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Records and Auction Sales

AT the recent meeting of in last week's issue, a report of which appeared Northwest Territories, a sheep breeders in the couple of important matters were discussed that are deserving of further reference. In no part of Canada has the auction sale method of disposing of pure bred stock been taken hold of so enthusiastically and so energetically as in the Territories. The two sales held at Calgary have been most successful and the demand now is for more of these sales.

The sheep breeders have decided to hold a sale of sheep in September next. A letter of enquiry comes from a breeder in Western Manitoba desiring a sale at an early date either at Brandon or Virden. This breeder points out that he has 10 bulls for sale from one year to over two and states that within a radius of 15 miles of his farm upwards of 40 bulls could be picked up. He further states that there has practically been no sales of bulls west of Brandon this season, and that he has not met a man this season who wished to buy a bull. He believes that this state of affairs could be remedied by a public sale at either of the places named. It might be added that this western breeder had, for 30 years, experience with such sales in Scotland, and is therefore convinced that if fairly started Manitoba breeders would profit very much thereby.

Thus the movement is developing in the West. While the sales already held at Guelph and Ottawa have been successful and have carried the movement beyond the experimental stage, there seems to be wanting in the East that enthusiasm and energy in regard to these sales that have accompanied their progress in the West. Eastern breeders cannot afford to allow this movement to fall behind now that its success as a means of disposing of high-class breeding stock, at satisfactory prices, has been so clearly demonstrated. As we noted last week a combination sale of Yorkshire swine will be held at Guelph next month. There is room for more of these sales, not only in Ontario but farther east and in the Maritime Provinces. The auction sale method to be made of the greatest benefit to the country at large should be taken up more generally by breeders and sales held in new districts.

Another matter discussed by the Territorial shepherds, of perhaps more far-reaching importance, was

that of establishing sheep records in the West. There are no sheep records kept in Canada. Breeders, especially those in Ontario, preferring to record their animals in the records of the United States, where a market is found for a very large share of their surplus stock. But western breeders it would seem find this practice inconvenient and irksome, and have decided therefore to establish a sheep record of their own.

In so far as the establishment of a separate sheep record for the Territories is concerned it will have little if any effect upon the sheep-breeding industry in other parts of the Dominion. It may, however, be the forerunner of similar movements in the West in connection with other lines of live stock. We are informed by parties who have made a close study of live stock conditions in the West for several years back, that unless something is done to make the records edited here more Dominion in scope and more liberal in character that the Northwest people will certainly establish records of their own. There are at the present time different records edited in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and in Ontario. There is no need of all these various records. One record covering each branch of live stock should be sufficient for the whole Dominion. It would tend to greater uniformity in breeding and would greatly facilitate the sending of pure bred stock to the United States and other countries. Satisfactory progress has been made in the amalgamation of several important live stock records during recent years. But more work along this line should be done and an effort made to centralize all the various records of the Dominion under one management and to make them uniform in character. But this cannot be done unless a liberal policy is adopted and one that will meet the needs of breeders in all parts of Canada. There should be co-operation in this matter and a unity of purpose and effort.

The Scrub vs. Good Cattle.

This is an age when quality counts. This is shown most forcibly in the beef cattle trade. The old-time scrub animal is fast receding from the place he once occupied in catering to the meat-eating tastes of the world. And justly so. It pays neither the producer nor the consumer to have anything to do with the scrub animal. Meat from the scrub animal is neither so nutritious nor so wholesome as

that from the well-bred, well-finished beef animal, and besides, it cannot be produced any cheaper, and sells for a much less amount in the world's markets. This being so, it will be better for all classes to have only the best quality of meat products produced.

Anyone who has watched closely the drift of the cattle markets in recent years, will have seen the difference in prices as between the scrub and the good animal, growing wider and wider each month. Never before has there been such discrimination against scrubs as there is at the present time. This, perhaps, has not been so noticeable at Canadian cattle markets as at Chicago and other Western markets. In Canada the number of really prime animals produced is not as large as it should be, and as it will be in the near future, and consequently this growing discrimination is not so noticeable. But when a car-load of really prime stuff, or a few choice animals are offered for sale, up goes the price, leaving a very wide margin indeed between it and that paid for the ordinary scrub, or even the medium type of animal. Only two weeks ago, as noted in our market columns, a few very choice beef animals sold at the Toronto cattle market for as high as \$7.40 per cwt. Contrast this with the price paid on the same date for inferior stuff and it will be found to be nearly twice as great. If the fellow who produced the scrub could make a profit, what a large profit the fellow must have had who produced an animal that sold for about twice the sum. Surely the day of the scrub is doomed.

The high prices for beef cattle during the past winter and the generally improved condition of the farmer from a financial point of view should enable him to produce or secure a better class of animals for feeding purposes in the future than in the past. There is a better class of breeding stock in the country to secure bulls from than was the case a few years ago, and while breeders are asking, perhaps, higher prices for their breeding stock than formerly, the condition of the cattle trade and of the farmer will enable him to pay a higher price for his foundation stock. And even if these more favorable conditions in which he now finds himself did not exist, it will pay the farmer and the cattle feeder to put up for fattening purposes only animals of the very best quality.

We have said that never before has there been such discrimination against the scrub animals as to-