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EDITORIAL.

The Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association.

The financial standing and influential status of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, as indicated in the report of their annual meeting, appearing elsewhere in this issue, furnishes striking evidence of the value to the breeders of keeping control of the pedigree records of their stock, and of its paramount influence as a bond, keeping its units together in close touch with all its interests. It also evidences the undoubted ability of intelligent farmers, with a community of interests, to manage the affairs of their Association on broad and liberal lines, without drifting into extravagant expenditure of the funds of the Association. With a total paid-up membership of over two thousand, entitled, on payment of an annual fee of two dollars, to the volume of herdbook published each year, and to the moderate fee of seventy-five cents for registration and certificate for each animal recorded, the society has been able to donate to leading exhibition associations in the various Provinces, in the years 1895 to 1904, as prizes for Shorthorns, the generous sum of \$22,607, and has yet a cash balance on hand of nearly \$4,000. The distribution of a liberal share of its surplus funds in the form of prizes for the encouragement of a strong representation of the breed at the principal shows has been beneficial to the fraternity in advertising the breed, thus keeping it prominently before the people; while, by offering prizes at the fat-stock shows for grades, the get of Shorthorn bulls, the advantage to farmers generally of improving the quality of their beef cattle by the use of such sires has been well exemplified, an object lesson which can hardly fail to increase the demand and enlarge the market for pure-bred stock. The distribution of these grants for prizes has been made to the various Provinces in a general way, in proportion to the amount received from each in membership and registration fees, with a liberal allowance over and above their share to the districts where the representation is smallest.

In addition to the regular business transacted at the annual meeting, the members took occasion to place themselves unmistakably on record as reaffirming, by a practically unanimous vote, their determination to keep in their own hands the custody and control of their records, and to distribute their money grants directly to the shows and for the objects intended to be aided, and not through another organization, which might be used to the detriment of the donors. The question of the nationalizing of our records is an interesting one, and well worth considering, but if, in order to their establishment, the breeders are required to hand over their property to parties over whom they have no direct control, then they will just have to worry along as they have been doing, and with what results has already been shown. For the purpose of international interchange in respect to our pure-bred stock going to the St. Louis Exhibition, the Dominion Government authorized and affixed their imprimatur upon the Canadian records, whose high standing and authenticity are well known and recognized, and this can be done regularly and for all necessary purposes.

Another important matter taken up by the Shorthorn breeders is that covered by their resolution asking the Government to apply restrictive rules dealing with the importation into this country of pure-bred stock. The U. S. customs regu-

lations require that in the case of pure-bred live stock going into that country, in order to pass free of duty, the animals must first be recorded in recognized United States records, and be imported by a bona-fide resident of the States, not for sale, but solely for breeding purposes. The Shorthorn breeders complain that the present arrangement is unfair, in that residents of other countries are allowed to bring into our country for sale, free of duty for breeding purposes, animals recorded in United States books, and those of other foreign countries, which, it is contended, is unfair to Canadian breeders, and should be remedied by the adoption here of the same restrictions, to be applied in the case of stock coming from the United States and other foreign countries into Canada.

There is sound reason in this contention, and while we are not advocates of retaliatory legislation, we believe that little loss would accrue to our own people by the adoption by our Government of the proposed restrictions, and that very few of our people would raise objection.

Some Dairy Possibilities.

In an address before the Dairymen of Western Ontario, at Stratford last week, Mr. C. C. James, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, gave a most analytical exposition of the dairy industry in Canada. In a sense, the presence of our cheese and butter in the British market, he said, is the evidence of the growth of dairying in the Dominion. But when we come to look into the different phases of dairying, we must consider the exporter, the local dealer, the maker, the patron, the cow, the fields and the field crops. An industry with such various connections must necessarily require the exercise of the most superior intelligence. It has often been said, and it is still true to-day, that dairying is the most intricate of agricultural sciences. Nor is it simply an intricate science. It is also the most reliable branch of farming, thus affording a most substantial inducement to that large class of farmers who elect to follow an industry requiring the exercise of so much skill and intelligence. The industry has the further advantage in that it is capable of greater expansion than almost any other line of work. Beginning with the fields, there are infinite possibilities for the farmer in the work of increasing and conserving fertility, in developing the latent possibilities of grains, roots and other crops, in grading up our herds to the maximum standard of production, in the better care of milk and cream. For the maker there is the work of improving quality, inaugurating more extensive systems of co-operation, in maintaining uniformity of product, and in elevating the status of the profession. For the dealers there are monumental tasks, pregnant with incalculable results by way of increased profits. Markets must be captured and extended, transportation problems must be solved, condition of buying, shipping, storage and selling must be perfected before ideal conditions can prevail.

Ideal conditions in all branches of dairying are still a long way off, but each one concerned is urged to become familiar with the necessities of his particular work, and to pursue it with determination. It is not in the best interests of the industry that the exporter shall bother himself with the work of the maker, nor that the maker's chief work shall be to instruct the producer in the feeding of cows, growing crops or handling milk, but that each shall confine himself to the intelligent pursuit of an ideal in his particular branch.

Agricultural College Scholarships.

If we except questions relating to what is called the practical work of the farmer, perhaps no subject has been more frequently referred to in the "Farmer's Advocate" during recent years than the drift of the boy from the farm. A conspiracy of influences are working toward that end. Several contributors in these columns lately have charged the public-school course with a share of the blame. Possibly some of it lies there. The trouble does not cease with the rural public school. In the Province of Ontario, a host of fourth-form scholars as soon as they pass the "Entrance" examination are off to the most convenient or desirable Collegiate Institute or High School. If they cannot get in and out of town by train, or otherwise, daily, they board there, and get the infection of town life. For the most part, the young ladies drift on to the teaching profession, and the boys are naturally ground along toward the professions and the university. Many of those who drop out by the way gravitate into commercial life. Now, these boys may very well be regarded as the cream of the rural youth, but they are lost to agricultural pursuits. How often does anyone hear of country-reared high-school boys going to the agricultural college, where they could receive a training that would help them to become successful farmers and respect that occupation, as it, unfortunately, is not respected by a very large number of men actually engaged in it? Or, they might become agricultural teachers or investigators, and enter some of the many doors that are continually opening to men who "know" and can "do." How often does anybody hear of schools or colleges of agriculture within the halls of the Collegiate Institute? It is not in all their thoughts. No; it is the Normal School or the University or the School of Pedagogy, or perhaps the School of Science. As a general rule, we fear that the "Agricultural College" is but a name to teachers in High Schools and Collegiate Institutes. We are convinced that there should be some effective means of calling High-School students throughout Ontario to a realizing sense of the fact that there is an agricultural college where scientific instruction in agricultural directions is given, and where an education can be secured very much better suited to many of them than could possibly be secured at a university, towards which the crowds are every year thronging, unconscious of the general educational value represented by a B. S. A. (Bachelor of Scientific Agriculture) compared with a B. A. (Bachelor of Arts) degree.

As an incentive, the "Farmer's Advocate" would suggest the establishment of, say, half a dozen scholarships for the Province for Entrance to the Ontario Agricultural College, providing free tuition, say, for the four-years course. These might be competed for by students in groups of counties, and a discussion would be in order, regarding territorial and other limitations. The securing of these scholarships would be upon the basis of the Junior Matriculation examination, which is now the educational standard in the course for a B. S. A. degree. They would cover the ordinary Junior Matriculation subjects, such as mathematics, English, history, geography, Latin, German or French, with the natural sciences, but the new educational regulations in Ontario are to be more flexible in respect to choice of subjects than heretofore. This may look a little formidable, but we believe in laying good, broad, substantial foundations, so that when these young men graduate from the College they will not soon run out because of superficiality, but will be able to hold their own with credit in high positions. The day is not far