

practical soundness. This is generally conceived to mean that a horse is not the subject of any diseased condition likely to interfere with his usefulness. It really means with many judges that if the horse does not go wrong in the ring, his soundness is not questioned.

Many judges never ask the veterinarian's opinion unless they think a horse is going lame, is wrong in the wind, or is not within the limits of height called for. As a matter of fact, it is not so very uncommon for horses to go on taking prizes month after month, and sometimes year after year, that would not go sound on the halter, on a hard road, and if they did any regular work would soon be used up; but they are game horses, usually with speed, and when they are stirred up, and pulled together, they will not show lameness of which they may be the victims, unless it is fairly pronounced. Many members of the veterinary profession do not recognize the fact that there is such a thing as lameness resulting from soreness of the mouth. Thirty years' experience has taught me that there is such a thing, and that it is not so very uncommon, especially in the show-ring.

Some may take the view that if a horse goes lame, even if it is from the mouth, it renders him ineligible to a prize. However this may be, it is important for the veterinary inspector to discriminate between lameness, the result of disease of a limb, and lameness due to discomfort in connection with the mouth. If he does not do so, he is apt to be confronted with an irate owner who insists upon him going to see his horse jugged in hand, outside of the ring. If the horse previously condemned in the ring as lame, goes sound in hand, it is very embarrassing to the veterinarian, and is apt to be confusing to the laymen witnessing the case, unless the veterinarian is ready with an explanation. A horse may strike himself in the ring, causing him to go temporarily lame, so that it is well to give a suspected exhibit a little time to recover from the injury before condemning him, or the veterinarian may be able to determine and point out the seat and evidence of a self-inflicted injury; so that the judges would have the responsibility of deciding whether they would reject a horse for a temporary trouble originated in the ring.

In the case of a saddle horse suspected of lameness, it is not wise to condemn him without taking the saddle off, as a tender spot under it will make some horses show irregularity of the gait. The veterinarian for his own protection should see that the party who jogs the horse, only has hold of the bridle rein, and makes the horse carry his head straight. I have seen a saddle horse thrown out as unsound from no other reason than that the man who led him in jogging took hold of the rein attached to a sharp curb bit, causing the horse to nod his head. I have recently seen a horse go lame near hind from a crupper sore. Why he showed it near hind and not off I cannot explain, but as soon as the crupper was taken off he went sound.

The question of the soundness or unsoundness of a horse's wind often causes debate in a show-ring, but, judging from what one frequently hears from the ring-side, a considerable degree of liberality is shown exhibitors. Doubtless a great deal of the roaring one hears is due to compression, from pulling, and sometimes to gagging from high checking, but not infrequently a horse gets away with a ribbon that few veterinarians would pass if they were examining him for a client, and it would be interesting and useful if this association would lay down a rule to guide one in determining what to accept or reject for practical soundness of wind in the ring.

### LIVE STOCK.

#### THE LIVE-STOCK OUTLOOK ON PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

(Prof. Theodore Ross, of Prince Edward Island, before the National Live-stock Convention, at Ottawa, February, 1908.)

In the few minutes at my disposal, I would like to lay before you, as clearly as I can, the status of the live-stock interests in Prince Edward Island at the present time, and speak also of the outlook; and if the present situation should seem to be discouraging, I trust you will look beyond it to the future, which already appears bright with promise and full of hope.

#### MISTAKES IN HORSE-BREEDING.

I shall discuss, first, the situation in regard to horses. Some time ago, perhaps twenty years or more, we were proud of our horses. Every spring brought numbers of buyers, mostly Americans, to our shores, and many a farm was paid for and many a mortgage lifted by the money they exchanged for our heavy-draft horses. The imposition of the heavy duty put an end to this, and the breeding naturally declined. This furnished the opportunity for a few shrewd speculators. Our people wanted to raise horses. There was no money in draft horses, then why not try racers? A few men were at it, and one or two sales had been made at handsome prices. These pointed the way. What one man could do, another could do, and, without delay, tracks were prepared on farms, and the public roads transformed into speedways. But the crossing of trotting sires, excellent as many of them were, on heavy mares, proved disappointing, and the decline became even

more rapid. Last year the number of horses on Prince Edward Island was only 30,435, or about 7,000 less than in 1891. The tide, however, has turned. This last year or two our people have been getting back into heavy horses, and a number of excellent Shires and Clydesdales have been imported. Dr. Standish, in speaking to the Short-course students at the College of Agriculture, Truro, N. S., last month, said the class of draft stallions he had judged at Charlottetown, at the Interprovincial Fair, in the autumn, would have done credit to the Toronto Show. It is true, we cannot start in where we left off some years ago, but we are again on the right track, and progress is only a matter of time. I would like to tell those of you who are particularly interested in this subject that there is a good market for heavy sires and brood mares in our Province, and I hope some of you may find it to your advantage to deal with us.

#### HOPE LIES IN DAIRYING.

The dairy-cattle story is somewhat similar. In 1900, our cheese factories and creameries received 59,900,000 pounds of milk, and in 1906 only 32,000,000 pounds. Even this does not complete the doleful tale; the number of milch cows has not fallen off in nearly this proportion. In 1900 we had 55,684, and in 1906, 45,550, or only about 10,000 less. If, then, the average milch cow on Prince Edward Island gave only 2,184 pounds of milk in 1900 (see census returns), in 1906 she gave less than 1,500 pounds, or about one-third of the amount given by the average cow in Ontario. On inquiry, too, from the leading merchants in every part of the Province, I find that the amount of homemade dairy butter being offered for sale is also declining; and from the

have faith in themselves and in their business. They put their money in the best cattle that can be had, and are not afraid to feed them. And I am proud to say that, in the show-ring, their stock compares favorably with the best that comes along. Our young men are our hope, and the story of the dairy industry in the next five years will be most pleasant to tell.

#### BEEF CATTLE FOR THE LOCAL TRADE.

The outlook for beef cattle is not promising. Fifteen years ago nearly every farmer fattened three or four fairly good steers for the spring trade, and had one or two coming on for the summer months; but the advent of dairying brought in another class of cattle, Jerseys, Ayrshires and Holsteins; and to-day it is difficult indeed to pick up a car of really good beef cattle. I do not mean to say that none are produced. Our Easter markets bring out as choice individuals as can be seen anywhere, but the general quality has been and is deteriorating, until now very much of what is offered is not even suitable for our own trade. The average steer is fully 200 pounds lighter than the average steer of five years ago, and choice animals cannot be purchased after the month of June. So scarce were they last summer that our local butchers found it necessary to look elsewhere for supplies, and from June 1st to Sept. 17th, eight carloads of cattle, worth about \$12,000, were imported from Ontario. This does not mean that a sufficient number of beef cattle are not being raised in Prince Edward Island to produce all the meat needed by our people, but it does mean that many of them are of such poor quality that our people will not eat the meat if better can be had, even at an increased cost. While we were importing, we also were exporting, and, between the above-mentioned dates, 788 beef cattle, valued at \$28,000, were shipped from this Province. Even here the lamp is not completely out. Good bulls—extra good bulls—are being brought to the Province, and young men are starting in with two or three good females, to build up herds. Our Province is particularly adapted to dairying, but there is no reason why we should not produce our own beef.

#### THE SHEEP BUSINESS REVIVING.

Let us turn now to the sheep industry. The census returns show that in 1881 we had 166,496 sheep; in 1891, 147,372; in 1901, 125,175, and our own Department returns for 1906 show only 71,470. The causes that brought about this decline in our own Province, operated throughout Canada, and with them you are familiar. The dogs have been greatly to blame. I know of many flocks in which the best were killed in this way, but I trust that before long our Government may see fit to afford some protection by the passing of a dog-tax Act. For each of the four years previous to 1906, between 13,000 and 14,000 lambs have been exported. In 1906 the number was increased to about 20,000. The dealers, however, complain that the quality has been steadily decreasing, and our local butchers say that the carcasses are, on an average, from 7 to 10 pounds lighter this year than last. This, however, is capable of easy explanation. Our people are recognizing the value of the sheep, and a very large percentage of the best lambs are not offered for export, but are sold for breeding purposes in our own Province. Our lambs, too, bring excellent prices, last year averaging from 5 to 5½ cents per pound, live weight. They are eagerly sought after in the markets of Boston and New York, where they command a premium of from one to two cents per pound over those brought from other countries. Our farmers are beginning to realize that this is a most profitable industry, and within a very few years it will have reached if not surpassed its former standing.

#### THE BACON INDUSTRY.

In the line of hog-raising, we are doing well. That is, we are raising from 45,000 to 50,000



St. Clair (14347).

Clydesdale stallion; bay; foaled 1906; sire Sir Humphrey; dam by Baron's Pride. First in two-year-old class and reserve for Cawdor Cup, Glasgow, 1908.

creamery reports to patrons, that the amount of creamery butter being used by patrons is increasing. I shall not go into the causes of this decline. That is another subject. I am only giving you the facts. You wonder now where lies "the hope." If you could come with me to a dairy meeting in Prince Edward Island, "the hope" would almost blind your eyes to the facts. Never before was information sought after so eagerly. The people are fully awake, and realize the gravity of the situation, and they are taxing the energy of the Department of Agriculture to supply them with speakers. Two or three years ago, the average number of farmers attending a dairy meeting would not go beyond a dozen. During the last three months I have been present at nine meetings, with an average attendance of 53. And this is not all. Scattered here and there over our Province are young men with excellent herds of Holsteins, Ayrshires and Guernseys. They are not complaining that there is no money in dairying, yet they have no special markets. They are patrons of our cheese factories and creameries. One man, whom I have now in mind, has four cows in his herd which last year gave over 50,000 pounds of milk. Another received over \$1,000 last year for the milk from his herd of 17 cows. Do you ask now, where lies the hope? Do you not know that one honest, earnest young man, full of hope, can save any community? The optimism of these men is infecting their neighbors, and changing the whole situation. They