

diminutive cow. Moreover, there should be smaller live-stock cars built, in which, as in England, the animals would be unable to annoy each other; and in which it is not difficult to imagine four or five different classifications of animals being conveyed. Classification! ay, there's the rub. There is, we believe, an august body appointed by the several railway companies, of which a Mr. Quinn, of the N. R. R. sits as chairman. This is the classification committee, and the farmer who should chance to ascertain the date and place of their sitting, might be tempted to raise them in everybody's estimation—with just a wee pickel of dynamite. These most respectable gentlemen presumably knew nothing of the farmers' wants, of the business which they so sadly curtail, or of the "ways of the beast" which they undertake to classify. We know of one instance in which the charge on a yearling bull, weighing about 700 lbs., shipped from a station about forty miles west of Hamilton to Barrie was \$17. The reply to the remonstrance of the breeder was, that owing to the *dangerous tendencies* of such animals the rate had to be made high, as nothing else could be put in the car. Now, yearling bulls have always been tied up in their stables, and tied in a car they behave at least with the decorum of a county judge on the bench, and this last named biped would have performed the journey in one quarter of the time, in a luxuriously upholstered car for about a quarter of the charge levied on the poor innocent quadruped. The classification committee has labeled yearling bulls dangerous; but farmers know that at that age bulls are as quiet as sheep, and later in life only those who have been improperly handled develop a dangerous temper. A few weeks later it should be added, this same railway took thirty of identically the same class—yearling bulls—from the same station to Chicago, about 400 miles for \$60, or at the rate of \$2 apiece, for four times the distance, and it is not recorded that the dangerous animals hurt each other on the way. The classification committee would do well to call in an expert when they next revise their tariff. The mischief worked by extravagant local charges is immense. Without the dissemination of thoroughbred yearling bulls our Province cannot rise equal to the present demand for well-bred shipping steers. The diminution of this trade would hurt the railways. Buyers invariably want a yearling, so that, we think we have made out a case for the classification committee.

Reverting to the matter of show animals, we are aware that the railways claim much credit for carrying beasts both ways for one fare. But looking to the enormous increase in their volume of business done in September, as witness the public returns, it is a question if they should not carry animals certified as exhibited, free both ways. Certainly at present their charges are too high, for inquiries made of live-stock exhibitors, both at London and Toronto, showed that many had roaded their exhibits from distances sometimes exceeding forty miles. Again, if exhibitors, having come from Whitby to London, wanted on their return to stop off with their animals at Toronto, they were informed that they must pay return freight from London to Toronto. Such suicidal greed practised on the class that ought to be their most favored source of business can have only one end. It was by a legalized imposition on the farmers that competing roads were built. These locally subsidized roads have everywhere been gathered into the fold of the G. T. R. or C. P. R. That is bad enough; but if fusion is taken advantage of not to terminate ruinous cutting of rates, but to raise rates till farmers are unable to do business, farmers must show that they are the most in-

fluential class in the community; and through those who aspire to represent them in Parliament, must insist on the passage of McCarthy's Act for the appointing of a railway commission with even more power over rates than has yet been contemplated. A crusade against the railways must sooner or later be organized. Union is strength, and there are those able and willing to lead the way.

The Herd Book Question.

At a meeting of the members of the British American Shorthorn Association held in the Secretary's office, on the 14th of September, a committee composed of the President, John Dryden, M. P. P.; Jas. Hunter, Sunnyside, Alma, and Arthur Johnsr, Greenwood, was designated to confer with the Committee appointed some time since by the Agricultural and Art's Association of Ontario, as to the feasibility of having but one Shorthorn herd book in the Dominion. Our readers will remember that the latter Committee is composed of Messrs Drury, M. P. P.; Carnegie, M. P. P.; and J. C. Snell. The selection of the respective committees is an excellent one and augurs well for the success ultimately of the work in hand. That the task committed to the committee is an exceedingly arduous one must be patent to every person at all conversant with the nature of the past relations of the two herd books, and one that will require the most charitable forbearance on the part of the members of the committee when met in conference.

That it is very desirable that the Shorthorn breeders be represented by but one herd book will, we think, be conceded by all; that this result can be attained where the minds of men are so set, is equally patent, notwithstanding the difficulties in the way, and that the movement must fall to the ground unless both parties are prepared to make some concessions is quite as apparent. Concessions must be made even in the marriage contract, the most beautiful exhibition of the blending of interests that is given to the race.

The appointment of the committees at all is to be interpreted favorably, as it surely indicates a desire on the part of both organizations to bring about a better state of things, to dispel the cloud that has been lowering for some years past over the Canadian Shorthorn horizon, and the choice of the representative men selected, as we have already indicated, gives rich promise of better things.

That the change can be brought about without some interests, individual or otherwise, clashing, is impossible, while it is exceedingly improbable that it can be done without serious loss to some.

It would not be wise at this stage of the proceedings to say much as to what the changes are likely to be; yet it is perhaps only prudent to prepare the minds of all Shorthorn breeders for one very probable result—that is, that in any event the standard is not likely to be lowered. That any should lose must of course be a matter of deep regret to every person, yet at the same time it is surely important that the evolved herd book be of such a nature that it will not require to be patched up again, and that will secure recognition from the herd book associations, both of Britain and the United States. We may add here that in such an event the writer of this article will be of the number of the sufferers; yet he is prepared to lose, if the result is for the general good of the Shorthorn breeders of Ontario.

The work must necessarily take some time, and it is better that it should be so. Its importance demands careful consideration. Nothing about it is of

that nature which requires unwise haste to bring about a certain end. The committee are, however, soon to meet, so that we will not have very long to wait for further indications.

The Dorset Horned Sheep.

Not very long since in penning a jolting in a late number of the JOURNAL we asked the question, Why is it that we have no Dorset horned sheep in this country? Sooner than we expected the question has been answered by Messrs. E. & A. Stanford, of Steyning, Sussex, England, and Markham, Canada, who have brought over 27 head (ewes) of this class of sheep and two ram lambs, the first that have ever been brought to the country. Some of them were on exhibition at the Provincial and Toronto shows.

They are trim, clean-looking sheep, interestingly shy, with bodies rather long, and wool not very long and of about medium fibre. They are a little longer in the neck than some breeds, have nice intelligent-looking faces, a little cone-shaped and broad between the eyes, and both ewes and lambs have long and beautifully curved horns. The tails are left pretty long, which seems in keeping with their graceful movements. We would certainly take them to be a hardy sheep, the lithe motions of which would adapt them well to hilly farms. We apprehend that they will take on flesh readily, and should find abundant room as a mutton sheep in this country, particularly in the east and north of Ontario, in Quebec and in the Maritime Provinces.

A very striking characteristic of these sheep in England is that they breed twice a year. Those we saw were due to lamb in November, but it remains to be determined as to whether they will retain this characteristic in our colder climate. If so they will be prolific indeed. The produce of one ewe in England has been known to sum up £13 in one year. They were much admired and proved one of the most interesting features of the stock department of the London and Toronto Exhibitions.

Who Is the Breeder?

At the recent Toronto Industrial Exhibition Mr. Joseph Redmond, of Peterboro, was desirous of exhibiting four Shorthorn calves in the class for Canadian bred animals; but as the dam of one of them had not been in his possession at the time of the service, although he had purchased her and brought her homeward some time before the calf had been dropped, exception was taken as to his right to exhibit, on the ground that he was not the breeder of that calf; and on the same ground he was ruled out. This we consider a matter of no little importance and one that should be made perfectly clear, so that there could be no misunderstanding in future. It is very disappointing to prepare an animal for exhibition in all good faith and then be told at the very last moment that the same is not eligible, and all the more so if the question be one that affords grounds for difference of view, as in the present instance. In such a case the "prisoner should have the benefit of the doubt," and we are not sure (the show rules being as they are) if Mr. Redmond could have been debarred from exhibiting. At all events we feel that he should not have been so debarred in the instance referred to. Yet others may and do honestly think differently.

To establish the point that there is room for difference of view we may say that one of the officials of the Industrial favored the act of Mr. Redmond, and had the case been our own we certainly had had no compunctions of conscience in doing as he did. Looking at it from a physiological standpoint it must be con-