

Ayrshire Breeders' Meeting.

The Ayrshire breeders of Canada held their ninth annual meeting at the Albion Hotel, Toronto, on February 14th, Mr. W. W. Ballantyne, president, in the chair. The following members were present: Messrs. W. Stewart, jr., Menie; Jos. Yuill, Carleton Place; Jas. McCormack, Rockton; John Crosbie, Campbellford; H. Eyre, Harlem; W. Nicol, Plattsville; W. Baldack, Mount Charles; John Jackson, Meadowvale.

In his address Mr. Ballantyne spoke of some changes in the prize list made last year at Toronto show, and some further desirable changes. He thought that when cows in the dairy class were judged in the morning, they should not be milked that morning. He would like a class for a young herd in place of one for four calves. He also favored the abolishing of the appendix to the herdbook. Mr. Eyre, in discussing the address, spoke against any change in the herdbook.

The secretary-treasurer's report showed that registrations during last year were 549, and there were 881 pedigrees ready for Vol. 3. Fifty-six members paid their fees during the past year. There was a balance on hand of \$73.03. The secretary read the letter written by Mr. A. Johnston, Greenwood, on behalf of the Shorthorn Association, to the railway authorities, in reference to the increase of tariff rates on small shipments of cattle, and a resolution was passed denouncing the increase and asking for better rates.

Mr. Eyre moved a resolution, which was carried: "That everything having been done to remove the embargo on cattle in Great Britain without success, this association asks the Dominion Government to arrange with the American Government for the removal of the quarantine on cattle between these two countries, there being no danger from contagious diseases, and that a great impetus would be given to breeding interests by such action."

Mr. H. J. Hill, manager of the Toronto exhibition, was present to request the association to fall into line with other associations by agreeing to have live stock on the show grounds by Thursday noon of the first week. A motion was passed agreeing to this.

The election of officers then followed. Mr. Eyre was elected president; Mr. Crosbie, vice-president for Ontario; and all the other vice-presidents were re-elected. The following are directors: Messrs. Ballantyne, Yuill, Stewart, McCormack, Steacy, W. M. Smith, Guy, Kains, Nicol. Delegates to Toronto show, Messrs. Ballantyne and McCormack; to London,

Messrs. M. Ballantyne and Kains; to Ottawa, Messrs. Yuill and J. C. Smith, Hintonburg. Auditors, G. W. Green and J. Weld.

A list of judges was drawn up, as follows: M. Ballantyne, St. Marys; H. G. Clark, Brampton; A. Kains, Byron; J. McCormack, Rockton; H. E. Eyre, Harlem; W. Stewart, jr., Menie; J. Crosbie, Campbellford; W. Hunter, Lancaster; W. M. Smith, Fairfield Plains; R. G. Steacy, Lyn; Thos. White, Branchton; A. Hume, Burnbrae; J. H. Douglas, Warkworth; W. Hyslop, Smith's Falls.

Mr. Ballantyne moved that, in the prize list, the age of animals under one year count from August 1st, and under six months from February 1st. This was carried. He also wished a change made in the section for bull and four of his get at Toronto, to read, "Four animals the get of one sire, sire not to be shown," and that a new class be made for bull calves under six months. This was endorsed by the meeting. He also moved that the section for four calves bred and owned by exhibitor be changed to "Young herd under two years, consisting of one bull and four females, females to be bred and owned by exhibitor." The feeling of the meeting was against the change; but it was agreed to move for an additional section for young herd, as follows: "Bull under two years, heifer two years old and under three, heifer under two years, heifer under one year, heifer under six months."

Mr. Yuill, in a well-written paper, spoke of the Ayrshire cow as a typical farmer's cow. She thrives on poor pastures, and gives a good flow of rich milk. He mentioned some characteristics of Ayrshires, and gave a review of prizes won by them in the past few years in competition with other breeds.

Mr. Stewart followed with an excellent paper on "The Ayrshire Cow." After referring to the right way to develop a dairy cow from calfhood, he emphasized the necessity of selecting only first-class stock, and of the best milking families. Sometimes an exceptional milker was found in poor milking families, but it could not be depended on to reproduce those good qualities. He gave some of the chief characteristics of a good milker.

Mr. Eyre read a paper on "Ayrshire Matters," written in his own happy style, in which he referred to the enquiries he made before selecting Ayrshires as the breed most suitable to his wants. He urged on breeders to abstain from reflecting on other breeders' herds in order to effect sales.

A vote of thanks was passed to the readers of the papers, and also to Mr. Ballantyne for his attention to Ayrshire interests during his presidency in 1895.