

is most important and whether it would be expedient or not to place restrictions on the trade as above we are not prepared just at the moment to say. It might be possible to limit the sale of seeds to certain reliable firms who could guarantee quality. But it is a question whether a large importing firm could guarantee seeds other than to supply the source from which the seeds were procured. Of course the percentage of vital seeds could be given and perhaps these two would be a sufficient guarantee to give. Some of the larger seed firms in Canada are adopting the package system and if the firms are reliable the farmer is more likely to procure good seed in their packages than by buying seed sold in bulk. As the question is of considerable importance we would be glad to hear from those interested.

Prize Lists for Horses

The horse breeders at their recent meetings spent a good deal of time discussing the prize lists of our fall fairs and making suggestions for the amendment of these. For the large fairs where prizes are given for stallion and his get, it was decided to ask that this be changed to four of the get of one stallion. This will give a show of

the produce only without requiring the stallion to be fitted for the show ring. Where a horse has made his show yard record and has gone into the stud as a breeder it is not in the best interests of his produce or his owners to keep him up to exhibition form. If he is brought out in ordinary field condition he suffers by comparison with those brought out in the best bloom. In the class for mares it was suggested that a class be made for aged mares (mares not giving milk). Formerly only a brood mare with foal at foot could be shown, and this includes many good mares who may miss a year or lose a foal.

In the harness classes it was suggested that there be a prize for a single horse in harness, as well as for matched teams. Many farmers have good individual animals and cannot match them. For the heavy breeds then a prize was suggested for best cart horse and for the others for best horse in harness to a wagon or dray. In the light classes this has always been provided for at all shows. It was also suggested that at the larger shows there should be separate classes for geldings, which are such a prominent feature of British shows.

he is now secretary. This body needs a strong hand at the helm to guide its operations. Mr. Harcourt is in entire sympathy with the dairy business and will doubtless accomplish much for its advancement.

The secretaries of the various associations for 1902 are as follows:

Pure-bred Cattle Breeders—Geo. H. Greig.

Sheep and Swine Breeders—Geo. H. Greig.

Horse Breeders—Geo. H. Greig.

Dairy Association—Geo. Harcourt.

Poultry Association—C. H. Wise.

The Legislature adjourned on Saturday last, its expiring moments being the most interesting of the session. The last half hour was employed by Mr. C. A. Young, M. P. P., in talking against time, in order that the report of the Committee on Agriculture might not come to a vote. As President of the Grain Exchange, Mr. Young naturally objected to the criticisms of the Exchange and of the methods of the grain trade in general, contained in the report. The mover and seconder of the report fidgetted in their seats, the time was short, but they could do nothing. The first gun of the royal salute announced that the Lieutenant-Governor was on his way to prorogue the House. Still Mr. Young talked on. A beatific smile spread over his countenance as the trumpets announced the Governor was at the door, but still he talked on until the black and gold uniform entered the chamber, and the report was thereby condemned to everlasting oblivion. Thus, the entire labors of the Committee on Agriculture came to naught. During the session it has examined many witnesses and taken much evidence, and its findings were a severe censure on the Grain Exchange, the grain dealers, the railway companies, and the Grain Act. There is said to be considerable dissatisfaction among the country members of the Legislature over this incident.

The Stock Breeders' Associations of the Northwest Territories were well represented at the Manitoba Breeders' conventions, by their managing director, Mr. C. W. Peterson, who took an active part in the meetings. Besides his address on judging at agricultural fairs, Mr. Peterson was on the programme of the Horse Breeders' convention for an address on horse breeding in the Territories. This gentleman has recently inaugurated a new movement among the farmers of the Territories, nothing less than a Grain Growers' Association. The object immediately in view is to combat the evils of the elevator situation in the Territories, but many other matters affecting the welfare of the farmer are to be considered in due course. The organizations are local but have a central or executive committee to ensure harmonious and united effort. We shall expect to hear more in future of this organization.

Our Western Letter

Convention Echoes—No Live Stock Commissioner Appointed—The Legislature Adjourns—Grain Growers Organize.

Winnipeg, March 3rd, 1902.

The best laid plans of mice and men have a proverbial aptitude for working out otherwise than their promoters expect. So it happened with the movement instituted by the Breeders at their recent convention. The motion was to nominate a joint secretary, who, it was expected, would be appointed Stock Commissioner and Superintendent of Farmers' Institutes by the Government. It was expected that there would be considerable competition for this anticipated prize, and there was no room for disappointment on this score. The rival factions were in evidence at each step, but the battle royal came off on Friday, the last session of the convention, when the executive committees of all the associations met to report the action of their various bodies and take joint action thereon. Five associations were represented, of whom three placed in nomination Mr. G. H. Greig, editor of the *Farmers' Advocate* (Western edition), and two nominated Mr. Geo. Harcourt, editor *Northwest Farmer*. Both sides were determined not to yield. Finally, after a very tumultuous meeting, during which personalities are said to have been freely employed, it was decided to submit both names to the Minister of Agriculture, who might take his choice.

Now the humor of the situation

comes in. Both nominations were rejected by the Hon. Minister. He refused to appoint either of the gentlemen named. Result—The associations say they were deceived by their officers, who claimed to have the Minister's promise to accept their nominee; the officers claim to have been misled by Mr. Andrew Graham, who seems to have been chief engineer of the scheme. Mr. Graham claims he had the Minister's promise, which the Minister, in turn, denies. The gentlemen chiefly concerned will spend some time trying to solve the great question, "Where are we at?"

The convention of the Horse Breeders' Association probably attracted less attention than any of the others on the week's programme. Nevertheless, the convention was in every way a notable one. The programme of addresses and the practical demonstrations in examining horses for soundness, etc., were of exceptional merit. This association has made most remarkable growth during the past three years, under the secretaryship of Mr. Geo. Harcourt, who indeed rescued it from oblivion and placed it on a footing equal to the other breeders' associations.

The success which Mr. Harcourt has had in organizing the above association on a working basis leads to the expectation that he will accomplish the same results for the Dairy Association of which