

Pure Bred Live Stock in N.B.

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The province of New Brunswick possesses natural advantages for stock raising unexcelled by any portion of the American continent. The breeding of horses, cattle, sheep and swine, however, has received but scant attention from her people. This is unfortunate for New Brunswick agriculture. There are, however, signs of an awakening to the importance of live stock as a wealth producing asset. It is expected that the next decade will see a great increase in numbers and improvement in quality in the studs, herds and flocks.

There is urgent necessity for more stock in New Brunswick. There are today great stretches of haylands and excellent pasturage on the marshes of Westmorland, Albert and St. John counties and along the bottom lands of the various rivers that are producing no wealth for lack of stock to consume their annual growth of grasses. To be sure thousands of tons of hay are exported but there is much valuable fodder left to lie down that, while not marketable, will afford good stock feed. On the upland farms as well, thousands of horses, cattle and sheep might be kept upon land that is now practically unused. At the same time the province is importing horses in considerable numbers and beef, mutton, pork and pork products to the value of over \$1,000,000 a year. Dairy products also are largely imported.

SOME GOOD HERDS

It is not the object of this article, however, to give the impression that nothing is being done for there are some good stockmen and breeders in the province. It is doubtful if anywhere in America there can be found better herds of Ayrshire cattle than are kept in the vicinity of Sussex and a few elsewhere. There are also a few scattering herds of Holsteins and Jerseys and here and there some Guernseys. A few Shorthorn herds and one herd each of Dutch Belted and French Canadian cattle are to be found. Indifference to the value of pure bred sires by farmers generally is responsible for a lack of demand upon breeders and consequently in the past the raising of pure bred stock has not been an attractive proposition nor has there been any great call for importations.

There are, however, signs of a change. Many farmers are beginning to realize that more stock and better stock is what they need to enable them to utilize their lands. During the past year there have been importations of Clydesdale stallions and mares from Scotland and Ontario, of Shorthorn and Ayrshire cattle from Great Britain and always a few head coming in from various sources, imported by private individuals. Sheep have been quite largely imported and distributed by auction sales.

The Department of Agriculture has been and is trying to stimulate a demand for good stock, by urging its value upon the people, encouraging the formation of Agricultural Societies and also assisting to have stock brought into the province for sale. In 1908 there were only 57 Agricultural Societies, receiving a total of \$8,000 in grants. There are now 88 such societies receiving in 1910, \$13,000 from the provincial treasury. It is the policy of most of these societies to improve the stock of their districts and their funds are to a considerable extent available for the purchase of pure bred stock and the housing of stallions and so forth.

In response to a very general request from Agricultural Societies and individual farmers, the Department of Agriculture has under consideration the making of an importation of milking type Shorthorns before next spring. In support of this type of animal the argument is advanced and with good foundation that there are thousands of farms in the province where there is a good opportunity for stock raising and where the owners do not wish to follow dairying exclusively. In many districts local conditions are such that farmers can make the most out of their opportunities by raising steers, while milking a small number of cows. It is urged that the English milking Shorthorn with her well known milking capacity of from 5,000 to 10,000 lbs. of milk a year is the best type of cow for their purpose, as her calves will be growthy thrifty fellows that will turn off profitable beef carcasses.

In the early days in New Brunswick the Shorthorn grade was the cow generally kept. The subversion of the dairy traits of this breed to the beef type by Canadian importers and breeders has so spoiled the quality of to-day for dairy performance that many men changed off to the special dairy breeds. While they did not improve their stock over the old Shorthorn grade for milk production they absolutely ruined it for beef and many men for this reason have sold off all their cattle down to one or two cows and depended upon commercial fertilizers to keep up their crop yields.

SPECIAL PURPOSE COWS

Theoretically the special purpose cow should be the most profitable but practically in New Brunswick she has only been a success when she had the special purpose man behind her. There should perhaps be an exception to the condemnation of all the dairy breeds for the steer raising farmer as Ayrshires have shown that they will pick in with the Shorthorn grade and improve the stock greatly from the standpoint of milk production, without altogether destroying one young stock for beef.

It may be urged that the men who wish to raise beef should specialize on beef breeds and thus make more money. Perhaps this might be true in some localities at least but we have to take conditions as we find them. It would be difficult to make the New Brunswick farmer believe that it would be as profitable for him to keep a cow a year simply to raise a calf even though that calf might sell for \$15 to \$20 more per head for beef than to keep cows that will give him from 4,000 to 5,000 lbs. milk or more, thus giving him a yearly revenue of \$40 to \$50 per cow in addition to a calf, which, if well reared, makes a good beef carcass. A small importation of Shorthorn bulls from the North of England sold last June at about 12 months of age at from \$75 to \$175 each and are highly prized by their purchasers.

THE DEMAND FOR DAIRY STOCK

For special dairy stock there is also a demand and it is growing. Our Maritime breeders should be able to largely supply this demand. They in turn will import privately, choose animals with to replenish their herds and there will be places here for some of the choicest individuals of leading breeders, both in Britain and Canada.

There cannot be any very great demand for special dairy stock, however, until the business of dairying is more seriously taken up in the past 10 years labour has been so scarce both on the farm and in the household that dairying has not increased. Now, however, that the provincial government has organized a system of bringing labour to the province conditions are easier in this regard and farmers may be induced to increase their dairy operations.

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