

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE DOMINION.

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with the rational and natural current of business, has little, if anything, to commend it to favor. Spoon-fed people, as a rule, fail to prove progressive, and there is no business so healthy and sound as that promoted by energetic private enterprise. This has been proven in innumerable instances by the unhappy experience of many municipal corporations in bonusing manufactories and other business schemes. In Britain, where the success of the pure-bred live-stock industry has not been paralleled elsewhere in the world, the Government have never attempted to meddle with the business, and we can find no better precedent. The industry is flourishing here, as witness the large numbers of animals imported in order to meet the increasing demand, showing the scheme to be unnecessary.

The latest instance of the injurious effects of meddling with matters of business to help farmers is that of the free distribution of pure-bred stock in the Canadian Northwest by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company—against which we protested at the time—a scheme which, in theory, no doubt looked reasonable to its promoters and commendable to some others, as the object was to improve the general stock of the country, and, at the same time, to make business for the Company in the future in the shipment of beef cattle over the road to the Eastern markets.

While the free distribution of from 80 to 120 bulls over the vast territory of our great Northwest would be but as a drop in the ocean, the announcement has been met by some several hundred applications, and the result is that the enterprising breeders of Manitoba, who invested largely in first-class stock, paying high prices and the exorbitant freight rates formerly charged by the C. P. R., find their business paralyzed, and instead of coming to the Eastern Provinces to purchase stock, as in former years, are now on their beam-ends, with over 300 bulls fit for service for sale, and waiting for something to turn up. The following extract

from the address of Mr. Walter Lynch, the retiring president of the Manitoba and Northwest Cattle Breeders' Association, vigorously sizes up the situation from his standpoint and that of the Manitoba breeders:

"I am sorry I cannot congratulate you on a more hopeful outlook for the breeders of pure-bred stock in this country. Everywhere else that industry is in a more flourishing condition than it has been for many years, and here, too, things looked promising a year ago. The trains between here and the East were filled with people going for stock or returning with the very best that could be brought in the East. To-day there is nothing of that kind. I do not know of a single person bringing in fresh stock. There may be some in the southern parts, brought in for the American markets, for I believe the C. P. R. have not extended their generosity to our American friends; but practically the business is dead, and the reason is not far to seek. The insane policy of the C. P. R. in bringing in free sires has simply paralyzed the business. This is a big country, but we cannot produce stuff of any kind here to compete with free stuff from any other place. When I speak of the insane policy of the C. P. R., I speak of their own explanation of it; that is, to improve the stock without coming into competition with the breeders of this country. All they propose to do is to supply our market with free stuff from some other place. I believe it is something a good deal worse for us than an insane policy. It looks like a deliberate attempt to smash the business in this country for the benefit of some other place or persons. Why they should want to do so, I do not know, but there is some reason for it which we will probably learn later on. Perhaps by the time our breeding establishments are closed, Mr. VanHorne or some other C. P. R. magnate will be able to supply this stuff, and then rates from the East can be made high enough to prohibit importations. But one thing we all know, it was not until after we had sent stock to the eastern exhibitions, and successfully competed in eastern showings, that they discovered we had no cattle of any account, and wanted to improve them. This discovery was made at Toronto, the center of the breeding interests of Ontario, by a Toronto man at an Ontario exhibition, surrounded by the breeders of Ontario, with these Manitoba cattle wearing their red ribbons before their eyes. It was certainly a most unfortunate time to choose to make such a discovery."

Such a scheme might be excused if there was any real need for it, and if it could be shown that the people who were looking for free stock were likely to be permanently benefited, but our observation is that those who are looking for something for nothing are not likely to take care of what they get, and it is well known that good breeding and good feeding and care must go hand-in-hand in order to satisfactory results, which is more certain to be the case when people put their own money into stock. The C. P. R. free-distribution fad involved endless difficulties, and was evidently not coming up to expectation, for at a recent convention in Winnipeg an official of the Company announced that it had been abandoned.

Canadian Products on the British Market.

FROM OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENT.

Amongst matters likely to interest your readers, I know of none more so than the question of imported Canadian produce; I mean those commodities which you produce in larger quantities than you consume, shipping the balance to our markets. It is needless going through a long list of articles, for the principle at stake in one is pretty much the same in respect to others; for instance, there is bacon, known to be sent us in large quantities from your country, and, according to reports of its purchasers, as judged by the value it realizes here, of excellent quality; yet, strange though it may appear to your readers, though I am constantly in London and at many of the leading towns of England, I do not know that I have ever seen any shop, or store, as you call them, where Canadian bacon is sold. Then, again, in respect to cheese, American is the general tune; then in respect to butter, the tune is Colonial, which includes a lot of different Colonies, but no individual one; and thus one after another of your exports might be enumerated, and few, if any, would be found to be sold as Canadian. This surely is not as it should be. I prefer, as an Englishman, to spend my money for English produce, and hence, would naturally prefer to buy that produced within the limits of the Empire rather than that from other sources. Then, again, every tub should stand upon its own bottom, or, in other words, the country producing any commodity should either have the credit or discredit, as the case may be. This matter is one that needs the attention of your authorities, it being, of course, impossible for purchasers to discriminate between the produce of one country and another; hence, it appears to me that it would be a grand thing and a great benefit to your country to have a central depot in London or Liverpool, or both, and small branches in other centers, whereat Canadian products only should be sold, and depend upon it, if those products were of that high merit and quality those

were that I had the privilege of sampling when on my trip in Canada, the demand would soon be found to repay the cost incurred. What I want to bring home to your readers, who are practically the producers of most, if not all, the commodities which would be affected, is the bare, startling fact that a far larger proportion of the Canadian produce sent us is sold under some other name than Canadian, possibly a good deal goes for English produce; but whatever may be the description under which it is sold matters not, for it does not alter that fact, namely, that Canadian farmers and producers are not receiving nearly all the benefits the high merit and quality of their products merit.

A sale of considerable importance and interest is announced for June 29th, 1900, namely, the usual draft sale of Shorthorn cattle and Southdown sheep from the herd and flock of H. R. H. the Prince of Wales, at Sandringham. The high merit and quality of both the herd and flock is too well known to need recapitulation, and therefore we feel confident that this simple announcement will be equally effective as any longer or more elaborate one. With respect to the numbers included in the sale, we are informed that they will consist of about 60 Shorthorns, male and female; the whole of the yearling Southdown ewes and twenty yearling rams. Canadians who are in England at the time should not fail to attend this important sale, whereat full opportunity will be afforded them to see the grand herd and flock.

STOCK.

Combination Sales of Pure-bred Stock.

It has been proposed, and somewhat publicly made known through the press, to hold combination public sales of pure-bred stock yearly at different points in the Provinces, those who are advocating the establishment of these sales claiming that they would be in the interests of not only the large breeder, but more particularly the small breeder. They claim it would bring the breeder and generally the buyers or farmers in contact with each other, and be the means of bringing the stock of each breeder under the notice of the buyer, at the least possible expense to the purchaser. It is not justifiable to denounce, or say it cannot be made a success, any scheme or undertaking until it has a chance of a fair trial. Neither is it wise to say that, because a project has been tried once and proved a failure, under different circumstances and conditions it cannot be made a success. I am aware that such sales are held yearly (more particularly in Scotland, I believe), and with success, I suppose, as I find they continue to hold them. But there are some reasons that seem to present themselves to my mind why they would not be a success here. If these can be overcome and the holding of these sales will not only help the large but also the small breeder, and as well do good to the average farmer, I can say by all means let us have them. Some of these sales have been held in the past and did not prove a success, but a failure, but perhaps there were reasons why this was so. When it is only a draft from any breeder's herd or flock that is offered, the public will likely come to the conclusion, rightly or wrongly, that it is only the culls that are offered, and of course be chary about buying. Another objection seems to me to arise—there will be some expense to the breeder in getting his animals to the place of sale, and if he has some misgivings that he will not realize as much for them at such a sale as he can in his own stables, he will be loth to put them in. As a general thing in my own neighborhood, breeding stock does not realize as much at auction sales as they do in the breeders' stables. At present the supply of breeding stock hardly is equal to the demand, and while this is the case I think the breeder will prefer to sell at his own stable, where he can set the price himself. In a draft sale there is not the same confidence between the buyer and the seller; the public seem to be suspicious, thinking only the poorest animals are being offered and if good ones are offered they will not be sold unless extra prices are procured. These and other objections present themselves, but perhaps enough has been said. What little I have said is with the view, if such sales are proceeded with, that these obstacles may be guarded against.

JAS. TOLTON.

Bruce Co.

Government Stock Sales.

The object of the Government in offering to assist breeders of pure-bred stock in holding auction sales is, no doubt, to encourage the rank and file, or ordinary farmer, to improve his stock, and I believe it would have that effect. It may not directly benefit the long-established breeder, but indirectly I think it will, as farmers having only a few will have more confidence in the business, and will buy better bulls to head their herds. I think there is room for expansion along almost every line of stock-breeding, except the *bacon hog* line. The success, however, of the undertaking will very largely depend on the management and the liberal encouragement the railways will give to the enterprise. The details in connection with such contemplated sales will require considerable thought and time. EDWARD JEFFS.

Simcoe Co., Ont.