

Why the Government Did Not Act.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE"

I was much impressed with your editorial of December 26, in regard to more Government action on behalf of live stock. The substance of your remarks is undoubtedly the silent voice of Canadian live-stock men. It is years, in fact, since the present Live Stock Commissioner, Mr. Arkell, first emphasized the importance of outside markets for Canadian live-stock products and gave the live-stock men to understand that the development of such was being made a first feature in the work of the Branch. There is abundant evidence to show that throughout the period since it has been a clear objective in the policy of the Branch. The Minister of Agriculture has publicly endorsed it. The Minister of Finance has emphasized the urgent need of increased live-stock production and a big export trade to meet the country's obligations. But, as you imply, the real thing, the action, required to establish and stabilize the larger trade and thereby give the business the greatest impetus it needs, is apparently not forthcoming. In any case now that the men have been led to expect something they must be given greater confidence in the outcome and in their own strength before any appeal for live-stock increase will strike their hearts.

You state H. W. Wood, of Calgary, was delegated by the Canadian Council of Agriculture to represent the grain interests overseas and action was taken, Mr. Maharg being sent in his place. W. A. Dryden was delegated to represent the live-stock interests and no action was taken. You also state that Mr. Dryden would have been favored by the unanimous endorsement of the men engaged in the industry, and in this statement I concur, but, why does not Mr. Dryden's nomination carry this unanimous endorsement?

It is not necessary to mention that Mr. Wood's nomination carries the endorsement of the grain men. Every one knows it does and, therefore, the Government knows it does, and the Government also knows that it is backed by the necessary power to enforce its acceptance.

In my opinion here is where the crux of most of our trouble lies. The Canadian Council of Agriculture does not yet embody the force of the live-stock men of this country, and neither does any other organization. We have, as you mention, what is called a Canadian Live Stock Council. As I understand it this organization is intended to look after the interests of the live-stock industry in Canada, to be national in its scope, and to speak for the live-stock men of Canada. But the very fact that the nomination of Mr. Dryden was made through the Canadian Council of Agriculture at once suggests the weakness of the Canadian National Live Stock Council. The idea in such an organization seems sound enough, but I doubt if even a majority of the live-stock men know of its existence; it is not representative, and the Government knows it.

From time to time during the last few months meetings of live-stock men have been called to consider various aspects of Canada's national live-stock interests. Resolutions have been passed and committees have waited upon the Cabinet Ministers to urge certain policies as coming from the live-stock men of the country. With few exceptions they did not come through the Live Stock Council, the logical channel, if it fulfilled its purpose.

There are a great many breed organizations in this country, there are provincial live-stock associations, wool growers' associations and many other associations that have to do with certain specific live-stock interests. Among the officers of these are included many of the leading men, but a selection of them together with Government officials does not constitute a national live-stock body; it does not speak for the live-stock business; it does not command a general following, therefore, it is without power and gets no result.

Judging by reports, as a result of one such meeting recently held in Ottawa, a committee waited on the Acting Premier, the Minister of Finance. This committee presented a number of excellent resolutions and urged that action be taken along the lines mentioned. Among the resolutions was one recommending an educational campaign. This apparently was the one given greatest consideration by the Acting Premier. Obviously it would involve the Government to little extent. An educational campaign is all very well, but it must have some material objective. We must have something to educate for. We have had too many agricultural educational campaigns that lead nowhere.

Until the live-stock men of this country are identified as a unit and speak through one central voice, the Government of this country will do as it thinks best for live stock, but it will be made to do things for other interests that can speak.

Live stock is the most important branch of agriculture, but it is a branch of agriculture nevertheless. The only organized force existing to-day that can speak for agriculture and that is speaking for agriculture is the Canadian Council of Agriculture. This organization is spreading its wings throughout the different provinces and it is compelling national interest. Live-stock interests are not prominently identified in this organization, but why shouldn't they be? Instead of depending upon numerous small organizations that can only represent their specific interests, and which in themselves are not infrequently more or less close corporations and to some extent hide-bound in so far as national policies go, why should not some central body like the Live Stock Council be given some real standing, and some publicity, and why should it not place its planks in and add its strength to the Canadian farmers platform? These are questions which to my mind should engage

the attention at the biggest congregation of Canadian live-stock men possible, the Annual Meeting in Toronto. Macdonald College, Que. H. BARTON, Professor of Animal Husbandry.

The Dorset Horn.

While the Dorsets have many commendable features, they are not as common in Canada as some of the breeds which we have been discussing in past issues. One outstanding characteristic is that both male and female are horned, the mature animals very often carrying a particularly heavy horn which take on a spiral form. This breed derives its name from its native home, the County of Dorset, in the Southern part of England. This section of the country has a temperate climate and the sheep pasture out the entire year. According to history,



A Trio of Dorset-Horned Sheep.

the origin of the present-day Dorset Horn is from native stock of the county above mentioned. It is believed to be the only horned breed with white face and legs in Britain. About the middle of the nineteenth century, crossing of Southdowns and Dorsets was a general practice. It was one of the last breeds to be imported to this country, and it is believed to have been well on in the nineteenth century when the first importation was made. Professor Plumb gives the following characteristics of the Dorset in "Types and Breeds of Farm Animals": "Both males and females have horns, those of the males curving backward and around spirally, while those on the ewes curve outward, down and forward with tips rising about level with the eye. The face, legs and hoofs are white; the nostrils are also white; face strong, with considerable breadth between the eyes. Compared with the ideal mutton sheep, the neck and body tend to be long and rangy, and there is hardly the spring of rib and levelness of back most desirable. The head should have a short foretop of wool; the back part of the head below the ears should be woolled, and the body generally be well covered with a fine fleece extending down to knees and hocks. The Dorset is from medium to heavy among the middle woolled breeds; mature rams in fair flesh should weigh around 225 pounds, and ewes 165 pounds." The breed ranks high as a mutton producer and as a feeder. As a rule, the lambs grow rapidly and are ready for market at an early age. The breed is noted for being a producer

claimed that the horns would be a great protection from dogs, but this has not always proven to be the case. Although the breed is a mutton sheep of merit, and of a good deal of value from the fact that lambs are produced early, it has not grown in favor as rapidly as its qualities would warrant. It is found most abundantly in England, in its native county, and flocks are to be found in most of the sheep-producing countries. In Ontario there are several high-quality flocks, representatives of which meet in competition at our larger fairs. The following is the standard of excellency and general characteristics, as given in "The Shepherd's Handbook": Rams—Bold, masculine appearance and of robust character, head of great beauty, with strong and long horns growing from the head well apart, on the crown, in a straight line with each other, and coming downwards and forwards in graceful curves as close to the face as may be without necessitating cutting. Ewes—Appearance bright with feminine characteristics. The horns much smaller and more delicate than in the ram. Head—Broad, full and open at the nostril, well covered with wool from brow to poll, face white, with pink nose and lips. Ears—Medium size and thin. Teeth—Flat and chisel shaped. Neck—Short and round, well sprung from shoulders, with no depression at the collar, strong and muscular, especially in the ram. Chest—Well forward, full and deep. Fore Flank—Full, with no depression behind the shoulder. Shoulders—Well laid and compact. Back and Loins—Broad, long and straight, with well-sprung ribs. Quarters—Full, broad and deep, with flesh extending to the hocks. Ribs—Well sprung from the back and deep at the sides. Tail—Well set up in a line with the back, wide, firm and fleshy. Legs—Well placed at the four corners, straight between the joints with plenty of bone, well woolled to or below the knees and hocks. Fleece—Of good staple and quality, compact and firm to the touch."

Cheap Winter Housing For Swine.

One of the most common losses in connection with winter swine management is due to crippling or rheumatism. That this malady easy to contract and difficult to cure, may be practically eliminated, or rather, prevented, in breeding stock, wintered out-of-doors with open shelters, has been demonstrated beyond doubt. No ill-effect has cropped up to offset this advantage. With several individuals in a small, well-bedded cabin, there is no apparent discomfort to the inmates even during the most rigorous months of the Canadian winter.

The fattening hog, heavily fed, required to make maximum gains in minimum time, would seem to require warm quarters. The energy required to offset cold would thereby be utilized for growth and fat production. Less feed would be required. While the latter premise proves true, the fact of the matter is that the swine feeder is confronted with the choice of two apparent evils,—a comparatively cold house, that because of its nature, is practically like outdoors and therefore dry, or a more expensive, tightly-built, warmer structure, that, even if ventilated, usually proves more or less damp. Crippling in hogs will appear to a greater or lesser degree under bad or good management. Damp quarters undoubtedly predispose to it. Add to this, heavy feeding, with occasional over-feeding, and the result is frequently that of several more or less crippled pigs, the whole or partial losses from which will seriously affect the winter's profits. On the other hand it has now been pretty well proven at several points in the Experimental Farm System that such losses from outdoor-fattened hogs are practically negligible and that the evidence of thrift and quality resultant, very greatly over-balance the extra cost of outdoor feeding. Cold air should in itself have no virtue. Nevertheless the hog fed in the open air is more vigorous and healthy than the one fed in warm, dry quarters. Constantly pure air and a certain amount of exercise would seem to be responsible.

Very little capital need, then, be tied up in winter swine feeding quarters. A low sleeping berth made of old boards and covered with straw within or near a shed for feeding purposes, is necessary. While a straw stack is frequently used for shelter, the above arrangement is better. Access to a pile of horse manure in the shed or yard will provide a certain amount of food and exercise and a very considerable amount of recreation for the hogs. Such an arrangement, as discussed, provides a dry, comfortable bed, a difficult acquisition in the fairly expensive building.

The use of the self-feeder during winter has also proven a success. The feeder or feeders must be protected by a shed, as suggested. There is no trouble from frozen troughs and the general inconvenience and waste of slop-feeding in winter. Much disagreeable labor in the cold is avoided; in fact, the man who has used the self-feeder for winter work finds it even more of a convenience than it proves in summer. As to gains and cost-to-produce, tests have proven it usually superior



Shady Glen Heather Bloom 2nd.

Aberdeen-Angus cow weighing over 1900 pounds, which was seventh in a class of twenty-eight at the recent International Show, Chicago. Now owned by H. Fraleigh, Forest, Ont.

of early lambs. As the ewes will breed at any time of the year, it is customary in England to have the lambs come in November and December, so as to be ready for early market. The ewes produce lambs twice in the year, and twins are quite common. It is one of the most prolific breeds, and the dams make excellent mothers. The breed is used considerably for grading or crossing. The Dorset-Merino cross meets with favor, as does also the Dorset-Southdown or Shropshire cross.

During the past fifty years a good deal of improvement has been made in the fleece of this breed. Not only has the weight increased, but the quality has also been improved. The staple is of medium grade quality, and the fleece from a mature sheep will weigh around nine pounds. Advocates of the breed at one time