

tation to the United States dates from 1873. In the eighties, and also in the last decade, extensive importations were made to the States, where there are now many more herds of the breed than in Britain, and where the breed has become exceedingly popular, and has made a splendid prize-winning record at International fat-stock shows and other leading exhibitions, both as pure-bred and when crossed upon other breeds, or upon common cattle for beef purposes, and it is not an uncommon occurrence for carloads of these grades and crosses to top the market at the Chicago Stock-yards. The record of the Aberdeen-Angus breed and its crosses in prizewinning at the Smithfield and other principal fat-stock shows in Great Britain in recent years has been a remarkable one. There are now a considerable number of high-class herds of Aberdeen-Angus cattle in Ireland and England. They are being bred in over twenty States in the American Union by over one thousand breeders. They have been introduced into Australia, in several European countries, and in practically every Province in Canada, proving a very satisfactory class.

ORGANIZATIONS ESTABLISHED.

The Polled Cattle Society of Great Britain was established in 1879, largely through the efforts of Sir George McPherson Grant, but the first volume of the Polled Herdbook was published in 1862. The collection of the materials for the first volume had been commenced about twenty years before that date by Mr. Edward Ravenscroft, but in 1851 the whole of the matter which had been obtained was destroyed in the fire which in that year took place in the Museum of the Highland Society, of Edinburgh.

The first volume of the American Aberdeen-Angus Herdbook was published in 1886, and over 85,000 animals are at this date recorded in that book. Canadian breeders, finding their principal trade in the States, have recorded their cattle in that book. But the increasing distribution of the breed in the Dominion, and the decision to establish National Records in Canada has led to the organization of a Canadian Association, and it is understood that a Canadian record will be established in the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa in the near future.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BREED.

From the earliest accounts they have been noted for symmetry of form, and this quality has been, perhaps, more uniformly maintained in this breed than in any other. A compact, well-rounded frame is an essential requirement of the modern model beef animal, and this is found to perhaps a greater degree in the Aberdeen-Angus than in other breeds. Prominent hook-bones and shoulder-points are objectionable, and are seldom found in this breed. They are, perhaps, as a rule, not as thick-fleshed in like condition as the Hereford or Shorthorn, but their flesh is more evenly distributed, and is less disposed to roll on the ribs or become patchy at the rump. They are quiet in disposition, kindly feeders, and weigh heavier, as a rule, than their appearance would indicate, and no other breed produces a higher percentage of dressed meat in proportion to live weight, while in quality of meat they are ahead of the Shorthorns or Herefords, and equal, or nearly equal, with the Galloway or West Highland breeds. As a rule, their flesh is well mixed, and contains a large proportion of compact, finely-grained meat, with a small percentage of offal. Their feeding qualities are of the first order, as they stand confinement well, and make good use of the food given them. The milking qualities of the cows, as a rule, are medium, some individuals being very satisfactory in this respect, and are, as a whole, quite equal to that of the other beef breeds, except the Shorthorns, some of which are excellent milkers. In early maturity, grazing and feeding qualities, and for utility in crossing, they are about equal to the Shorthorn.

The head of the ideal Aberdeen-Angus male should not be large, but handsome and neatly put on, the poll higher and more pointed than that of the Galloway. The muzzle should be fine, the nostrils wide, the distance from the nostrils to the eyes of moderate length; the throat clean, with little flesh beneath the jaws, which should be heavy; the neck fairly long, clean, and rising from the head to the shoulder-top and surmounted by a moderate crest, giving a masculine appearance. The neck should pass neatly and evenly into the body, showing no undue prominence on the points, on the top or at the elbow; the chest should be wide and deep, the bosom stand well forward and be well covered with flesh; the crops full and level, with no falling off behind; the ribs well sprung, and neatly joined to the crops and loins; the hook-bones not prominent; the back level and broad; the quarters long, even and well rounded, swelling out downward, and passing into thick, deep thighs. The twist should be full, and the hind legs set well apart. The bottom line should be as even as the top, and the bones of the legs fine, flat and clean. All over the frame there should be a rich and even coating of flesh; the skin should be fairly

thick, but soft and pliable, and so free from the ribs as to fill the hand; the hair, as a rule, is thick, soft and mellow to the touch, and not long like that of the Galloway, which has a thicker skin and a stronger coat of hair. The same description answers for the female, except that she should have a more feminine appearance in head and neck, and may be a trifle wider at the hooks, and proportionately heavier in the hind quarters, and should show a well-formed udder, with well-placed teats, and the other indications of being a fairly good milker.

White marks are objectionable, except on underline behind the navel, and there only to a moderate extent.

During recent years pure-bred and high-grade and cross-bred Aberdeen-Angus steers and heifers have won more important prizes at the leading fat-stock shows of Great Britain and America for the number shown than have been won by any other breed.

THE FARM.

Maritime Union from Prince Edward Island's Standpoint.

Some forty-one years ago representatives of the Governments of the three Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland met in Charlottetown to consider the question of legislative union, when the Canadian Ministers came down and induced them to consider and finally enter upon the larger scheme for the federation of all the Provinces. Prince Edward Island did not, however, join the Dominion until nine years after the Charlottetown Conference, and Newfoundland is still outside the pale.

It is more than doubtful whether P. E. Island could have been induced to join the Maritime Union in 1864 if the larger scheme had not then been presented. It is morally certain that her experiences of the union with Canada have not been such as to induce our people to consider with favor a further surrender of their legislative independence. They would much prefer a release from the hard terms on which they entered into the union with Canada, and a restoration of the entire self-governing status which they enjoyed before 1873. Two main reasons for this latter feeling are found in the forced reduction of their representation in the House of Commons from six members, which they fondly believed they were to have as a minimum for all time, to four, as at present, with a prospect of further reduction in the future; and the great increase in the rate of federal taxation, in the benefits of which they, as a non-manufacturing people, fail to share.

The Island greatly valued its legislative independence, which it had enjoyed ever since 1773, having had a Legislature of its own for now 132 years, from a time when its population was barely two thousand souls. It greatly feels the loss from the surrender of 1873, and its since-lessened influence in the councils of the Dominion. Once we were able to command a portfolio at Ottawa, now the feeling obtains that we shall never regain our lost ground in that regard. These are factors in shaping the public attitude toward any new question of union.

Again, it is felt that the reasons that made a union of the Provinces desirable thirty or forty years ago between the Maritime Provinces are largely wanting—wholly absent, in fact—as applied to the same Provinces to-day. We have free trade with each other; our customs, postal service, defence, and all our larger interests are under control of the Federal power. The greater part of our revenues are under the same control. Only purely local and Provincial affairs remain to us. What possible benefit could come to us by transferring the control of our schools, our roads, bridges, wharves, ferries and other local concerns to a Legislature sitting on the other side of the Straits, in which, in the very nature of things, we must be outnumbered in the ratio of seven or eight to one?

Any union entered into by the three Provinces must of necessity be a legislative union. We cannot adopt the federal principle and have a federation within a federation. We must have one Government and one Legislature for the three Provinces. Let us for readier reference set down here the population, the number of Ministers and Legislators as at present existing:

| | Population. | No. of members. | Pop. to one member. |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Nova Scotia..... | 459,574 | 38 | say 12,000 |
| New Brunswick..... | 331,120 | 46 | " 7,200 |
| P. E. Island..... | 103,259 | 39 | " 3,500 |
| | 893,953 | 114 | |

Nova Scotia has also a Legislative Council of 18 members, while New Brunswick and P. E. Island have but one Chamber each. Nova Scotia has an Executive of 9 members, three of whom hold portfolios as heads of Departments. New

Brunswick has a ministry of 7, of whom 5 are heads of Departments. P. E. Island has a Cabinet of 9, of whom three are Departmental heads.

Let us assume that the new Parliament to be erected shall be on the basis of one representative to each 10,000 of population, or, say, 89 members, with a Cabinet of 14, 7 of whom shall have portfolios, and an equal number of members without office. In such a Parliament P. E. Island would be represented by 10 members out of 89, and would have, say, one minister with portfolio and one without in the Cabinet. He would be a bold politician who would undertake to persuade the Island people to take their chances in such proportions in a Government and Parliament so composed, especially under present conditions.

The first feeling would be that we would be entirely in the power and at the mercy of vastly superior numbers. In the next place, the permanent seat of Government and place of meeting of Parliament would be on the Mainland. Whether at Moncton, Amherst, Halifax, or St. John, would not matter so much; but what would matter greatly is the fact that, in two recent winters, during the time when Legislatures usually sit, steam communication between the Island and the Mainland has been cut off for two months at a time. Of course, when we get the tunnel which is absolutely necessary to our well-being otherwise, this last difficulty would disappear. Till then the projected union may be considered to be impossible of acceptance from the Island standpoint.

There are other obstacles. New Brunswick and Nova Scotia have municipal councils; the Island has none. Here the poor are a Provincial charge; in the larger Provinces the poor are a local charge—on the parishes in New Brunswick, and on the County Councils, I believe, in Nova Scotia. The systems of school support are quite as wide apart. Here more than three-fourths of the cost of education is paid directly by the Government, and a mere bagatelle by the school districts—a bad system, no doubt. In the sister Provinces across the Straits, the school districts and county school funds go far to relieve the Provincial treasury of the cost.

The almost inevitable result of union would be to compel the Island to conform to the methods of the larger Provinces in regard to school support, which would no doubt be a good thing, but as it would compel our farmers to put their hands in their pockets and pay a large part of what a paternal Government now pays for them, it would form a powerful incentive for them to reject the proposed union. Nor would our people willingly part with their local Governor and the hospitality of Government House, or the removal from their midst of the Governmental affairs and the Provincial civil service. Again, what interest have we in New Brunswick's timber lands or Nova Scotia's mines, the principal sources of revenue over there? Or why should we transfer to them the control of our land tax, income tax, commercial travellers' license fees?

Nor is it apparent that there would be much if any saving of the aggregate governmental and legislative expenses. It may be said the salaries of two Lieutenant-Governors would be saved—but saved to the Dominion, which pays them. One Parliament would take the place of three, but it could hardly have less than 75 to 90 members, and of necessity the sessional indemnity would be made larger, as the sessions would be longer. The same rule would apply to the triune Government. The salaries would inevitably go up. The normal length of the Island session in now one month, and the indemnity a mere pittance. But the members are near home when attending their sessional duties.

I have stated quite frankly some of the objections to the union from the Islander's standpoint. Doubtless much can be said on the other side, but whether arguments can be adduced potent enough to prevail against these substantial impediments, with some insular prejudices that undoubtedly exist, I do not know. At present there is little if any feeling here in favor of the proposed union, while a strong conviction is general that unless physical union by means of the tunnel can be first assured, it would be idle to talk of legislative union.

J. E. B. MCCREADY,
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