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FARM AND DAIRY

& RURAL HOME



We Welcome Practical Progressive Ideas

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham.

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FOR WEEK ENDING DECEMBER 24, 1914

No 52

Live Stock Conditions East and West

A Summary of the Situation as Gleaned from Addresses at the Winter Fair, Guelph

LIVE stock conditions in Ontario once determined the market for Ontario live stock. Similarly, the farmer of Quebec or Manitoba, New Brunswick or Saskatchewan, Nova Scotia or Alberta, or Prince Edward Island or British Columbia, at one time required only a knowledge of conditions within the confines of his own province to know just how the market was liable to fluctuate. Particularly was this true in the case of pure-bred stock, cattle, horses, sheep and swine. Now the breeder of pure-bred stock caters 'r, a national market. Instances are on record of Nova Scotia Holsteins being sold through advertising in British Columbia; the Ontario horse breeder has been depending for many years on the demand of the Canadian West.

The market for fat cattle is even determined by the national demand. Fluctuations at Winnipeg stock yards are almost inevitably followed by similar fluctuations at Toronto and Montreal and vice versa. In making his plans for the future the stock man of to-day must have a knowledge of stock conditions throughout the whole length and breadth of the country. Such a knowledge cannot be attained readily by the individual farmer. It was to give a word picture of these nation-wide conditions that one afternoon was devoted at the recent fair at Guelph to a discussion of live stock conditions East and West.

Dairying Prospers in Nova Scotia

Prof. M. Cumming, of the Nova Scotia Agricultural College, was to have spoken on conditions in the far Eastern provinces. He was unable to be present, and his paper was read by Mr. R. W. Wade. It spoke principally of the paramount importance of dairying in the maritime provinces, but there is room for many more. Ontario, as the greatest live stock province in the Dominion, the speaker regarded as the logical source of supply for the increasing Maritime demand. The greatest difficulty he saw in the way were those of selection and transportation, the cost of visiting Ontario to the shipping stock being almost prohibitive to the man who wanted only a few animals.

"If Ontario breeders wish to secure the Maritime trade in pure-bred stock, they must remove these difficulties," said Prof. Cumming. He then advocated a central live stock agency that would enable buyers to combine and buy in large lots. He warned the Ontario breeder that dumping stock in the Maritime provinces was sure to do a great deal of harm to their trade.

The live stock situation in Quebec and Eastern Ontario was handled by Prof. Barton of Macdonald College in his usual able manner.

Milch cows and sheep, he said, are the only classes of live stock to show a decrease in numbers during the last 10 years. Even sheep show an increase since 1909. On the other hand the total value of the dairy cattle and the amount of milk produced has increased. In Prof. Barton's opinion this increase of output in the face of declining numbers is due to the advance of winter dairying and the lengthened lactation period.

The farms of Quebec are understocked and the stock expanded. There is great opportunity for live stock expansion. It must not be for-

To Each and Every One of
Our Folks, Farm and Dairy
extends its Best Wishes for
a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.

gotten, he said, that economical crop production is at the base of the live stock industry. If it costs too much to produce food for live stock, we cannot compete with countries where food can be obtained cheaply.

Prof. Barton sees a great future for the dairying industry in Quebec. At present this province offers a splendid field for Ontario breeders, but he believes that she will soon be doing her own breeding. At present she has almost a monopoly in Ayrshires and French Canadians. Sheep breeding, too, is fraught with great possibilities in Quebec. There are large numbers of dairies in the province now, and pure-breds are needed to improve the type.

Dairying and dairy cattle the speaker characterized as the centre of activity in Eastern Ontario, and there will be a great development in future along this line.

Western Situation

"The West now produces enough meat for itself and has over 1,000,000 pounds to spare," said Mr. Arkell, speaking for Western Canada. "Until last year, they consumed more meat than they raised." Mixed farming, it seems, is becoming general throughout the West.

Much breeding work is being carried on. Mr. Arkell told of great herds and flocks from Winnipeg to Regina. Pure-bred Shorthorn cattle and Clydesdale horses are being raised in sufficient numbers to supply that district. In Central Alberta, Percheron, Ayrshire and Holstein breeders are achieving success. These sections supply the home demand to a great extent.

There are great opportunities for the breeder in the northern part of Manitoba, Alberta, and Saskatchewan. Here farmers are just changing to mixed farming, and there are practically no pure-bred stock raised.

Why Beef is Low

The movement for live stock production in Western Canada has had the untoward result of causing a falling in meat prices. This is especially noticeable in the case of hogs. It is predicted that there will be a swing from mixed farming back to grain growing.

More Organization Necessary

In Mr. Arkell's opinion the question of Canadian agriculture is one of markets. Live stock production is not yet sufficiently organized to meet the trend of the trade. We need a body representing our agricultural activities to give direction to marketing.

Mr. Duncan Marshall, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta, gave it as his opinion that the chief factor in the slump in hog prices was due to the United States embargo. Since its removal, pork has advanced from four and one-half cents to over six cents, and will go much higher yet before the end of January.

"Agricultural education is at the bottom of successful live stock production," declared Mr. Marshall. "The reason that the ordinary farm boy does not go in for pure-bred stock is because he does not understand that end of the business. A system of education that will give the farm boy a thorough grasp of the principles of his profession is a necessity."

Mr. Marshall is just back from the Old Country. In closing he stated that a splendid market for Canadian Holsteins would be found in England if the embargo should be removed.

It was naturally impossible to go exhaustively into all phases of the Canadian live stock industry in the short space of a couple of hours. The suggestion thrown out and here briefly summarized may be useful, however, in showing the lines of development in the various sections of Canada.

There are many advantages in having colts foaled in the fall rather than in the spring. The mares are in better condition to work through the rush of seeding and harvesting. Colts foaled in the fall are not molested by mosquitoes and flies. The mare is better able to nourish the colt during the winter months, as she will have little hard work to do then. The farmer will have more time to look after the little animal. The colt will be ready to go on pasture as soon as the grass is green in the spring.—J. S. Montgomery.