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ACROSS THE ISLAND

Royal Success Brings Acclaim

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ISLAND SHOWMEN'S success at the Royal has been acclaimed by a number of people who saw the big show. Agriculture Minister MacRae was one of them.

The minister was impressed with the uniform quality of the show. You would see a class of 30 to 35 cows in the ring and would wonder where the judge would go for his tops, Mr. MacRae observed. Perhaps that is what impresses visitors most about the big fair. It's the Royal of Canadian shows. Winners from top fairs across the country come there for the final competition. The result is the best agricultural show a Canadian could see. And that's what it is intended to be.

THERE ARE a few good top animals at most of the provincial and district shows. The others are poorer, with some very ordinary ones at the foot of the classes. But there's no place for ordinary animals at the Royal. Anyone who takes them there is in for a rude surprise. He is not likely to repeat the performance.

The classes are so large and the quality so uniformly high that cattle that would be standous almost anywhere else place far down the list, or in many cases go to the barn.

WE HAVE not got all the results as yet for all of the classes have not been judged. But there have been a number of outstanding wins in potatoes, poultry and cattle. There will probably be more before the week is out. Congratulations for a splendid showing against the toughest competition a showman could find in this country.

Rhinitis Problem In Hogs

I TALKED Wednesday to Agriculture Minister Andrew MacRae about the problem of Rhinitis in our Island hogs. He found in Ontario they have learned to live with it. He and Stewart Wright, his deputy minister, drove out to the Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph for a look at what they are doing in Rhinitis control.

Control measures used there include slaughtering the first litter of a young cow. The heads are split open and traces of Rhinitis are hunted. If they are found the sow is not kept as a breeder.

The Ontario people find they can raise a litter of pigs fairly efficiently if they can get them over 40 pounds. Most damaging effects are in the young animal.

I ran into the problem of Rhinitis when it was brought forcibly to my attention several years ago by a man who had been one of this province's top showmen. It was back about 1955, I believe, and this chap had been forced out of hogs altogether, because his herd had become infected.

Earlier this week I talked to Dr. George C. Fisher, provincial director of veterinary services. He tells me he diagnosed the disease to Island hogs as long ago as 1932. So it has been with us for some time.

It Is Not A Killing Disease

IT IS NOT a killing disease but it does cut down on body growth and development. It lessens feed efficiency which is pretty serious these times when the operating margin is so small.

Dr. Fisher says it usually hits very young pigs. Sneezing or bloody noses are danger signs. If these are detected, the dam should not be bred again. Indeed, he tells me, both boars and sows sometimes they may never transmit the disease to their offspring although they may never show any signs of the disease themselves.

PERHAPS THE main difficulty is that the cause of Rhinitis is unknown. So it's difficult to clear up. Clean surroundings and strict attention to sanitation are musts.

Mr. MacRae told of one Island man who had cleaned up his place and got rid of the disease by simple measures of sanitation which he followed strictly.

Island Man Shows Grand Champion

A FORMER Island man, George Darrach, led the grand champion Holstein cow into the Royal ring this week. He was showing an Oak Ridges farm cow from Markham, Ontario. Mr. Darrach is farm manager for the outfit which produces 5,000 pounds of milk daily for the fluid trade.

Darrach was herdsman for the Oland's Ayrshire herd in Nova Scotia before he went to the Ontario farm which is owned by R. R. Dennis.

Ayrshire Star Withdrawn From Sale

THE 2-YEAR old heifer, Fairview Louise, that A. MacRae & Sons had entered in the Ayrshire Sale of Stars at the Royal developed a swelling in her udder - she is close to calving - and was withdrawn from the sale. The Fairvue herd put in a replacement but she lacked some of the outstanding milk production and classification of Louise and she also had not been advertised previously as the "Stars" are. In spite of that she brought more than \$500 at the sale earlier this week.

There is no thought of anything serious in the difficulty that beset Louise but it was enough to keep her out of the spotlight just when her appearance was necessary.