

Holstein-Friesian Association.

The members of the Holstein-Friesian Association met in the office of the Secretary of the Industrial Exhibition, Toronto, on September 16th, at one o'clock p. m. In the absence of the President, the 2nd Vice-President, M. Felan, of Oakville, occupied the chair. There were present: R. S. Stevenson, John A. Line, A. Kennedy, E. Pearson, W. J. Breckon, H. Patton, J. W. Lee, W. J. McNiven, P. Stewart, W. McClure, L. M. Charlton, G. W. Clemons, G. Ross, S. W. Hill, H. McCaugherty, Wm. Shunk and D. E. Smith. The report of the Secretary showed that there had been registered during the past four and a-half months 377 animals, and 50 transferred. The following persons applied to become members and were accepted:—H. F. Page, James Elliott, D. R. McDonald, R. Marshall, John Pringle, Major Deuhardt, A. Gifford, W. Armstrong, J. A. Line, J. Fletcher, B. Mallory, A. Woolley, G. White, G. W. Clemons, Deaf and Dumb Institute, G. O. Glass, D. McNaught, V. S. The election of officers was postponed to the annual meeting in February. Discussion in regard to charging a fee and having animals inspected on coming from the States here took place, but action in regard to the matter was laid over till the winter meeting. It was decided that each member of a firm should pay the fees as heretofore. No steps were taken to form Provincial Associations, but it will be more fully discussed at the next meeting. The time was too short to go into the advanced registry, and it was thought best to discuss the matter in the H.-F. Register and try to come to something definite and useful. The receipts during the four and a-half months were \$289.01, and the expenses were \$58.90, leaving a balance on hand of \$230.11. Great interest was taken in the meeting, and all seemed satisfied that the Holstein-Friesian Association had started a herd book, and its success seems now to be firmly established, and the breeders are determined to make this breed known, and their merits tested. It was decided to get a full set of herd books.

A Holstein Test.

Messrs. Smith Bros., Churchville, Ont., send the following:—

We herewith send you the result of the testing of eight of our milch cows. It was tested with the Babcock tester:

	Fat
Erie Belle 2nd	3.80
Sadie Leake	3.53
Hyke 2nd	5.00
Onetta	3.40
Lillie Tensen	3.80
Bixn Funny 2nd	3.50
Stepkie 4th	4.20
Hedda 2nd	4.20

Average of eight head 3.92½

This was on grass alone, and during the month of September.

We invite breeders to send us records of what their cows are producing. The above would have been more interesting if Messrs. Smith Bros. had also stated how much milk each cow gave per day, or better still, per season. Let us hear from others.

The Farming World, of Edinburgh, Scotland, says:—"Too many farmers trust to good luck, rather than to a knowledge of the principles that underlie the laws of breeding and feeding. Selection is too often made for form, shape, and color of the animal, while many other essential points are lost sight of, viz., prolific ancestors, docility, barrenness, feeding properties, and early maturity."

Practical Sheep Breeding.

[Written for the Dominion Sheep Breeders' Association by Mr. D. G. Hammer.]

The value of sheep to the farm is perhaps not fully understood by many farmers. It is an old proverb that whenever the foot of the sheep touches the land it is turned into gold. Sheep makes the land more profitable—more productive at a less expenditure, than any other animal kept on the farm.

The question of raising sheep for their meat is not an unimportant one. As the population of the country increases the consumption of estates also increases. The favorite meat, and that which brings the highest price, is lamb, which can now be purchased only as a luxury by those who can afford it.

Sheep farming in Canada does not require large capital invested, and the risk is small, for sheep, if well managed, will not die in debt to their owner. Many farmers manage to have a lot of old, run-down sheep in their flocks, which is bad economy to say the least, and should be remedied or entirely avoided. Now is the time to attend to this matter. By looking over the flock, and selecting out all such as are not doing well, and putting them on as good pasture as can be afforded, with the addition of a little grain, they can be made ready for the butcher by the time winter sets in. So long as a sheep is healthy it can be fattened, but it is not good policy to keep them until they become too old, as it has a tendency to run down the flock and give it a rakish appearance. Every farmer should look carefully over his flock every fall and select out all that cannot be kept longer with profit. It is frequently the case that lambs are let run with their dams too long, which has an injurious effect upon both. So long as they run together the lambs will depend on the milk drawn from its mother for sustenance, which often does not amount to much, consequently both are the worse for not being separated. At about four months is the proper age to wean lambs. Should cold rain prevail during the early fall months, lambs should be put under shelter, and as the season advances they should be kept in at nights and gradually taught to eat. By so doing the change from pasture to dry feed will scarcely be perceptible. As lambs are one of the largest sources of profit to the sheep farmer he should observe every requisite to success in rearing them.

It will not require an observing person to keep sheep many years until he will find out that the main thing in wintering them is to keep them up in the fall, for if permitted to lose flesh then they will scarcely recruit up again during the entire winter.

A practice now prevailing with many farmers, and one which, in our opinion, cannot be too strongly condemned, is that of allowing grade ram lambs of all descriptions to run without castration, not only depreciating their value for the butcher, but is also the cause of many inferior rams going into service, when, by the expenditure of a few dollars, extra pure-bred rams of the various breeds could be secured. We have no hesitation in saying there is little or no excuse for the farmer who will at the present time place an inferior or mongrel-bred ram at the head of his flock. Care and judgment should be exercised in the selection of a ram, as much of the future value of the flock will depend on the impression he leaves on his offspring. A man may save himself a lot of trouble and disappointment by making the head a first principle in establishing a flock. The head of an animal is the main index to his purity of blood, strength of constitution and actual fitness for the service for which he is intended. If you go for breed you look above all to the head; if your aim be style or fashion you must seek this in the head, as nine times in ten that very accommodating phrase known as quality should prove itself by a good head. It is the head that carries impression and sets off the whole proportion; it will overcome many other defects, and will go a long way with judges in determining their awards in the show ring. The man who would succeed as a breeder of sheep must be always aiming higher by a constant endeavor to bring his flock to a more perfect state of perfection.

Manitoba and N. W. T.**Smudging.**

The press of Manitoba and the states immediately south of the boundary line has been discussing the utility of smudging to prevent injury by frost, for some time, and with the result that it has been tried in several places this season. Just how far the results have been satisfactory it is difficult at this time to determine. On the Portage Plains, through the influence of the farmers' institute, a system of co-operation was adopted, and so far as learned up to the present the results were satisfactory. Arrangements were made with the electric light company whereby an electric light was placed on the farmers' elevator, the highest in town, when there was a probability of frost. When the temperature reached the danger line, or, properly speaking, the line at which danger seemed imminent, the light was turned off and on four times per minute for half an hour to an hour. The smudges were lighted on two occasions, and with the exceptions of a few who were not sufficiently interested, or else had not faith enough to prepare smudges, the grain has not been damaged, at least such is the consensus of opinion obtained up to this time. For best results it is necessary to understand the underlying principles, and know why certain causes produce certain results, and be governed thereby. Some persons seem to assume that the heat produced by the burning of the rotten straw or other material composing the smudge fires is the cause of the temperature rising. Others admit the formation of a canopy of smoke prevents the frost from falling and alighting on the fields. It is more than probable, however, that if there was no heat at all from the fires that the smudge would be of great benefit. The earth is heated during the day by the sun and atmosphere, and at night as soon as the air gets cooler than the earth a radiation of heat from its surface takes place. According to the inimitable laws of nature the warm air rises and the cold settles to the earth. By smudging a dense canopy of smoke is formed which hovers over the field enveloping it like a blanket, which prevents to a certain extent the warmth radiated from the earth from rising and the cold air from descending. If smudging is systematically carried out there is not the least doubt but the results will be beneficial. Co-operation is, however, necessary, as a man with a small farm cannot start a smudge with any degree of assurance that he will derive a fair share of the benefits of it, if his neighbors do not also smudge. At Hope Farm, in the harvest of '90, the smudges were lighted on the north and west sides of the farm, and in a short time the temperature had risen three degrees, which is in many instances sufficient to save the crop. In order to arrive at an intelligent conclusion as to the benefits derived from the partial smudging (for it must be admitted that the effort has not been as thorough as it should have been), the ADVOCATE especially requests all who have tried it to send in an account of their success or failures. The consensus of opinion will prove beneficial to all concerned.

The farmer who declares that he can buy fruit and vegetables cheaper than he can raise them generally does not expend much for this purpose, and he oftener goes fruit hungry than the farmer who has a respectable garden and berry patch.