

undergo even the spirited defence the cause may merit.

Mr. Dryden says the Union Stock-yards Co., of West Toronto, "seeks to establish a rival institution." Mr. Dryden is evidently unaware that Mr. Dods, secretary of the Union Stock-yards Co., went to Mr. Monteith, Mr. Dryden's successor, and suggested that the Winter Fair's location should be changed from Guelph to the Stock-yards at West Toronto. Mr. Dods gave his reasons, which we will touch on later, but expressly assured the Minister of Agriculture that no rival fair would be started, as he (Mr. Dods) was in favor of harmonious dealings with Guelph, the Winter-fair Board, and the Government. Does that look like establishing a rival institution? Mr. Dryden, says, too, that the Stock-yards Company and those that are in favor of this movement are uninformed as to the object of the Winter Fair. Surely not. Mr. Dods is an ex-O.-A.-C. man, the writer is, and many who are most enthusiastic in the present movement have been in close touch with the Winter Fair for years. Those interested in this project recognize the old adage, that there is no royal road to learning, still they all feel convinced that if the knowledge disseminated at the Winter Fair be given in a more digestible form, more attractively and conveniently served, a larger amount will be assimilated.

Mr. Dryden seems to be of the opinion that the object in view is the establishment of a purely spectacular exhibition, such as the Chicago International. Referring to the Winter Fair, he speaks of the presence of a few animals of superior quality, and, again, "The show fails in its highest usefulness unless the very choicest specimens are present for inspection." These facts are true, but will Mr. Dryden tell us how we are to get "a few animals of superior quality" or "the very choicest specimens" if there is not some inducement for those who have them to bring such animals to the show? These very ideas—having the best at the show, and continuing the show as at present at Guelph—are as opposite as the poles. Two things attract exhibitors to an exhibition: prize-money, and the advertisement incidentally procured, besides always the credit of winning, or the desire to learn. Mr. Leask did not bring Roan King, the famous Champion steer, to Guelph for two reasons: there was no prize worth winning, and he could not sell him to advantage if he had him there. If the Winter Fair had been at West Toronto, the chances are Roan King would have brought as fancy a price as he did at Chicago, owing to the competitive desire of Toronto butchers to have the best. And as to prize-money, a judicious presentation of spectacular events each day would attract sufficient city people to the show to enable the management to offer prizes of special inducement. With prizes of such a character to strive for, we have men in Ontario who could and would strain every energy to place the best possible on exhibition. Under such circumstances only can Mr. Dryden hope to have "the choicest" on inspection. Then, with an arena, combined with lecture-rooms, waiting and other necessary rooms, as suggested in Mr. Dods' plans, information could be placed before those desiring it in the most approved manner possible.

Mr. Dryden frowns on the introduction of horse exhibits at the Winter Fair, still he says information in regard to the horse industry might profitably be given. To my mind, the horse industry is one of the most neglected of all the various lines of farming, and one which can, through proper teaching, be made the most profitable. From experience, I would say that nothing teaches so well as close competition in the ring, and if horse classes were discussed as fully as sheep and cattle classes, the horse business would be revolutionized. To show to what magnitude it is possible to bring such a fair, let us imagine there were classes as good as the Amos heifer, exhibited for comparison only at the last Winter Fair. I would venture to say that if there had been some steers as good as that heifer at the Fair, the champion wouldn't have been within calling distance of the top. This but shows the possibilities of a good fair, held under proper conditions. It has been experienced many times, at big auction sales of live stock, that, when those attending had been comfortably seated, after a good dinner, the bidding was brisk and hearty. Likewise, if, under similar conditions, these men, in a happy frame of mind, sit around a ring where knowledge of live stock is being disseminated, more will be mentally made use of than under any badly-lighted, poorly-ventilated, poorly-fed conditions, such as prevail at Guelph.

The Union Stock-yards Co., of West Toronto, is one of the largest live-stock centers in Canada, where, through the energies of a few able men, magnificent facilities have been established for the handling of stock for sale. The business of the Stock-yards Company is to handle live stock on commission, or, rather, facilitate such handling. They wish to obtain the highest prices for their patrons, supply their customers with stock of better quality, and generally advance the cause of live-stock interests. Why they should be interested in educational movements can be easily

understood, for, the better the quality, the higher the prices, and the higher the price, the greater the commission—more money for farmer, drover, stock commissioner, and more business for the Stock-yards Company. Stock-yard companies, whether in Canada or the United States, are vitally interested in live-stock improvement. The West Toronto Company is, unfortunately, not in a financial position to spend \$100,000 or \$200,000 in the erection of an arena, and of lecture-rooms, to show classes and lecture thereon. They have made a proposition to the breeders of the country, whereby they could establish, not only a spectacular show, but an educational exhibition such as Canada has never seen. A spectacular show is of no advantage to the Union Stock-yards Company, but an educational fair would be of inestimable value. The proposition presented by Mr. Dods at a meeting of stock-breeders attending the sales held in the Yards in February last, to which meeting, if I am not mistaken, Mr. Dryden was invited, but could not attend, was, concisely, as follows: That, for the purpose of mutual benefit and co-operation between breeders of the various kinds of live stock and the Union Stock-yards Co., an organization, to be called The Canadian National Live-stock Exposition Association, be formed, whose members should qualify by paying a life-membership of \$100. When one hundred members are secured, they are to meet and appoint a board of seven directors, which board could proceed to secure four hundred additional life-members at the \$100 each. This would give a fund of \$40,000 or \$50,000. If this money is secured, the Stock-yards Company agree to supply the balance necessary for the erection of the necessary arena, as before mentioned. Had Mr. Dryden been at that meeting, he would have been struck with the unanimity of all present to form the coalition that would, as Mr. Peter White, of

and encouraging him to continue in his efforts, saying the new show is a necessity. The writer has spoken to men closely connected with the Winter Fair, the names of whom the sanctity of private conversation prevents him from using; they all agree that the idea is right.

The present scheme—the formation of a Canadian National Winter Fair Association—is a chance for the influential breeders and stockmen to become banded together in the cause of general good. The influence of such a representative body of men could hardly be estimated in securing rational consideration of agricultural problems. With such a possibility in view, it would be well for the proposed board to be independent of the Government, not accepting any grant, and so being unpledged and uninfluenced. In this way, and in this way only, a truly open show can be conducted. In such a farmers' fair, any features may be given prominence that a cool-headed, clear-thinking board of breeders and farmers might consider best for the welfare of the farming community as a whole.

For the information of those who may be uninformed, resolutions are before the various breeders' organizations for the consideration of the advisability of bringing about the amalgamation of the Winter Fair and the Spring Stallion Show (Ontario Horse-breeders' Exhibition), and holding the combined show at West Toronto. As the mover of those resolutions, I may say I intend to see the project has proper ventilation, for I know full well that the show, as outlined, is possible, and when a reality, if properly managed, should prove of inestimable value to the Ontario farmer. I have no wish to detract from any good the Winter Fair, as at present conducted, has accomplished—honor where honor is due—but, in return, I demand a serious consideration of this project, which has met with almost universal approval from all classes of breeders.

Mr. Dods has been somewhat disheartened by the tardiness with which subscriptions for the furtherance of this project have been coming in. Perhaps this being a lean year has something to do with that. Perhaps some breeders who would like to subscribe think the agitation recently started was but a flash in the pan. Right here, for those who have fully considered the matter from all sides, and have listed among the subscribers, I may say we are all enthusiastic, we are all serious, and we are all working for what we consider the good of the greatest business in the world, stock breeding and feeding.

This is no money-making scheme, no get-rich-quick organization, but a body of sane, honorable men who are anxious to see a good Canadian Winter Fair, worthy of the country that can send champion fat steers, champion fat sheep, champion stallions and mares, to the great Chicago International; men who are anxious to place before the younger men of the country, for their inspection and profit, the best the country produces; and men who wish to place Canadian products in front of the world in a Canadian show.

Ontario Co., Ont.

R. E. GUNN.

THE DUBLIN SPRING SHOW.

That world-famed event, the Dublin Cattle Show, has just passed for another year, with all its usual bustle and excitement, having been held at Ballsbridge from the 21st to the 24th of April. The exhibition was, in most respects, a thorough success, and quite upheld the high standard established in previous years. Of course, it must be admitted that the competitions lacked much of the international interest formerly associated with them, as cross-channel exhibits were prohibited by the foot-and-mouth restrictions imposed recently on all importations from Britain by our Department of Agriculture. But this was not altogether an unmitigated disadvantage, as, with the exception of one or two English owners who had bulls in the country prior to the promulgation of the orders, the Irish breeders had no outside competition to contend against, and nearly all the prizes were retained at home.

The weather—always an important factor—was not so favorable as usual: dull and threatening on the first day; rainy on the second; snow on



Celtic Prince (imp.) [5313] (12901).

Clydesdale stallion; foaled May, 1904; sire Everlasting, by Pride; dam by Hiawatha; grandam by Prince of Wales (673). Owned by A. F. O'Neil, Maple Grove, Ont.

Pembroke, said, "Enable us to place our goods in Canadian front windows, and attract the world by the display." Mr. Dods showed what other shows have done as to numerical attendance, gate money, etc., and if such shows are parallel, a future of the proposed exhibition is assured.

If this Canadian International were made a farmers' independent fair, neither asking nor receiving Government assistance, it could then be taken out of the field of political influence and be made, through its own merit, the most important exhibition, from the farmer's standpoint, we have in Canada. Farmers are the men asked to subscribe to the forming of the fair. Farmers will have the control of the fair, and can make the educational features suitable to the farmers' needs. The idea would be to offer prizes sufficiently tempting to bring out the best individuals in every line of live stock, and taking the Winter Fair as a worthy example in this regard, have these winners shown later in commodious lecture-rooms to comfortably-seated throngs of farmers searching for the knowledge their own liberality has made possible for them to acquire. The show, as proposed, would be like the present Winter Fair in every respect, only far outclassing it in prizes offered, classes shown, entries and attendance, held within a few minutes' car ride from the best Toronto hotels and boarding houses, in the only collection of buildings suitable for such a show in the Province.

Why can not this progressive scheme meet with the approval, not only of the press, but the people as a whole? The writer has been talking to breeders of all classes of stock; they all say the plan is good. He has letters thanking him