FOR FARMERS, STOCK BREEDERS AND GARDNERS

THE SHEEP AND SWINE INDUSTRIES

Retention of Good Breeding Hogs Advised — Raising of Proper Type Lambs Stressed

The following resume of conditions in the sheep and swine industries for the year 1932 is contributed by Mr. H. W. Clay of the Dominion Department of Agriculture:

SWINE INDUSTRY

During the year 1932 the Canadian swine industry passed through the most discouraging period in its history. At the first of the year prices were at a very low level, and many farmers with a spirit of optimism retained the usual number of marketable hogs. As the year drew to a close there was nothing in sight which would tend to give any degree of encouragement. The province of Prince Edward Island perhaps was influenced by these conclusions in a lesser degree than were other parts of Canada. During the early part of 1932 there was little or no market for potatoes. With this in mind our swine growers considered it more profitable to market their potatoes through the medium of hogs than to allow the potato crop to become a dead loss. Among a great number of our farmers, particularly in the poorer livestock producing sections there is in evidence a very strong tendency to go out of hog raising entirely. As concrete evidence of this fact we have but to mention the appeciable number of sucker pigs that have been killed at birth or before weaning age.

On the other hand in our better livestock sections, and incidentally our more progressive sections, we find in the minds of the farmers a very determined resolution to maintain their usual hog output. As evidence of this we may quote the result of a census taken during the past summer. A large number of our hog growers were interviewed. The chief question asked them was: "Can you raise hogs at a profit with the live hog price in the vicinity of four cents?" In practically every case where we interviewed, prosperous farmers who raised twenty or more hogs annually, the answer was was, "yes," many of these farmers going so far as to say that when they gave up hog production they would give up farming.

Unfortunately a great number of farmers use little foresight in their production policies. Invariably we find individuals sacrificing their breeding stock when prices are low, and buying back breeding stock of similar quality at much higher prices when the market advances. The present hog market outlook gives some evidence that this condition will be repeated in the near future. Farmers who have had faith in the livestock industry, and who have retained their breeding stock have some reason to look to the future with optimism. Information available at the present time would lead us to believe that a hog shortage is in sight. Denmark, our strongest competitor on the British market, has a very large decrease in the number of bred sows. This decrease is also found in the greater part of western Canada. A noticeable decrease is anticipated in United States. In European countries, such as Poland and Holland a decrease in the number of bred sows is even more noticeable. This prospective shortage together with the benefits which we hope to obtain through preference on the British market, should mean that 1933 will see considerable improvement in the Canadian hog marketing situation.

Perhaps the greatest evidence of confidence among our swine growers was the result of the 1932 Swine Show and Sale. At this event quality brood sows were in such demand that thirty head were sold at prices ranging up to $46. Farmers who purchased these sows were looking ahead to the years 1933 and 1934. It might not be too much speculation to suggest that during the fall of 1933, and the spring of 1934, farmers who are going out of hog production today will be paying high prices to get in again.

Hog Grading

The percentage of selects among Prince Edward Island hogs in 1932 will equal that of 1931. During the first part of the year the percentage of selects showed a very remarkable increase, and if this condition had continued, 1932 would have been a record year. During the latter part of the year the number of selects showed a gradual decrease, particularly in some districts. This decrease was caused chiefly by the shipping of many hogs weighing under 200 pounds, country weights.

SHEEP

The year 1932, sheep growers were beset by innumerable causes for discouragement. In addition to the low price offered by the market, additional cuts were inaugurated by packers to discourage the marketing of heavy lambs. This cut, although having very strong reasons for its enforcement worked to discourage many sheep growers. In sheep production Prince Edward Island farmers have not shown any great tendency to produce the type of lamb for which the market calls. In this respect our sheep growers have lagged behind all oher live stock producers. In swine production we use only pure bred boars of bacon type. In our dairy cattle production policy we emphasize the use of pure bred bulls. But in sheep production any ram irrespective of type or conformation is good enough to head our flocks. In fact our sheep growers have gone so far astray in their breeding policy that their chief concern in selecting a ram is size. The result is that too many of our try lambs show greater propensities for speed and fence jumping than they do qualities for mutton. By over emphasizing size in our rams we have developed too many market lambs with long legs, narrow bodies, weak constitution, and consequently poor finishing qualities. It may be a possibility that lamb grading on a similar basis to hog grading will become an established Canadian policy. When this takes place, the breeder who makes an effort to produce a low-set blocky, easy-finishing lamb, will reap his reward.

Ram Club Policy

To maintain the quality of Canadian lambs during this period of discouragement the Dominion Live Stock Branch has come to the financial assistance of our producers by aiding in the purchase of registered rams. For a deposit of $5 from the breeder, the Live Stock Branch supplied the farmer with a registered 2X ram lamb. Rams of higher quality could be obtained by making a larger deposit. These rams were delivered to the purchaser prepaid. In Prince Edward Island many sheep growers have taken advantage of this policy during the past two years.

Internal Parasites

It is a known fact that a very high percentage of P. E. Island flocks are seriously infested with worms. In fact the flock that has never been treated, and is still clean is the exception. The serious loss of breeding ewes during the spring and summer, and the high percentage of under weight poor-doing lambs can be credited to internal parasites. During the past year the Dominion Live Stock Branch made an effort to popularize the practice of drenching. Numerous demonstrations were held throughout the province with very encouraging results. Plans have already been made to put on a sheep drenching campaign during the spring of 1933. Drenching demonstrations will be held in all districts which wish for such, with the hope that unnecessary loss caused by worms may be eliminated in the future.

Sheep production will continue to be a necessary phase of farming in many parts of Prince Edward Island. With more attention to breeding and preventative measures taken to control both internal and external parasites, sheep production will continue to be a profitable phase of our live stock indus-

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Horse Memoirs

(C. E. MacKenzie)

(C. E. Mackenzie)

Further reminders have come to the writer regarding still others of our earlier harness horses. "Beacon" a thoroughbred and "Membrino Star" 2.28 1-2 standard bred were imported to this province by the late Dr. J. T. Jenkins; both proved their worth as stock horses. Beacon was a son of Volunteer 55. Still another Thoroughbred was the horse "Jack Lane." This horse was a real runner himself and many of his colts inherited this quality from their worthy sire; we still have horses in this province that trace to this horse and every one of them has that wonderful stamina inherited from this thoroughbred blood.

Yet another horse doing stud service here was "Kentucky Bill" and while his colts were not numerous they were a nice class of horses.

In a former article the writer stated that "Dean Swift" and sons played a prominent part in the upbuilding of the harness horses of the New London district, but possibly older foundation stock should have some of this glory. In looking over some old papers it was my delight to find the name of a horse that, when a boy, I had often heard my father refer to, namely: "New London Blue." This horse was a son of Wanton thoroughbred and was a very prominent horse in his day on the North Side; many of the races at bookie's, which race course was by the way, situated near Charlottetown on the St. Peters road, were from New London Blue, and when raced, generally brought home the bacon.

In speaking of the sons of Preceptor, I unintentionally omitted the names of "Plospector" owned in Sour's and "J. H. Ringwood" bred and owned by the late Andrew Doyle, Charlottetown. The writer when he started farming owned a daughter of the former horse from a Black Pilot Mother that could hold a ten mile clip all day. J. H. Ringwood or Jack as he was called was from a Pilot-Mac Innis mother and his double cross of MacInnis made him a super horse and many of our best brood mares of today are from daughters of this wonderful sire. If friends know of others please let the writer know.

The writer feels that he may be pardoned if in place of mentioning our later importations as they came to the province, he mentions them under the head of the owner and in this article I would like to pay tribute to the activities of a very close friend, namely, the late Hammond Kelly, Southport. If my memory serves me right the genial Hammond made his debut to the race track as owner and driver of a brown gelding named "Bonny K:" this horse so successfully trained and piloted by his owner was generally a strong contender in every race in which he started. Mr. Kelly's first importations were two stallions, namely, "Harvest Bells and "Dunholm", the former a two year old, which Mr. Kelly sold to Gordon T. Ives, Montague. He was sired by The Harvester 2.01 whose first flock of colts numbered thirty nine; thirty of these trotted or paced in two-thirty or better in their three year old form. Harvest Bells dam was Allie Watson, dam of two 2.30 or better. This horse did stud service in Montague and later in different parts of Queens County. Mr. Kelly retained Dunholm and raced him the following season and was in the money in every start, winning eight out of eleven races, making a record of 2.17 1-4, the fastest heat trotted on Prince Edward Island that season. To the uninitiated, Dunholm did not look like a winner but he sure was the "Dark Horse" in almost every race, and his owner and driver got the name of "Lucky Kelly." Dunholm was sold to E. L. Harrington of Eldon and was later sold to Cape Breton parties.

Of all Mr. Kelly's importations that of "Mayor Todd" was the most important; this beautiful son of Todd was not only a race horse himself but transmitted his sterling qualities to his colts. Mayor Todd was campaigned throughout the Maritimes and the Eastern States where Mr. Kelly sold him for a large sum and again the next year purchased him back, and again raced him. Todd made a handsome win for his owner at the race pulled off during the visit of His Royal Highness Prince of Wales to Charlottetown. I need not go into the breeding of Mayor Todd as it is generally known Kentucky Morgan was still another class A importation of the lucky Hammond that proved a good investment, his fastest daughter bein Dixie Masque. Colorado L. a beautiful large bay stallion was the result of another visit of Mr. Kelly to the Old Glory sales in New York. Colorado L. also proved a winner and was successfully campaigned by his owner over Maritime tracks and later sold to Cape Breton parties. Longset 2.06 was still another importation of Mr. Kelly's as was Frisco Direct; these both horses have sired splendid stock and Longset's stock have proved real race horses and the get of Frisco, while few of them have been handled, show indications of having an abundance of speed.

Besides having imported the above horses, Mr. Kelly developed many speedy ones, among which the writer remembers Longboat, Ginger Jellicoe, The Prep and others. As I have used the phrase "Dark horse" in this article, the origin of this phase would not be out of place here. The first use of "Dark horse" has been traced to a turf oracle of Tennessee named Judge McMinamee. In the long ago when "hoss racin" was one of the principal diversions of Tennesseeans, a gentleman named Sam Flynn, owned a black stallion called "Dusky Pete", not a "likely hoss" in appearance, but one that could travel at a rate that put most of the animals pitted against him to scorn. It was Flynn's custom to ride this horse into a town where a race meeting was being held and enter him in a race. "Dusky Pete" was not a handsome steed, and Flynn could always get a goodly number of bets down at excellent odds. Seldom did Pete fail to romp home far ahead of the local favorites to the enrichment of the owner. One day Judge McMinamee was appointed a judge at a race meet and among the entries he observed Flynn's plug. "Gentlemen," he said, "there's a "dark horse" in this race that will make you "sick." After that it became a saying in Tennessee and elsewhere. Look out for a "dark horse". The above is only an illustration of how such sayings become almost world wide

UHLAN 1.54 1-2

As the holiday Review has been chosen as the medium for presenting Uhlan's greetings to the trotting horse world and the writer has been asked to act as spokesman in his behalf, he is going to write of the king of the turf in a personal vein, believing that will be the best manner in which to convey, through the printed word, something of the feeling with which this wonderful horse should be regarded, as, when all is said and done, the highest type and the most perfect trotter of championship class that the world has ever seen.

One of the days that stand out in light harness history is that upon which the fifty thousand dollar American Trotting Derby was contested at the Readville track, near Boston. The date was August 25, 1908. An enormous crowd was present from all parts of America. Thirty-three horses appeared for the word and were started in two divisions, each trotting a dash of a mile and a quarter, the eight horses finishing in the van in each preliminary being eligible to start in the final; which as all know, was won by the green horse Allen Winter, raced from the 2.10 mark, upon which he had been placed by the handicapper.

That day I first saw Uhlan. He was a starter in the first preliminary and, like Allen Winter, it was the first public race of his life. When the handicaps were announced and it was discovered that Allen Winter's fast work had leaked out and he was placed on the 2.10 mark, his party were indignant, but he won, just the same. Uhlan, also a novice, was placed on the 2.10 mark, too, and I will recall the curt remark of Secretary Charles M. Jewett, of the New England Breeders' Association, when that fact was mentioned. "Uhlan"! he ejaculated. "Why, that's the fastest trotter Bingen ever sired!" In which he was eminently correct. But whereas, Allen Winter was lucky in the great race, Uhlan was just as unlucky. Sixteen horses started in his preliminary, and they were stationed at intervals all the way from the wire to the head of the home stretch. Getting them off was a strenuous task, for men were asked to do so that had never attempted anything of the kind before. There was bound to be some unfortunates and when the gong rang out "Go"! Uhlan was turned the wrong way of the track—in other words, left at the post, and never competed for the big prize at all.

Robert Proctor was then training and driving him, and he made amends for this disaster later in the season by appearing on the Grand Circuit with the black gelding, then four years old, and sweeping all his engagements, with ridiculous ease, giving him what was then the world's record for four-year-old unsexed trotters, 2.07—the first of the many to be his before his career was ended.

I saw him race that fall at Columbus and again at Lexington. The morning I reached the Columbus track, my confrere on The Review, Joe Markey, hailed me excitedly, crying, "some here"! Hurry up! Hurry! He was standing on the quarter stretch and I sprinted out there just in time to see a black trotter go dashing past at terrific speed.

"What was it"? I gasped, somewhat out of breath. "The next world's champion trotter"! was the surprising reply.

"Do you mean it?" I ejaculated with another gasp, for I knew Lou Dillon, then holding the record at 1.58½, was a part of Joe's religion, and did not suppose he would admit the horse lived with a chance to dethrone her.

"Yes, I mean it"! he answered. "That's Uhlan. He won here last week and you'll see him win again this one. I've been watching him closely and mark my prediction, he is the coming trotting champion"!

That as I have stated, was in 1908, at which time Lou Dillon had reigned for five years, so unapproached that many persons were heard to contend that her record never would be beaten. Incidentally, of how many record breakers the same prophecy has been made, and with the same result! Establishing the fact that no record is ever safe, nor can it be foretold from what direction the new champion may appear.

Uhlan reappeared in 1909 as a five-year-old, his speed so much improved that he seemed like a thing with wings. At the Randall summer meeting, he beat San Francisco and others with such ease, trotting in 2.03¾ (then the race record for geldings) that the onlookers were amazed. There was only one horse in training fit to measure strides with such a trotter, John E. Madden's mare Hamburg Belle. W. J. Andrews had been gradually tuning her up for something sensational and when the subject of a match was broached, the man from Hamburg place was willing. It was arranged for Randall on Aug. 25, 1909, and national interest was riveted upon the issue. The day was sweltering, the track like lightning, both horses in superb form. The first heat gave those who saw it a thrill unlike anything else they had ever experienced. Hamburg Belle took the lead, Uhlan lying close by all the way. When the home stretch was entered, Proctor sat down and made his drive. Inch by inch the black gelding drew upon the flying mare and as they approached the wire, the interest became painful in its intensity. When it was reached her head was still in front, but he was trotting the faster of the two and in the next stride headed her. The time was 2.01¼, shearing two full seconds off the world's race record of Cresceus, which had stood for eight years.

The excitement was indescribable. Men gazed at their watches as if unable to believe their eyes, then looked at each other, wordless—or with flushed faces tried to find words to express their wonder. Many who watched the finish closely felt that the verdict would be reversed in the second heat. When the word was given for it a great stillness seemed to settle upon the watching thousands. Again the mare flew away in front, but this time the gelding was keeping closer and as soon as the back stretch was entered, Proctor pulled him out and challenged. The pace was frightful—a 1.56 gait. "He's got her"! was the cry that went up. But suddenly the high-held black head of the gelding was seen to dip and falter, he seemed to stagger, almost to fall, then gathered himself together again, again stumbled as if falling, then went into a wild break, from which he never recovered. The mare sped on, winning the heat and match, driven out in 2.01¾. As she finished, Uhlan, still staggering and reeling was over an eighth of a mile behind.

What could have happened? The answer was, that his quarter boot had come loose and dropped dangling about his foot when he first was seen to stumble; in his efforts to regain his stride with it flapping about his foot he went to a whole series of breaks, but could not shake loose the broken boot, which continued to impede him until he was halfway through the home stretch, he then finally pulled the shoe on that foot and sending it and the boot high in the air within sight of the grand stand.

Before she had been cooled out, Hamburg Belle had been sold by Madden to Mr. H. M. Hanna for $50,000, but the Uhlan party declared the result a false one and demanded a return match. It was made for two weeks later, at Readville, and there the son of Bingen made a show of the daughter of Axworthy.

Among the spectators at the Randall race was Charles Tanner, who that same day had gotten home from Russia, whither he had taken a stable of horses belonging to Mr. Billings and headed by Lou Dillon on an exhibition tour of Germany, Russia and Austria. We rode into the city together after the race, still vibrant with the excitement it produced and discussing its every phase and angle.

The great trainer had acted for Mr. Hanna in his purchase of the mare, also, and that added to the interest of the moment. "He will beat her the next time they meet"! was my ardent contention. "Doc did not endorse that opinion, but he said repeatedly, "I never saw anything like the way he finished that first heat"! He'll beat two minutes—that's certain. What a horse! What a horse! Nobody ever saw another like him.

It was not until the Columbus fall meeting that I saw Uhlan again. He had beaten Hamburg Belle in the return match in the interim, there was nothing left for him to race against and so he was down for an exhibition mile. Among the first men I met at the track, on reaching it, was Charles Tanner. With him were the late Frank G. Jones, of Memphis, and Dr. Sprengle, of Cleveland, the well-known veterinary. I sensed "something in the air." Would you like to go and look at a horse with us? was the salutation I received. I did not ask what one, but in a moment Mr. Tanner took me aside and said: "If Uhlan passes Dr. Sprengle's examination, I will take him home with me to Randall."

"You mean—?" I queried.

"Mr. Billings is buying him if Mr. Jones and myself say the word."

We found Uhlan standing in his stall with the harness on, waiting a work-out mile. He submitted to examination gracefully, a little wonderingly, too, as if somewhat puzzled by four strangers entering and giving him much more than the once over. Shortly after emerged, Mr. Jones on behalf of Mr. Billings, wrote a cheque for $35,000, payable to Uhlan's owner, Mr. Charles Sanders, of Salem, Mass., and the son of Bingen and Blondella passed into the control of Charles Tanner, who consented to his filling his exhibition engagement at Columbus, where he established a record of 2.02¼ for five year old geldings in effortless fashion, being then shipped to Randall. For four years thereafter, Uhlan remained in the charge of Mr. Tanner, and during that time I was in constant and intimate contact with him, seeing him in the majority of his record breaking performances, driven to waggon by Mr. Billings and in single and double harness, to sulky and waggon, and with running mate, by his trainer. This included not only his American career, but when he was shipped to Russia in the spring of 1912 to delight the horsemen of the land of the Tsars by his speed and beauty.

I saw him trot the first mile in the open, in history in 2.00 or better, 1.58¾, North Randall, August 12th, 1910, (Tanner); the first mile to waggon, in the open, in 2.00, North Randall, Aug. 8th, 1911 (Mr. Billings); the first mile below Lou Dillon's record, 1.58, Lexington, Oct. 8th, 1912, (Tanner); the fastest quarter mile ever trotted, 27 seconds, Lexington, Oct. 6, 1913 (Tanner); the fastest half-mile ever trotted, 56¼ seconds, North Randall, Aug. 11, 1911 (this to waggon, moreover; Mr. Billings) the fastest mile ever trotted to pole with another horse, 2.03¼, Lexington, Oct. 11, 1912 (to pole with Lewis Forrest, Tanner); the fastest mile ever trotted with running mate, 1.54½, Lexington, Oct. 9, 1913, (Tanner); the fastest mile ever trotted in Europe, 2.04, Moscow, Russia, June 14, 1912, (over two-thirds mile track; Tanner). Also I saw Mr. Billings ride him an exhibition eighth under saddle, at Lexington in 1914, in 13½ seconds officially timed, he also trotted an eighth in 13 seconds, a 1.44 clip at Curles Neck Farm, (Mr. Billings).

These are only a few of the many things I saw him do. I did not see him trot the half-mile track at Goshen, N. Y., in 2.02¾, in 1911; nor over the same track, in 1913 trot a half in 59¼ seconds, a feat no other trotter has ever approached. But again and again I saw him trot two-minute miles under the most adverse conditions and give other evidences of a capacity for extreme efforts, of the most versatile description, which defy comparison

It has also been my privilege to ride behind him at speed and from that vantage point study and marvel at the perfection of his action and the impression of power, apparently unlimited, that he gave, the flexibility of his naturally high strung, mettlesome make-up under a master's hand—the invariable response to each call made upon him

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Difficult Year For Dairymen

In a review of the dairy situation in Canada recently, J. F. Singleton, Dominion Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, stated in part: "The year 1932 is the fourth year of declining butter prices and has been a difficult one not only for those producing milk for the manufacture of butter but also for manufacturers of and dealers in butter. At the beginning of the year stocks in storage in Canada, and while in excess of the stocks in storage as at January 1st, 1931, were approximately the same as the quantity in storage January 1st, 1931, plus the quantity imported January to April, 1931. From that standpoint the situation was reasonably sound but most provinces were reporting increased production. Saskatchewan produced 48.1 per cent more butter during December, 1931, than during december, 1930. While there was no threat of import butter during the early part of 1932, the market continued to weaken probably as a result of the reported heavy increases in make in the different provinces. The decline in prices brought in forced selling which caused a further weakening."

POULTRY PRODUCTION UNCHANGED

Eggs And Poultry Show Little Variation In Volume Produced In 1931 And 1932. Home Consumption is Increased

"Whilst final reports are not as yet compiled, a conservative estimate would be about four million dozens of eggs and six hundred thousand pounds of poultry produced in the Province in the year 1932", states Mr. J. J. Lightizer Manager of the Prince Edward Island Co-Operative Egg and Poultry Association.

"The poultry industry in this Province has during the past year shared in the general recession but not to the same extent as other commodities. The production of both eggs and poultry has been well maintained; on account of the reduced prices a considerable quantity of both commodities has been consumed on the farms. This is not a step backward as there is no more healthier food for both young and old than good fresh eggs, in fact it has been noted for years that far too small a percentage of the eggs produced were used by the producers. The same conditions as regards dressed poultry is also applicable.

"Students of economics have stated that the hen is the most profitable farm animal. In this province "biddy" is a source of weekly revenue and though prices are low she still digs in and keeps up production, if the owner will supply the raw material. With the prices of wheat, oats, etc., at the lowest prices for years, there is yet a profit for the prudent poultry husbandryman.

"The production of eggs and poultry in this Province for the past year is practically unchanged from the preceding year, but the volume marketed was much below former years, owing to the reasons as stated above."

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