

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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Editorial.

An Injustice that Should be Remedied.

One of the grievances of Shorthorn breeders in the West against the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association has been that representation on the executive had not been granted, a condition of things not yet remedied. True, the D. S. H. B. A. last year put two Manitobans on the executive, the year before one, and totally ignored the breeders of the Territories and B. C., except to appoint vice-presidents, purely honorary and merely to keep things looking half decent to the casual observer. The significant feature is that although representation is now given to a section of the West, yet those most interested, namely, the Shorthorn breeders of that section, have no voice in the selection of their representatives, who are elected by the gathering at Toronto, because they—the elect—happen to be there, and no one present would be so lacking in business tact as to think of nominating anyone else.

Some scheme should be devised to find out who are the men the breeders in the West wish to represent them. A ballot might be taken by mail (as is done by the Commercial Travellers' Association), in order to get names to be nominated for election at the D.S.H.B.A. Such a method would be more satisfactory, would savor less of hole-and-corner methods, and would tend to get the Association and its members more closely together.

The Association seems to be awakening to the fact that the West has rights, and that in order to have a good feeling exist, and business continue between the Provinces, justice must be done to all alike.

One of the indefensible things done by the D. S. H. B. A. is the handing over to the Ontario (nominally Dominion) Cattle Breeders' Association, a sum of fifty cents from each Ontario member's \$2.00 subscription, and then from the balance of their (D. S. H. B. A.) fund, made up of \$2.00 subscriptions from each member of the D. S. H. B. A. outside Ontario, and the \$1.50 remaining from each Ontario man's original fee, take the running expenses of the Association. Such a condition of things is manifestly unfair, but can be easily remedied by the D. S. H. B. A. by handing over to the respective provincial cattle breeders' associations fifty cents per member, as is done to the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, who use the funds so obtained to help run the Ontario Winter Fair at Guelph.

Renewal of Attempts to Squeeze the Farmer.

A short time ago, for the third or fourth time within twelve months, the prairie country has been regaled with the news, wired from the Coast, that the lumber companies there are forced to shut down owing to competition with American rough lumber on the Manitoba and Territorial markets.

The continual whining of the Coast lumbermen, by which they hope to excite sympathy and get legislation to allow them to retard the building of comfortable homes, is one of the most disgusting performances that has occurred in commercial life for many a day. If these men told the absolute truth they might be excused, but as an effectual refutation to their statements is the fact that new lumber companies are putting in mills all the time out there, and that the amount of fees collected for timber licenses in that Province (B. C.) are larger than ever, and, if all the

facts were made public, reasonable dividends are being paid annually. In fact, some B. C. lumber companies have paid dividends of ten per cent.—not bad when compared with banks and other big concerns, and rather better than the average farmer would guarantee paying as a result of his year's operations. The various Grain-growers' Associations of Manitoba and the Territories must not forget that in the Coast lumbermen they have a body waiting a chance to get legislation, so that it may increase its profits at their expense.

Farmers of this country have become so used to attempts to charge them two prices for articles they have to buy that they have become somewhat indifferent, but the scheme suggested to force them to sell their products to certain corporations by means of an EXPORT DUTY ON WHEAT, is a new and alarming situation. Arguments as to who pays an import duty have been heard, and the decision given that the purchaser has to pay it, but with an export duty the case is rather different.

The placing of such a duty (export) on our wheat would tend to limit competition among the buyers, so much desired by the farmers. All interested in the upbuilding of Canada would like to see the wheat manufactured into flour here, and the offal retained to restore the impaired fertility of our lands, yet it is neither common sense nor justice to expect that the farmers will sit idly by, while big grain-buying interests limit competition, and thereby hold down the prices. The various Grain-growers' Associations need have no fear for lack of employment. They will need to be even on the alert to succor the Western farmer, whose situation at the present time, considering the lumber and grain men's attitude, might be described as "between the devil and the deep sea."

Do Not Get "Cold Feet."

The above slang phrase is not tendered as advice to avoid physical discomfort, but to draw attention, by the use of the words which fall from the lips of the man of the street, to the unfortunately common practice of farmers who abandon what may have been a profitable line of work, because prices for the productions in that line show a depression, usually only temporary. The only exception to this method of farming by fits and starts is wheat-growing, to which all seem to be wedded. The breeding of pure-bred stock, the feeding of cattle and hogs, the pursuit of dairying, and the raising of poultry, all suffer by a changeableness, shall we say fickleness, which rivals that of the springtime. We should not mention this matter only that we have had evidence, time and again, that this fickleness means loss to the in-and-out farmer, and we do not mention the matter in a spirit of reproof. That is not our intention, but at this time, the start of a new year, we do plead for more courage, for the cultivation of a spirit that the future is all right, if we only work to make it so, and for more persistence—stick-to-ativeness, some call it—in the branches of farming mentioned.

It was such persistence that made the British Isles famous as the world's nursery for pure-bred live stock, and to individualize, by pointing to an example in recent times, it was this steadfast working towards an ideal that made the Upper-mill (Marr) and Collynie (Duthie) Shorthorns so famous. A short time ago, a shrewd stockman stated to us that during the recent slump in pork, he found that pigs depreciated in value in the eyes of their owners, and he bought heavily,

to his subsequent profit, when, with the pigs ready for market, he unloaded. The optimism that distinguishes the West should tend to prevent this in-and-out system. It seems to work out the opposite way, as everybody appears to think the other fellow's job is easier than his own, or more profitable. Population is increasing, and with it consumption, yet, leaving out wheat, the production of our farms is either stagnant or decreasing.

Our New Year's advice is, take some line of work that you think you are fitted for, and make it your life work. If you do, upon your efforts will, in time, rest SUCCESS.

Suggestions to Farmers' Debating Clubs and Literary Societies.

The success of many meetings depends on the efficiency of the chairman and his knowledge and interpretation of rules of order and parliamentary procedure. Societies will do well to devote part of their time to schooling the members to take the chair, move motions, etc., and otherwise learn to acquit themselves as polished men of the world. Heretofore farmers have been content to let the townsmen, and particularly members of the so-called learned professions, run their meetings, act as chairmen, and, in many cases, by virtue of the position, give rulings on important questions. The townsman is no more qualified to take the chair, if brains are the standard, than is the farmer, except that the former frequently has more confidence in himself (some uncharitable persons term it "nerve," "cheek," etc.), but he has attained a self-poise from practice in filling such positions, and whereas the farmer has modestly (but wrongly) retired into the background, the other fellow has overflowed the vacant space right into the foreground; in some cases, pushed there by the farmer's desire to avoid the stares of his fellows. The result has been that many people came to the wrong, but excusable, conclusion that the farmer was not posted, was, in fact, ignorant of certain matters, whereas the real truth of the matter was that while he (the farmer) had opinions and ideas, for lack of practice in facing the batteries of eyes of his fellow man, he was unable to express them adequately. Realizing this, he became a victim to stage fright, and promptly filled the back benches.

Let each society, therefore, procure copies of Bourinot's work on parliamentary procedure, and Roberts' rules of order, and devote part of the time to practicing the members in filling such positions as movers of motions, chairmen, etc., and incalculable good will result, and an enjoyable time be spent. The writer well remembers when, as a member of an agricultural college faculty, he attended a class in parliamentary procedure for agricultural students, and how students of an affiliated college of law came in, and, assuming a superiority, due to a consciousness of their professional position, were prepared to enjoy jokes at the former students' expense, and undertook to demonstrate their knowledge of parliamentary procedure. It proved a Waterloo for the budding lawyers. The hayseeds, as the farm students were dubbed, being better posted, were enabled to turn the tables on the would-be funny fellows, who retired crestfallen, resolved not to tackle such a proposition again.

Young men of the farm, practice public speaking, learn to think on your feet. The country needs you in her legislative halls, at her municipal and her school meetings, farmers' institutes, etc.; in fact, at all gatherings where important public questions are to be discussed and decided.