

not to make dividends or direct profit on the investment, but, rather, to reap the full advantage in the handling, shipping and marketing of the product, with just enough charge per barrel to pay expenses and a low rate of interest. This is the fundamental difference between a true co-operative association, such as those they have in Denmark, and an ordinary joint-stock company. There is always a tendency for a mere joint-stock company, comprising men seeking investment, to run the enterprise so as to make profits on its investment, thus often killing the goose that lays the golden egg. Co-operative associations are warned to guard against this by refusing to admit men looking merely for investment. Keep the stock of the co-operative association among the growers themselves; if necessary, borrow money to run the concern, but on no account let outside men have any finger in the pie.

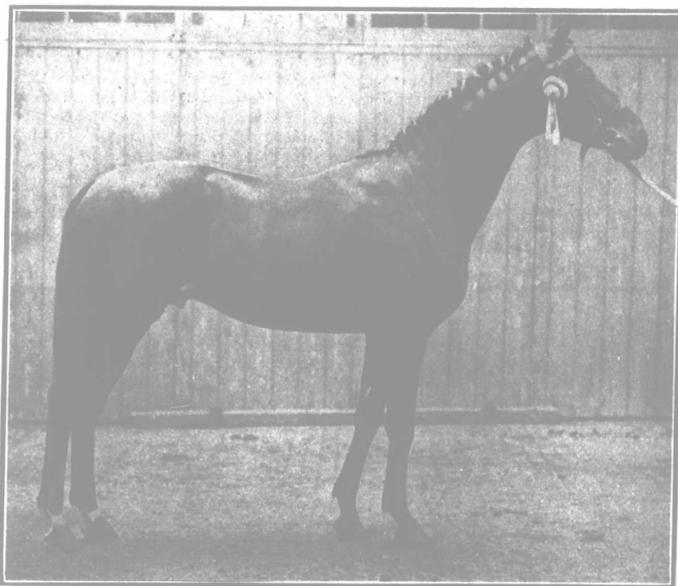
Then, stand loyally by the association to which you belong. On no account be seduced by any tempting offer to sell independently. Fortunately, there is less and less danger of this, for the experience has been that the co-operative associations nearly always succeed in realizing better prices than the men who sell outside to the buyers, notwithstanding that these frequently offer their best prices, with the object of disrupting the co-operative movement. But even if the buyer's price looks ever so good, turn him down. In the long run, it is to the unmistakable interest of every grower to have the association succeed, and its success depends on YOU.

#### MUSLIN - CURTAIN VENTILATION.

Recent contributions to this paper regarding the new idea of muslin-curtain ventilation of stables, indicate that the discussion through these columns last winter on the subject of basement stables in general and ventilation in particular, was very timely, very much to the point, and not unlikely to have paved the way for the general introduction into this country of a radical revolution in methods of ventilating barns, and possibly dwellings as well. There is universal need for a cheap, efficient system of ventilation, especially in the case of basement stables, and while we are not yet in a position to speak confidently, it begins to look as though one has been found, one which, like many other modern agricultural discoveries, such as the air-cure for milk fever, the split-log drag for earth-road maintenance, and the formalin treatment of seed grain for smut, is simple as A B C. It cuts out the carpenter, with his box flues, and gets right back to first principles. It is nothing more or less than taking out the upper part of each window-frame and inserting a frame on which has been stretched a single thickness of canvas, muslin, or ordinary factory cotton. This will not let in so much light as glass panes, hence, if the window space of the stable is limited, extra apertures would have to be provided, or perhaps holes could be cut in the doors and covered with canvas. The muslin may be purchased for six or eight cents a yard, and will last one or two seasons without renewal. Those who have had experience say it ventilates the stable admirably, keeping the inside atmosphere pure, dry and pleasant, without allowing unpleasant drafts. E. M. Santee, Assistant Dairyman, U. S. Department of Agriculture, reports having used it with excellent satisfaction since 1900 in Central New York, where the mercury dropped to 40 degrees below zero. One naturally wonders whether it would work well in very calm weather, though none of our correspondents report any difficulty from this cause, and calm is probably no more disadvantage in this than in other systems of ventilation. At any rate, the plan is so simple, so cheap, and so favorably spoken of, that no reader will have any excuse for failing to try it himself this winter. Those building new barns would do well to consider the advisability of making the windows fairly deep and providing double sashes, for one of which the muslin-curtain frame may be substituted, if desired.

Where did the idea originate? Poultrymen were, as a class, the first to seize upon it, and their experience has been surprisingly favorable. Prof. Graham, of the O. A. C., reports that in single-board houses with open fronts, provided

with a single thickness of canvas that may be dropped in cold weather, the temperature has been fully as high as in similar houses with close glass windows, while the atmosphere in the former case was much purer and drier. Many other poultrymen have had similar experience, and modern poultry houses are quite generally built with part glass and part curtain fronts, the glass being to admit light, the curtain to admit light and to ventilate the pen. But it remained to adapt the idea to cattle and other stables. Last winter we noticed in some American exchanges correspondence on the subject of muslin ventilation for stock stables. Among the letters was one by Mr. Santee, above referred to, who strongly championed the idea. We at once wrote Mr. Santee, and in reply received a letter, which was published June 27th; also the addresses of some other practical dairymen and stock-raisers who had tried the plan. These were written to direct, and their letters have been appearing from week to week. They are worth careful thought. At this stage it will not do to indulge oversanguine expectations, but we shall be disappointed if the muslin curtain does not prove better for the average stockman than any system of ventilation now in vogue. Try it and report.



Kennington King.

Thoroughbred stallion. A King's Premium winner.

#### OUR MARITIME LETTER.

##### UNIFICATION AND DIRECTION OF ORGANIZED EFFORT.

There is a feeling among those who have the agricultural interests of this great sea division at heart that some unifying system of organization is requisite to get anything like best results from husbandry in these parts, and turn its face confidently to the future, which elsewhere is keyed to its highest note of hopefulness. It may be that elsewhere there is also a lamentable want of uniform effort, and if so, then the desirable has not been completely attained; but here in Maritime Canada, whilst the general principles of modern agriculture are embraced and worked out fairly well in the operations connected with agronomy and the handling of herds, there is much which could be effected still in these lines, and in all the other departments of general farming as understood here, by some sort of direction emanating from a source recognized as able to give the last and best word in all this teaching economy. We were hopeful that this source and fountain, whence might flow the saving stream of true scientific direction, would be found in the new and vigorous school which had sprung up at Truro, under the generous favor of the Nova Scotian Government. We are still hopeful that this may be the case in the future, but the desirable works out slowly, and, in the meantime, much is lost in time, energy, and money, too, by the delay in recognizing this center and aiding it to a proper discharge of the great duty ready to be done.

This function has, however, been postponed, if we may so speak, by conflicting and confounding

influences, too, from the seat of power federally and in the Provinces. The central power has plans of its own, and they have so long run through the hands of its own favorites that it is hard to secure their playing in with the general interest, which, however, should be at all times paramount, seeing that it is the money of the commonality that is taken and the well-being of the same that is pretended. The local administrations in the other small divisions of territory have also their old plans and planners, and it is not always easy to turn one or the other to new and efficient systems of official activity. Then, there are prejudices to be overcome throughout the entire territory served, and one croaker can keep back the wheels of progress much more effectively than half a dozen workers can push them forward. The politicians, too, are so much afraid of the voter, and the voter, unfortunately, always seems to be incarnated in the croaker for the moment. It takes time and persistent and unselfish effort to bring all round to the true way in anything advocated; but time and honest effort will accomplish it ultimately. Nobody need then despair; and nobody need imagine, either, that he can forever obstruct the useful and desirable in the community.

If you have a perfect commonwealth, of course,

the individuals who participate in the advantages of solidarity, could, without much guidance from its center, carry on their respective duties successfully, and possibly tend to the highest perfection themselves. But who will argue any such present condition for our Canadian States? We are yet in the embryo stage with regard to agriculture. A very great deal has been done, but of ourselves we have originated little. We are the beneficiaries of other nations—often the greatly despised Latins—and the properly-disposed beneficiary is waiting and hoping and striving to acquit some day his debt and remove the obligation of gratitude to others, preferably those who have so often accommodated him in his straits. But, in order to do anything of real national

importance, we must be nationally organized to this end. The Provinces and the Central Authority should work in consort. Autonomy is a very good divisional cry to rally the political forces with; it is indeed a very good and proper cry betimes anywhere; but in matters agricultural we need some sort of federal direction which will unite with its own in one harmonious whole the scattered effort of the different local stations. We know how difficult it is to operate the Imperium in Imperio principle, but it is, in modification at least, a desideratum; and, in this age of co-operation, it but wants to be worked out successfully in practice.

Coming back again to where we started, it does seem necessary, then, that all sources of authority conspire to unify and advance the agriculture of these sea-laved Provinces in conjunction with the rest of Canada. If the Central Source is to be constituted in the Experimental Farms, then we should like to see a greater entente between them and the Local Sources. If, on the other hand, this first source is to yearly become more and more a special study and nursery for the West, compensating treatment should be given to the institutions we have down here, and the new ones projected, if planted judiciously and maintained generously, as auxiliaries to our own source of direction, could not fail to prove beneficial. We would like to see Truro the acknowledged Maritime center of authority; the Federal and Local Governments might have secured to us long ago this boon in agricultural direction; it could stretch from end to end of these Provinces, and dispose all things satisfactorily, if only en-