

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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organized dairy interests. Lectures would be held, of course, and the committee were of opinion that cheap fares would bring even greater crowds than attend the Winter Fair at Guelph. As for location, Guelph offered the use of the present Winter Fair Building, and Peterboro was ready to erect suitable quarters. It was held that at our present Winter Fairs (Guelph and Ottawa) the meat industry overshadows everything else, and the importance of dairying was set forth as argument for Provincial aid to a new show. By resolution, the report of the committee was approved.

Later in the same session, Hon. Nelson Monteith, Minister of Agriculture for Ontario, addressed the convention. He pointed out that the dairy industry last year received \$59,000 of Provincial money, and that this vote is increasing at a faster ratio than the total appropriation for agricultural purposes. He seemed dubious of the success of a national dairy show, pointing out that the Canadian farmer is not a frequent traveler, and if he attends one winter fair he is doing well. Instead of holding several separate shows, let us build up the present winter fairs, extending the dairy features, and possibly adding a horse department. Let us give the visitor a week of it at Guelph and Ottawa. In conclusion, he voiced a wise counsel that we had better not attempt too many different things, and not try to hold too many shows.

While "The Farmer's Advocate" is thoroughly seized of the importance of the dairy industry, and anxious to see it promoted by every judicious means, we commend the Minister's sane view of the matter. The money needed could be much better spent, as Chief Instructor Barr intimated at London, by holding more district meetings, employing instructors to attend and address the annual meetings of cheese factories and creameries and offering prizes for dairy-herd competitions throughout the Province. It is questionable just how much good an exhibition would do. Accord-

ing to report, the National Dairy Show at Chicago last year was poorly attended, poorly patronized by dairy stockmen, and none too successful in any way. The Ontario Horticultural Exhibition at Toronto, which, though liberally supported by public funds, is meagrely attended, and last year netted a deficit of over \$300, is another example of the unwisdom of multiplying shows. Then, again, the holding of a separate dairy show would doubtless draw away the present milking competition and exhibit of dairy apparatus from Guelph, thus detracting from the success of that institution, whereas the wise course is to use the existing Winter Fair as a nucleus round which to build up a greater fair. It is urged that Guelph is not a dairy center, yet we find the committee entertained, tentatively, at any rate, an invitation from that very city to use the Winter Fair Building for its purpose, indicating that the argument about location is as much an excuse as a reason. Guelph is central for Western Ontario, and Ottawa serves the Eastern part of the Province. Of course, if the city council of Guelph refused to co-operate with the Provincial Government in providing greatly-enlarged quarters for the Winter Fair, there might be occasion for a separate dairy show, but we have every reason to believe that wise counsel will obtain in the municipal administration of the Royal City.

The novelty of a dairy show would wear off in time, leaving the equipment as a white elephant on our hands, and unless the idea has sufficient inherent merit to sustain it after the boom stage, initial novelty is a weakness rather than a source of strength. A dairy exhibition would do some good, but is it the best way to spend money? We believe there is a strong and reasonable call for a large extension of the dairy feature of the present Winter Fairs, and that this should be heeded, but it would be unfortunate, indeed, to attempt to hold two shows to cover the ground that one can better serve. Few Ontario dairymen but are interested in other lines of stock husbandry as well, and common sense opposes a move which would make it necessary to spend one week at Guelph seeing hogs, cattle, sheep and poultry, then another at some other point the following month inspecting dairy machinery and stock. Time is too valuable.

### Our Maritime Letter.

Although the Maritime Winter Fair, held at Amherst annually in December, has been fairly successful—wonderful in this, that from nothing it quickly sprung to the first place among Maritime shows, and formed a sort of center round which the public-spirited headmen of husbandry could periodically assemble—it has not by any means reached the apogee of success; and neither the gentlemen who compose the Board of Management, nor the officials having directly to do with it, would like to have past performances, however creditable, to impose any sort of finality on their ambitions for the future. It has, as we have said, evolved fairly successfully ex nihilo; the evolution of the future, if it is to hold its place in the regard and confidence of the public, must at least correspond in degree with that of the past.

Started as a purely Fat-stock and Poultry Show, the Winter Fair has already enlarged its programme by the inclusion of fruit, seed grain and the apiary. It has now before it a larger proposition—nothing less than the formation of a great Maritime Horse Show, which would gather the lovers of this noblest of animals—and who is not included in this category?—from all over the country, and serve a useful purpose in the distribution all over the breeding ground of Maritime Canada of sires worthy the patronage of this advanced age, and the intelligence which has come to every farmer's fireside by long and serious consideration of the whole horse question. Unnecessary the avowal here, that horses have greatly relieved the economics of the agricultural situation in these Provinces for the last four or five years. In Prince Edward Island everybody breeds them, and therefore has everybody shared in the good prices coming from their disposal. There is this difference in the sale of a horse and the sale of other commodities, to the ordinary breeder: The horse brings a lump sum in cash, usually respectable enough, into the owner's hand,

instead of dribs and drabs from any grain or other animal product he may put on the market. It is, therefore, susceptible of more good to him. And, strange to say—or, not strange, either—he looks after the large sum more carefully than the small one, or number of small ones. "I get more out of it," we have heard him aver time and again; and he does.

The Board has considered seriously this horse show at Amherst now a couple of years. The public seem to clamor for it; the Town of Amherst and the Corporation of Cumberland, which have supplied the commodious buildings in which the Winter Fair is held, have been consulted. A plebiscite, they tell us, is necessary for the increased grant required. Last year it was voted on and found adverse; or, rather, they assure us, a feeling of too great security was responsible for want of sufficient activity on the part of its friends to instruct even the ignorant voter, who really didn't know what the by-law meant. It will come up again this year, and pass without difficulty, it is stated. As Amherst and the County of Cumberland stand in the position of direct beneficiaries to this Winter Fair, as Guelph does to its prototype, it is certainly their duty to provide generously for all extension schemes.

Coming back from the Fair this season, as the worthy vice-president and myself, who am also a director for my Province, were enjoying a C.P.R. menu, a well-known Maritime horseman entered into conversation with us on this subject. "Do you really think," asked Col. Campbell, "that we should go into this horse-show business at Amherst in connection with the Winter Fair?" The reply was a most emphatic affirmative, and so roseate a picture of what such a feature would do for the Fair and the country, that we looked at each other and asked ourselves what we had really been doing to let public demand so far outrun us as directors of a new and constantly expanding institution. No doubt it will take professional management; no doubt it will require much of the nicest kind of organization; no doubt the money necessary to success will be a large sum; but we believe that the extra attraction, as crystallized in gate fees, will easily pay the outlay; that the impetus given to intelligent horse-breeding will be immense; and that the Maritime Sales will shortly rival, as our enthusiast said, the New York Annual, in which he bought the great sire which has certainly left his beneficent impress on the stock of these Provinces. It is well to be enthusiastic; nothing is done without enthusiasm; this Horse Fair and Sale will materialize.

A. E. BURKE.

## HORSES.

### Live-stock Research.

Continuing a discussion of Dr. Alexander's bulletin, we shall consider in this article his criticism of the present stallion law in Wisconsin and his recommendations relative to future legislation. In order to keep the licensing system effective and the registry up-to-date, the author believes that provision should be made to require a renewal of licenses once a year, or at least once every two years, possibly, however, at a reduced fee. The renewal system would serve to assist in eliminating or retiring speedily stallions of questionable merit, and in an educative way tend to stimulate an improvement in breeding practice.

Attention is called to deceitful and misleading methods employed in advertising stallions on posters, handbills, etc., by the use of fictitious portraits, by the misrepresentation of pedigrees, and by suppressing the information given in the Government certificates. It is believed that the law should require the conspicuous display of this certificate on all posters and advertisements of whatever description, that these bills should be posted at every "stand" in the horse's route, and that misrepresentation, either in the way of pedigree or portrait, should be made illegal.

In the wording of the law, no enumeration is made of the diseases which should be considered "hereditary, transmissible, or communicable," and a loophole has therefore been given to unscrupulous men in the oath that they make as to their stallion's soundness. The author suggests the necessity of a definite statement of the diseases which should be considered to constitute him unsound and of the qualities which would render him unserviceable. In the category of diseases of this nature recognized by eminent veterinarians the world over are mentioned: Eye disease, chorea, stringhalt, roaring, heaves or broken wind, bone or bog spavin, ringbone, side-bone, navicular disease, and pigment tumors. Blemishes and deformities due to accident should not, however, constitute unsoundness subjecting a stallion to rejection for breeding purposes. Among communicable diseases are mentioned glanders, farcy, maladie du coit and urethral gleet. Further, however, it is suggested that the veterinarian should have the option of rejecting stallions such as are malformed, undersized, or of un-