed in 1888, and the Swine Breeders' the following year. The first annual report of the Sheep Breeders' Association was published in 1889, and the first of the Swine Breeders' in 1890.

Thus we see that the history of these associations is short, but it is creditable. They have already done a considerable amount of valuable work. They have prepared and published a number of useful papers for the information of the farming community, have persistently sought to protect and advance the interests of sheep and swine breeders at the principal fair boards of the province, have been instrumental in securing the appointment of a better class of judges, have improved the rules for judging, and in some cases have secured an increase in the prizes offered for sheep and swine. They have also, in a large measure contributed to the success of our Provincial Fat Stock Show. In 1892, these associations gave \$1,000 in prizes at the Fat Stock Show; in 1893, \$1,000; and in 1894, \$1,000. This money goes directly into the pockets of our farmers. It encourages them to improve their stock by every means possible—to select good females, to obtain the services of first-class thoroughbred males, to study the principles of breeding, and to do all in their power to learn the art of successful feeding. This is a valuable work—work which contributes directly to the prosperity of our people, and we are indebted to the Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations for the liberal assistance which they have given to the Agriculture and Arts Association and the Guelph Fat Stock Club in their efforts to make our annual Fat Stock Show the very best winter show on the continent of America.

We cannot deny the value of this work to the community at large, but, after all, the question of membership in these associations is continually

coming up in our minds. As a practical people, we expect value in some form for all our expenditures; and in estimating the vitality of the Sheep Breeders', the Swine Breeders', or any other association, we naturally ask the question, Does it pay? Does it, directly or indirectly, make us an adequate return for the membership fees which we contribute from year to year? This is a proper question to ask, and one which should be answered by those who are responsible for the existence and management of our live stock associations.

We venture to answer in the affirmative, that live stock associations, such as those just mentioned, do pay. Under proper management, these associations make an ample return for the money invested in them.

To some, there is the direct advantage of reduction in the amount of fees paid for the registration of animals; and to all who are interested in the production of good stock there are important indirect advantages, which far exceed in value the amount of the annual membership fee. The indirect advantages are largely educational, but they, nevertheless, contribute directly and in large measure to the material interests of the people.

The meetings of these associations bring together the most intelligent, progressive and successful stockmen in the country, and afford them an opportunity to discuss the hindrances to profitable stock-raising, as well as the conditions essential to success in this important branch of farming. I say *this*, but I might perhaps more appropriately say *these*, as embracing the different kinds of stock kept by our people—cattle, sheep, horset, swine, poultry, etc.

The young men and others who attend these meetings have an opportunity which is nowhere else afforded for learning what is most important to know regarding the breeding, feeding, and management of stock. They also get hints and suggestions about showing and judging the different classes of animals, and thus become familiar with the difficulties to be overcome by those who would be really successful stock raisers. In this way they acquire much valuable information, which they can turn to good account at home; and not only so, but, what is much more important, they get inspiration. The great difficulty with many farmers is that they have little or no interest in their work. They go through their daily routine as a sort of drudgery, with a thick cloud of discouragement constantly hanging over them. They are farmers, not from choice, but from