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With the Breeders

THE various live stock breeders' associations, as reported elsewhere in this issue, have had a most successful series of meetings. With one or two exceptions the attendance was not as good as the importance of the work carried on demands. But this may be largely accounted for by the fact that many members were unable to be present because of the snow blockade. A great deal of the business transacted was, however, of a far-reaching character and will have an important bearing upon the live stock industry of the country.

The important thing that stands out before all others was the unanimous decision of the Clydesdale breeders to ask the Dominion Government to put into force in this country regulations affecting the importation of pure-bred and scrub horses, similar to those in force at the present time in the United States. As the resolution, published in full on another page, shows, there was no hedging about the matter. It is a clear-cut, definite demand which the Government cannot ignore. Action in this respect has already been too long deferred and should there be even a few months' further delay, the injury done by the importation of 'scrub' horses and inferior breeding stock, may be beyond recall. Prompt and decisive measures are necessary.

As was to be expected the associations without fail endorsed the action of the breeders last fall in deciding not to exhibit at St. Louis. Even the sheep-breeders, who will sacrifice more than all the others put together by not going to St. Louis, were willing to make this sacrifice in order that the breeders of Canada might present a united front on the matter. So great has been the sacrifice, that the government might well consider the granting of assistance to individual sheep-breeders who might desire to make an exhibit. However this may be, we think the breeders have acted wisely in the decided stand they have taken. It is worth something to stand up for principle and self-respect. Besides, good counter attractions in the way of big exhibits of our best stock at Winnipeg and Toronto will bring as much, if not more, honor and advertising to Canada's herds and flocks as if they were nationally represented at St. Louis.

Though more or less local in its scope, the decision of the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association to join hands with the Union Stock Yards Co., at Toronto Junction, in the erection of a suitable arena for live stock meetings and shows, is an important move in a right direction. Much as we would like to see such an arena in the city of Toronto,

that corporation has meted out such narrow and niggardly treatment to the breeders, not only in the past but in connection with this very scheme, that our stockmen are justified in going elsewhere. At the Junction, provided the scheme can be successfully financed, we believe the breeders will receive liberal treatment, and will be able to build up a succession of live stock shows that will in time rival even the great International. Being adjacent to the city, the accommodation for visitors will be ample, while exhibits will be well provided for.

The scheme to form a national live stock association also received the hearty endorsement of the breeders. The time has certainly come when some action must be taken to bring the live stock interests of the various provinces into closer touch with each other. A Dominion organization will aid in nation-

Future Issues

In March 15th issue will appear a full report of the Spring Stallion Show to be held here the first week of March, with special illustrations. In that number will also appear several articles having a special bearing upon the horse-breeding industry in Canada. It will therefore be an excellent medium for horse breeders' announcements.

On May 2nd, our annual dairy number will appear. Some new features are in course of preparation for that number, that will make it both interesting and profitable to all readers.

alizing these interests and in bringing the various elements together to discuss grievances and adjust differences. Friction between the live stock interests of the different provinces has been becoming more marked of late, and unless something is done to remove this and promote unity and harmony, all efforts to give our important live stock industry unity and scope will be fruitless. Then the requests from a national organization as to recognition of records, importation of pure-bred stock, etc., will have more force when presented to the government than if they came from different organizations in different provinces, not working in harmony. There should therefore be a representative gathering of stockmen from all the provinces, at Ottawa in March, when the first national convention takes place.

War and Wheat

After several weeks of strained negotiations, the die is cast, and a state of war exists between Japan and Russia. Regarding the merits of the claims of

the contending countries there is no need for extended reference here. As, with the people of all English-speaking countries, our sympathies are with the "little fellow," and we trust he will win.

A question that might, however, be given some consideration just here is the effect the war will have upon the price of food products. Wheat is the first and the most important to be considered in this connection. Leaving the speculator out of consideration, who, if he gets a chance, may be relied upon to manipulate the war scare to suit his own purposes, the question is, will war cause the price of wheat to advance? We might answer yes and no to this. There is a probability that through the speculator and the unstableness which a state of war in any part of the world always gives to trade at the beginning, prices may advance pretty rapidly at the start only to recede later, when the war's actual effect on supply and demand is known. Should this rapid advance in the early stages of the war take place, our advice to the farmer would be to sell, for unless other European nations are involved, there is no good reason for believing that the price of wheat will be very greatly affected by a Japanese-Russian war.

To go a little more into detail. Japan is not a wheat consuming nation, though of late she is importing some wheat. Russia, on the other hand, is a wheat and grain consuming nation. But she grows every year a great deal more wheat than she consumes, and consequently the only effect of the war will perhaps be the withdrawing of her exports of wheat from the European markets. Of course this may have a stimulating effect upon prices. But when we consider the large number of countries that are sending wheat supplies to the old land, the withdrawal of Russian exports can have at most but a temporary effect in advancing values. Statistics show that there is at the present time plenty of wheat in the world for all consumptive requirements until the next cereal year begins, and consequently any diversion of supplies by the war cannot affect the supply and demand side of the question very much.

Should, however, the war cause a marked advance in the price of wheat Great Britain will be the country most affected by it. It will be interesting, therefore, to note just here the change that has taken place in Britain's sources of supply in recent years. In 1897 the United States supplied 61.06 per cent. of the wheat she imported. In 1902 the United States supply had decreased