

English Notes.

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF SHEEP BREEDERS.

The announcement made elsewhere in your columns of the proposal for an international conference of sheep breeders is one that is perhaps one of the most important notifications that have been made in respect to the sheep-breeding industry of the world. Personal interchange of opinion between the principal representatives of any breed in one country with those of another would be certainly advantageous to all parties concerned. The time has gone by when selfish motives or differences should be allowed to prevent a free interchange of opinion. Nowadays commerce knows no country, the market is the world at large, and the breeders of sheep, be they of Canada, the States, Argentina, Australasia, or England, have but one interest to promote, and that the prosperity of the breeders as a whole, for no matter what may be argued to the contrary, it is a fact beyond dispute that their interests are common to all, and the better or more successful any particular section of the composite whole is doing, the better, though it may be to less extent, is it for the remainder.

The idea is, of course, a novel one, and it marks in a pertinent manner the progress of ideas, as well as the great facilities of intercommunication between the different countries of the world. Novel, therefore, though the proposal is, there is no reason why its results should not be of great utility and value for all countries. Take, for instance, the want of uniformity of the export certificates issued by the English societies, and the consequent care that has to be taken to see that all the requirements of the laws governing the entry of the sheep into the Canadian or the American flock books, as but one point wherein there is great reason for increased simplicity, as well as greater uniformity. Surely if the matter were fully thought out by the societies on your side of the Herring Pond, there could be no great difficulty in making a mutual arrangement general to all societies that would be of value to all concerned.

That this is one of the principal hopes of the proposer of the conference we feel assured, for at the meeting of the National Sheep Breeders' Association, at which the aforementioned suggestion was adopted, there was agreed to, so far as concerns the English societies, an arrangement with the Flock Book Society of the Argentine breeders whereby full arrangements satisfactory to both parties were arrived at. The publication of the terms of this agreement are only awaiting its ratification by the Argentine Society.

This fact shows that there is every reason to presume that the ultimate result of a conference, such as is hoped will be gathered together at York in 1900, the last year of the nineteenth century, will be that once a sheep is recorded in its flock book in the country of its origin, there will exist not the slightest difficulty for its transference to the corresponding flock book in any country in the world.

Then, again, certainly no more appropriate time could have been chosen for an international conference, for not only will the representatives from your country be able to visit the Royal Show at York, where all the principal breeds of England will be represented by select specimens, but the opportunity will be afforded of becoming acquainted with the principal breeders of England and other countries, and also of taking a trip to Paris to see the great exhibition that we trust will be held in that capital next year. Quite a number of enquiries for sheep have recently been received from Canada and the States, many of which can be traced to the medium of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, but most of them being for sheep to be shipped before the regular sale season in England, the values and prices quoted are for small lots, which makes the cost of them far greater than it need be.

The matter of purchasing sheep for breeding purposes is one that needs some explanation, and if the *modus operandi* were to be as follows: select your agent, inform him of your requirements, and entrust him to buy and select your desired number of animals to the best advantage, sending him a certain sum of money, beyond which he was not to give, this would enable your agent to visit, as they occur, the sales and fairs (not shows) whereat the specimens of the breed are generally disposed of, and to secure those you desire at public auctions, at prices far lower than it is ever possible to secure by private treaty. The essence of the whole matter is trust. You must trust your agent, and in order to secure yourself, your remittance could be made payable in London on presentation of the receipted bills, etc., for the sheep purchased. The agent would in these cases agree to do the work at either so much per head or on a certain commission, and, being entirely dependent upon the continuance of your patronage by the result of his selection on arrival at your home, would naturally take care to send only those animals which were first-class, and the best that could be bought at the price you gave him. In other words, the agent, untrammelled by any instructions from the purchaser, would have to act entirely upon his own responsibility, whereas, on the other hand, the general way that instructions to purchase come over is that certain points are to be given attention to, and certain of equal importance are unnoticed; and thus an agent is often compelled to leave cheaper and better sheep in the aggregate because certain specified points are absent. Trust all to your agent, and you may rest fully assured that, if he is a reliable man, you will be well pleased with the result that will follow the adoption of this advice. W. W. C.

Glanders.

[Extracts from the annual report of the Manitoba Provincial Veterinarian, S. J. Thompson, V. S.]

Among horses, glanders is the principal contagious disease with which I have to deal. Glanders is caused by a germ or bacillus called "bacillus mallei," and is only spread by contagion, yet horses suffering from strangles, catarrh or other debilitating diseases are more liable to contagion than healthy horses. For this reason it is sometimes supposed to come from other diseases. In the horse, glanders is a disease that may lie dormant for months after infection and then develop very slowly into a sub-acute or chronic case of glanders, or it may develop into an acute case, causing the death of the animal in a few weeks. In chronic cases the animal may continue in good condition for months, and in exceptional cases for years. In the great majority of cases there is little or no cough. The animal may discharge from one or both nostrils, but oftener from one, and that the left. The temperature is but slightly affected. The discharge is generally of a dirty-brown color, adhering about the nostrils. Sometimes the discharge will sink in water, while in a short time afterwards the discharge from same horse will not sink. It is not a reliable test for the disease. A horse after discharging for a time may suddenly begin to bleed from the nose, after which the discharge will almost or entirely cease for a week or two, when it will gradually begin again and continue to get more profuse until it again bleeds. This may occur every two or three months for years, and is the most dangerous form of the disease, as almost all signs of the disease disappear for a short time after each bleeding spell, allowing the owner an opportunity of disposing of the animal to an unsuspecting party, thus giving fresh opportunities of spreading the disease. There is little or no smell from the discharge. There is almost invariably a lump between the jaws, from the size of a hickory nut to a hen's egg. These glands seldom, if ever, can be caused to break and discharge pus, and are mostly on the side from which the nostril is discharging. They are close to the jaw bone, but not attached to it. As the disease advances, ulcers may appear on the *septum nasi*, or membrane separating the nostrils; these may first appear as whitish pimples or blisters, but they soon break away, leaving ragged, reddish ulcers, which continue to spread and deepen until they at times eat through the membrane; but in chronic cases they sometimes heal, leaving a scar. The horse often has a slight discharge from the eye, on the side of head most affected. This discharge does not run down, but appears like dirt collected in the corners of the eye. Again the disease may appear as farcey, or farcey may develop as the disease advances, when the disease breaks out in farcey buds (which mostly occur on the inside of the legs or along the belly, but may occur on any part of the body) which may be described as boils about the size of half a walnut. They break a short time after their appearance and discharge a bloody pus, after which they heal quickly.

There are symptoms somewhat similar to glanders, that are sometimes mistaken for it. In strangles, the discharge is of a lighter color than from glanders, and does not adhere around the nostrils to the same extent. The enlargements between the jaws are larger, situated higher up near the larynx, and usually break and discharge a light-colored pus.

An ulcerating tooth will sometimes cause the sub-maxillary gland to enlarge, and a discharge from one nostril, sometimes similar to glanders, and oftener mistaken for glanders than any other trouble. But, with the ulcerating tooth we invariably have a very disagreeable smell, quite different from glanders.

In all suspected cases of glanders, where the disease is not developed sufficiently to be positive as to the disease, I have the animal tested with mallein, which, when used with care, I find to be a positive diagnostic agent, and it has no harmful effects whatever on a healthy animal. Then follow instructions as to taking the test, destroying diseased animals and disinfecting the stables, etc.

For the past six years Dr. Thompson has inspected many hundreds of horses, and condemned the following: In 1893, 122; 1894, 94; 1895, 42; 1896, 80; 1897, 62; 1898, 120. As to the source of the disease the Doctor says: "I have no hesitation in saying this increase is entirely due to the great number of horses brought in from Montana and the N.-W. T." As the Chief Veterinary Inspector for the Dominion had stated through the press that there was no glanders in the Territories, considerable evidence is given to show that the disease does exist among the horses on the Western ranges, that the inspection is not thorough, and that horses brought into Manitoba from the ranges of the West are the chief source of infection, and that until a thorough system of inspection is established of all horses, either before they are allowed to be removed from the ranges or before they cross the Manitoba boundary line, it will simply be impossible to stamp out the disease.

CATTLE.

On the general health of the cattle of the Province, Provincial Veterinarian, Dr. S. J. Thompson, reports as follows: "I have to report a few cases of symptomatic anthrax, generally known as black leg. I have only been called to see a few cases of suspected tuberculosis, and from the reports of

tests made by veterinary surgeons in the different parts of the Province, the percentage of diseased animals is very small outside of the large dairy herds of Winnipeg and one or two herds in other parts of the Province.

A Big Abattoir to be Erected at Calgary.

The Calgary Herald of March 14th says: For some time past it has been rumored that Messrs. P. Burns & Company intended erecting a large cold storage and slaughter house at Calgary during the coming season. We are pleased to learn from Mr. Burns, who has just returned from Toronto and Montreal, that the report is a correct one. The building now occupied by this company is much too small to accommodate the business, and it is Mr. Burns' intention to erect buildings capable of holding a large stock of all kinds of dressed meats, which will be shipped in refrigerator cars to the cold storages now being erected at different points in the Kootenay and British Columbia.

When it is considered that this firm supplies the entire Kootenay country and also ships to coast cities it will be easily understood that the proposed plant will be quite extensive. The buildings will be of the latest and most approved plan. Both the cold storage and slaughter house will be equipped with up-to-date appliances. The pay roll will be quite considerable, which will benefit Calgary, and the buildings will be a benefit to our city. The industry will be one of the most important in the west. Work will be commenced as soon as the weather permits. Mr. Burns, while east, visited the larger packing houses and examined the different methods of operating them.

Experiments with Cross-breeds.

In the spring of 1895 the Marquis of Londonderry commenced an experiment in the breeding and rearing of cattle, with the view of ascertaining the most profitable class of cross-breeds. For this experiment four heifers of the Aberdeen-Angus, West Highland, and Galloway breeds were specially selected and mated with a first-class Shorthorn bull. The calves dropped by these heifers have all been treated exactly alike from birth. They suckled their dams till six months old and have been well fed ever since, so that they never lost their calf flesh, but they have never been forced in any way with concentrated feeding stuffs. The first and second years' calves of these crosses will be exposed to public competition at the Seaham Harbor sale, which is fixed to take place on 6th October. Respecting these cross-bred cattle Lord Londonderry's agent, Mr. Brydon, says:

"The two-and-a-half-year-old experimental cattle were weighed on Thursday, the 22nd inst. The Galloway crosses, which are all heifers, averaged 87 stones 4 pounds each. They were calved in April, 1896, so that by the time of the sale they will be two and a half years old. The Polled Angus crosses, which are all steers, averaged 99 stones 12 pounds each, or within 2 pounds of 100 stones. They were calved at the same time as the Galloway crosses. The Highland crosses are, on an average, one month younger than the others, and the three bullocks averaged 95 stones each, while the heifer scaled 82 stones."

The most notable feature in these results is the relative large weights of the West Highland crosses. It has been always said that the West Highlander is "a slow feeder," and that the West Highland cross shows the same characteristic, though in a lesser degree. But here it has been shown that the Shorthorn-Highland cross, when fed under the same conditions, shows a daily gain in live weight all but equal to that got from the Polled Angus cross, which has always had a high reputation for being "a quick feeder." In the same way the Galloway has been often accused of being "a slow feeder," though in a less degree than the West Highlander; but here, too, the Galloway cross has shown as large a daily gain of live weight as the polled Angus cross, when it is remembered that two-and-a-half-year-old steers will usually weigh from 12 stone to 13 stone more than heifers of the same age, other things being equal.—*Farmers' Gazette*.

Advantages of Wide Wagon Tires.

A few years ago a number of people in this district got their old narrow-tired wagons cut down and three-inch tires put on, making a very nice farm wagon, but now there is getting to be a lot of 2½-inch tires, and these make a track that the three-inch tire just wedges into, and in the spring and fall when the roads are freezing and thawing it makes the three-inch wagons go very badly. I wish you would point out the selfishness of getting the 2½-inch tires. I believe it is to a great extent nothing but selfishness and blind indifference, and in some cases mulish ignorance. I have proved by my own experience conclusively to my own satisfaction that a three-inch tire runs easier than a two-inch on our roads most of the time and very much better on the farm. We drew some stone to town last summer in June. My man who did the teaming was in favor of the narrow two-inch tire wagon, but we used the three-inch for a week and then he took a load on the two-inch wagon. We loaded about 4,000 to 5,000 lbs., and he said he could draw 5,000 lbs. on the three-inch tires as easily as 4,000 lbs. on the two-inch tire. I am in favor of four-inch tires on our gravel roads, and if we cannot get the wide tires any other way we will have to try to educate the people to it. Waterloo Co., Ont. OSCAR TRUSSLER.

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