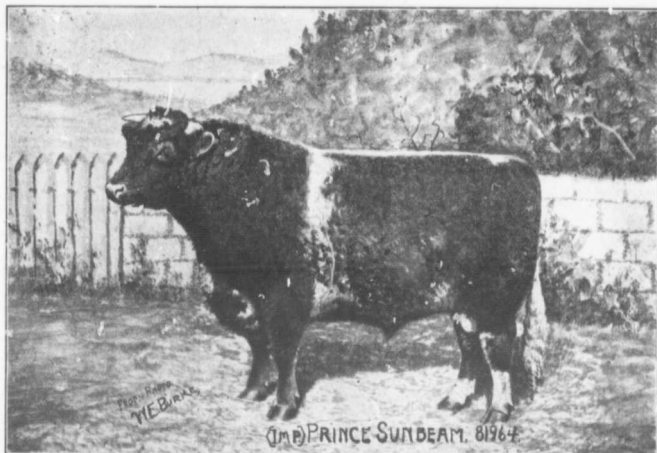




Imported Shorthorn Bull, Prince Sunbeam, a grandson of the great Scottish Archer (59893) and descended on his dam's side from the great Heatherwick Mayflower family. Owned by W. D. Flatt, Trout Creek Farm, Hamilton, Ont.

Canadian Seed Growers' Association

Representatives of the agricultural interests from all parts of Canada met in Ottawa on June 15th and 16th and formed an organization, the work of which will, no doubt, have a most far-reaching effect upon Canadian agriculture. The meeting was called by Prof. J. W. Robertson, Commissioner of Agriculture and Dairying. The successful outcome of the MacDonald seed grain competition, so ably managed by Prof. Robertson, has shown what can be accomplished by the careful selection and improvement of seeds. Four hundred and fifty young people carried it through to the third year. And marvellous were the results. In the case of oats, there was an increase of 27 per cent. in the weight of grain produced from the selected seed as compared with the average crop of the farm. In spring wheat the increase was 28 per cent. Though this was due to some extent to better care and cultivation generally, the greater part was due to selection. In addition to these, 22 per cent. of the practical farmers associated with this work reported an improvement in their general crops from selected seed.

To extend and carry on this work, so well begun, what was known as the MacDonald-Robertson Seed Growers' Association was formed a year ago, having for its membership those who had taken part in the three years' competition and others who had done successful work by seed selection. The new organization, which will be known as the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, will continue and extend the work begun by the MacDonald-Robertson Association. Branch associations may be formed, and every effort made to select to improve the seed grown in all parts of the Dominion. More than this, the work will be systematized and pure seed produced by a careful selection of the growing plants during three or more consecutive years, recognized by a certificate of registration. In other words, operating members of the Association who carefully follow the directions will

have their selected seed recorded and be granted a certificate by which such seed shall be known as pure-bred or improved seed. Our readers are quite familiar with the recording of pure-bred live stock. The work of recording to be conducted by the Canadian Seed Growers' Association, will be somewhat similar, but with this distinction, that while the live stock breeder can register an animal of inferior quality, so long as the breeding is right, the plant breeder cannot do so. He must have quality as well as pedigree in the seed he offers for registration. Seed, good enough to merit a certificate will therefore be of a quality that will ensure its being of very much greater value than ordinary grown seed.

Upon this basis the Association begins its work. To start with, records will be kept of seeds of wheat, oats, barley, flax, corn, millet, peas, beans and potatoes, grown by members according to the regulations laid down for their guidance. Work with other seeds will be taken up later. The Association will comprise operating and honorary members. Its work will be in the immediate charge of the Department of Agriculture. It starts under most favorable auspices, having the promise from the Hon. Mr. Fisher of a liberal grant with which to carry on the work.

The officers for the current year are: President, Prof. Robertson; Secretary-Treasurer, G. H. Clark, Chief of Seed Division, Ottawa. Executive Council—The President, Secretary, and C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C.; G. A. Gignault, Quebec; W. F. Davidson, Quebec; C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario; J. H. Grisdale, Ottawa Experimental Farm.

Directors—Dr. Jas. W. Robertson, Ottawa; Prof. C. A. Zavitz, O.A.C., Guelph, Ont.; Prof. C. C. James, Toronto; G. A. Gignault, Quebec; Prof. J. H. Grisdale, Ottawa; Walter Simpson, Bay View, P.E.I.; Thos. A. Peters, Fredericton, N.B.; W. S. Davidson, Bethel, Que.; George Harcourt, Regina, N.W.T.; John Mooney,

Valley River, Man.; J. H. Smith, Langbank, Ont.; J. W. Wheaton, Toronto; W. L. Smith, Toronto; Wm. Thompson, Derwent, Ont.; Dr. W. Grignon, Ste. Adèle, Que.; F. L. Fuller, Truro, N.S.; Geo. Batho, Winnipeg; W. D. Albright, Sussex, N.B.; Thos. W. Drysdale, Allan's Corners, Que.; S. A. Belford, Brandon, Man.; J. R. Anderson, Victoria, B.C.

To Regulate U. S. Seed Trade

Canada is not the only country seeking to regulate the seed trade. Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, at Washington, is sending out the following in reference to impure seeds: "The act of Congress making appropriations for the Department of Agriculture for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1905, contains the following: 'The Secretary of Agriculture is hereby directed to obtain in the open market samples of seed of grass, clover, or alfalfa, test the same, and if any such seeds are found to be adulterated, or misbranded, or any seeds of Canada blue grass (poa compressa) are obtained under any other name than Canada bluegrass or poa compressa, to publish the results of the tests, together with the names of the persons by whom the seeds were offered for sale.' Announcement is hereby made that the collection and testing of seeds, as directed by this act, will begin July 1, 1904."

Will Refine Raw Sugar

The acreage of beets at the Wallaceburg factory will be far in excess of what it was last year. After this season's operations are over, it is expected that some important changes will be made. It is proposed to install machinery for the refining of raw sugar on an extensive scale. This raw sugar will be brought in from the West Indies or from Cuba and can be landed at the factory without rehandling. It is not possible to get enough beets to keep the factory running for more than three months of the year. With this extra equipment the full staff of employees would be retained for ten or eleven months of the year.