

On the part of some of the breeders there was a marked determination to fit their stock well and to bring forward bulls of an age suited to the demand of ranchers. Such stock brought very fair prices, but no doubt if the sale had been two months later it would have made a difference of fully \$25 in the value of the best bulls. The honor of selling the highest priced bull belongs to Jas. Sharpe, Lacombe, for \$170, which, however, is the lowest high-mark ever reached at Calgary. Mr. Sharp's average for nine head was \$82. Mr. Wm. Sharp's average for ten head was \$85; Mr. Jas. Wilson's, Innisfail, \$90 for eight; R. K. Bennet's \$83 for four; H. W. Metcalfe's \$127 for three, and J. L. Walter's, Haynes, \$97 for nine.

Below we give a list of the total number of Shorthorns and Herefords sold in the past six years with the average prices realized:

Year.	Total Number	Average Price.	Shorthorns No.	Ave.	Herefords No.	Ave.
1901	64	85.17	44	90.57		
1902	220	95.80	183	99.91	14	91.42
1903	268	96.60	173	93.65	19	135.00
1904	293	99.79	131	104.23	76	127.17
1905	340	69.28	173	67.84	93	76.21
1906	170	108.37	95	106.12	37	138.91

#### Stockbreeders' Open Meeting.

On the evening of the 4th inst, the Alberta Stock Breeders held an open meeting in the Alexander Hall, Calgary. Hon. Mr. Finlay, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta, presided at the meeting and called attention to the assistance which the provincial Department has given the stock breeding industry of Alberta, including money grants of \$600 to the cattle breeders, \$400, horse breeders, \$400, sheep breeders, \$100, swine breeders, and to the fat stock show this year \$1000. Besides this the provinces pay \$4 per day to judges supplied by the Dominion Government. The Department this year also conducted judging schools and started judging competitions throughout the province, the results of which Mr. Finlay believed would justify the expenditure of the \$7000 which it cost to conduct this campaign. In Mr. Finlay's opinion the intimation of Dr. Rutherford that the Dominion Government would discontinue its grant of \$600 to the stock breeders was hardly justified, in view of the fact that the breeders are pioneering the live stock industry in a new province.

Before Dr. Rutherford, Live Stock Commissioner for the Dominion, the second speaker, had finished his remarks the stock breeders of Alberta had been given something upon which to cogitate. The Doctor is no mincer of matters and what he said was born of conviction arrived at from long and broad experience.

In opening he propounded the oft-repeated but logical proposition that the agricultural resources of Canada were not so liberally fostered as the industry warrants. In connection with his work the Doctor noted that last year his Department expended some \$600,000 in the protection of the health of animals throughout the Dominion. With regard to the grant which the Dominion Government gives to the spring sale, Dr. Rutherford said that Mr. Finlay on looking into the policy of a federal Government could not fail to see how impossible it is for the Dominion Department to financially assist a purely provincial sale. In his opinion the provincial breeders stand in their own light in placing restrictions upon the introduction of better bulls. Canadian cattle are not improving as Western Canadians fulsomely flatter themselves that they are. Argentine cattle-men are improving stock fast and are going abroad and paying a high price for bulls. Canadians of course are buying bulls in the Old Country, but few of them come West, because the Canadian ranchers will not pay for them. The ranchers at present do not want valuable bulls, because conditions on the range do not admit of the making of the best use of such stock, but the cattle business of Alberta is really only beginning, and when these difficulties which are associated with ranching are removed, breeders will and must get the best bulls that money can buy. Even now the policy which the Alberta breeders have adopted of restricting the sale of outside bulls is a short sighted policy. Western breeders do not need to buy Eastern bulls if they are not so good as Western, and certain it is that all the bulls put up at the Calgary sales are not first class.

Referring to the shipment of range cattle, Dr. Rutherford said it had always been his regret that so many cattle went forward in such soft condition and had previously advocated the putting up of feed and the distribution of the marketing over a longer period. He had also advocated the feeding and handling of range colts during winter, but in both cases had been ridiculed. But he noticed that things have changed. Feed was now grown, stock was being domesticated and there is an improvement. There is, however, still a great waste through selling unfinished stuff and there is no reason why range stock should not be more finished before marketing. In the States not over eight per cent. of the range cattle are shipped to Europe; the balance are put in the feed lots in the corn states for 90 days and then shipped to central points for classification. From there the exporters go forward in the care of expert "bull-pushers," who see to it that the cattle are placed on the market

in the best condition. The remedy for Alberta cattlemen lies in co-operative effort in marketing and in grain and hay finishing.

Next year a friend of Dr. Rutherford in Ontario is going to undertake to feed two car-loads of Western steers in feed lots, and it is hoped that others in Manitoba and Saskatchewan will be induced to undertake such a proposition. Judging by the applause, the remarks of the commissioner were well received and the policy of feed lot finishing is endorsed if not practiced by the Alberta cattlemen.

Mr. A. W. Smith of Maple Lodge, Ont., was then introduced to the meeting and in part said: "If the number of Shorthorn cattle on exhibition here is any indication of the number of Shorthorn cattle in the province, then the Shorthorns are vastly in the predominance. Evidently the continual introduction of Shorthorn blood had the effect of counteracting the tendency of cattle to become smaller under ranch conditions. Until recently this tendency had been offset by keeping steers longer, but a less expensive way was to give better care and so secure earlier maturity. The dressed carcass competition here had demonstrated that a better quality of beef can be produced on an early maturing animal than upon older cattle raised under range conditions. Hence Alberta breeders should endeavor to secure this earlier maturity."

Speaking as the president of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association, Mr. Smith said his association had no fixed time for its annual meeting, but thought it would be difficult to hold the meeting at the time of the Winter Fair on account of the amount of interest the fair demands. But he believed the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association would endeavor to acquiesce in the requests of Western breeders to hold their annual meetings when the Western men suggested.

Mr. John Gardhouse on being called upon, expressed his pleasure at having had the opportunity of meeting with Western breeders. As judge of heavy horses Mr. Gardhouse earnestly congratulated the Alberta people on the class of horses they were having introduced.

One feature of the show was particularly commendable and that was the lectures and judging competitions which were given. Every breeder should familiarize himself with type and should take every opportunity to point out the characteristics of different breeds to the boys and young men. Indications of character should be observed, as the intuitive instinct of stockmen is developed by studying parents and their progeny.

With the advantages which Alberta has for stock raising there should be more value set upon the breeding and individuality of the breeding stock kept. The highest priced cattle cost but little more to raise than the poorest, but these superior stock must have well bred and superior parents.

In speaking as a representative of the province of Saskatchewan, Mr. Robt. Sinton of Regina, president of the Stock Breeders' Association of Saskatchewan, expressed his pleasure at being able to attend the show and sale. As an experienced cattle raiser, Mr. Sinton gave some advice to breeders on keeping cattle good on their feet. Many of the bulls in the sale he observed knuckled or were stiff. This he believed was due to the lack of exercise. As for the recommended rule that bulls to head herds should have a thin mellow skin, he took exception. The bull with thicker skin and heavier coat was in his opinion the better kind to select. In selection one cannot place too much importance upon the tendency of bulls to carry natural flesh.

For a short time the meeting was addressed by Brigadier Wakefield, who made a few remarks upon the immigration policy of the Salvation Army, after which the lantern was utilized to illustrate desirable types and incidents in the handling of stock at a large abattoir.

#### Cattle Breeders Meet.

The Alberta Cattle Breeders' Association held their seventh annual meeting in Calgary on the evening of the 3rd inst. The president, R. K. Bennet, presided, and about one hundred cattle breeders were in attendance. After calling the meeting to order Mr. Bennet called for the secretary's report. In introducing his report Mr. E. L. Richardson called the attention of the meeting to the fact that when the association was organized in 1900, breeders of purebred stock were scarcely a discernible quantity and very few purebred bulls were used being on the ranges, but that during the past six years the use of purebred stock had become almost universal on the ranges, the number of breeders had greatly increased and the excellence of the stock they were offering had reached a decidedly high mark. The appreciation of purebred bulls by the ranchers was shown in the steady increase of average prices received for bulls at the sales from 1901 to 1906. In 1901 the average price was \$85; 1902, \$95; 1903, \$96; 1904, \$99; 1905, owing to over supply the average dropped to \$69 and in 1906 the average was \$108. The honor of receiving the highest price for individual animals at the various sales has been well distributed, no one breeder having won this distinction more than once in the past six years. The winners in order, from 1901 to 1906 inclusive, were P. Talbot & Son, Lacombe, Shorthorn, \$250; John Ramsay, Priddis,

Shorthorn, \$290; O. Palmer, Lacombe, Hereford \$255; Hon Wm. Beresford, Calgary, Shorthorn, \$285; D. Sinclair, Innisfail, Shorthorn, \$225; A. F. McGill, Lacombe, Shorthorn, \$365.

Last year it was decided that females should not be put up at auction at the annual spring sale, but the matter of holding a sale of cows and heifers at the time of the summer fair was under advisement.

Reference was made to the appointment of a commission by the four Western provinces to inquire into the state of the meat business and the intimation was given that the investigation would be proceeded with in the near future.

Mr. Peterson's resignation was attended to and in recognition of his services the executive had made him an honorary director and life member. As his successor, Mr. Richardson asked the association to give him all the assistance in their power to further the interests of the association.

The financial statement was submitted, which showed receipts, including those from the sale, of \$21,073.63 and expenditures of \$20,758.02, leaving a balance of \$315.61.

The meeting engaged in a lengthy discussion upon the most suitable date of holding the annual sale, with the result that a motion authorizing the executive to arrange dates after the twentieth of May as the time of the sale was carried. Mr. Mac Donald, president of the Western Stock Growers' Association, said that if the sale were held about that time he thought his association could arrange to have their annual meeting there and the ranchers would certainly be willing to pay most for bulls. The breeders were also unanimously in favor of the later date. The secretary was then instructed to correspond with the associations in Saskatchewan and Manitoba with the object of arranging dates so that there would be the least possible difficulty in getting judges.

Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, was present at the meeting and on being asked to outline the attitude of the Dominion Department of Agriculture toward the Alberta Stock Breeders' Association, gave notice of some changes that would have to be made as a result of the Alberta breeders debaring breeders of other provinces from showing or selling at their spring event. The Commissioner explained clearly that as the breeders had made their show and sale inclusively provincial they could not expect federal assistance for it, but should rather look to their provincial Government for financial support. The extent of the Dominion Government assistance to the sale is \$650 in cash, besides supplying some of the judges.

While speaking Dr. Rutherford intimated that it was probable after meeting with the Western Stock Breeders on the ninth of June, the practice of dipping range cattle would be reintroduced as a protection against the spread of mange.

#### OFFICERS.

The election of officers for 1907-1908 resulted as follows:

Honorary president—J. A. Turner, Calgary. president—R. K. Bennet, Midnapore; 1st vice-president—J. Sharpe, Lacombe; 2nd vice-president James Wilson, Innisfail.

Honorary director—C. W. Peterson, Calgary. Breed directors—Shorthorns, John Ramsay, Priddis; Herefords, John Parker, Lacombe; Aberdeen-Angus, L. W. Hutchison, Duhamel; Galloways, E. D. Adams, Calgary; Dairy Breeds, W. J. Tregillus, Calgary. General directors—J. L. Walters, Lacombe; Bryce Wright, De Winton; Wm. Galley, Edmonton; O. Palmer, Lacombe; T. Daly, Edmonton. Ex-officio directors—Hon. W. T. Finlay, Minister of Agriculture for Alberta; Hon. Dr. Rutherford, Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa; Geo. H. Greig, Asst. Dom. Live Stock Comr., Winnipeg. The meeting then adjourned.

#### Hairless Pigs.

Having had considerable experience with pig-coming hairless, I am giving you my experience.

L. and H. do not say what they fed their sows previous to the time of being confined, before farrowing; and the trouble probably lies in their being fed on something that had an injurious effect on the fetus, probably wheat screenings, crushed and fed to them, or eaten around the stacks, just where it came from the threshing machine.

A number of years ago I used to clean all my wheat before selling it, and crush the screenings and feed it to the pigs and horses, including the brood sows, and mares in foal.

Result—hairless pigs, all weak, some very large at birth and very fat, others scarcely formed. Foals weak—nearly all died. Profit in stock raising ———.

It was almost by accident that I learned what was causing the trouble, and since that time I have fed no chopped or whole screenings to sows or mares either, while carrying their young or suckling; and the trouble along that line has vanished.

The injurious substance is in the weed seeds, but just what it is I do not know, as I am neither a doctor nor a chemist. But I may just say that