

## Helping to Build the West

When Charlie and Betty Groeneveld of the Gladys Ridge district swept the Grand and Reserve Championships at the annual High River Junior Calf Club Show and Sale this Spring — it drew attention to a unique family immigration to Alberta. It all started 27 years ago, when Flores and John Groeneveld came to Canada from Holland as youthful immigrants to settle in the Gladys Ridge district East of Okotoks, Alberta. Charles and Betty and a son and daughter of John, one of the original two brothers, started what has been a steady procession of Groenevelts from Holland, until there are now nine brothers and sisters, all farming in the community, only two sisters of the family of eleven still live in Holland.

Next to arrive in 1926 was a sister, Mrs. Betty Anderson; in 1928, came Harry and Bill, in 1930, Tony, in 1934, Andrew in 1935, Dingman, and then after the war, the eldest sister Agnes De Yong. That left only Elizabeth and Lena, both married — still living in Holland, so the exodus may still have a chapter or two to run.

All have taken up farming in the Gladys Ridge district, and have taken to Alberta. Although each operates independently, between them they have around 10,000 acres of land, of which a third is in pasture, for they average about a hundred head of cattle, predominantly Herefords, for each family. The remainder is in grain with annual production by the Groenevelts reaching as high as 150,000 bushels. Of the six thousand acres of cultivation, some is in summerfallow each year, but the crop averages around 4,500 acres. They have never been completely dried out — although things came close in the early 30's. But in one of those years, the brothers had a 150,000 bushel crop — and with prices what they were, it didn't return them enough to buy a tractor. They have had some hail — never a complete loss, and crops have been as high as 40 bushels of wheat to the acre — with the twenty year average between 20 and 25 bushels. It's a good wheat area, for the Groenevelts have had Number one — usually two and three, except 1951, when like everyone else, much of the grain wasn't threshed until Spring, and went feed. When the wheat crops did come close to failure — the Groenevelts say their cattle always pulled them through.

The brothers each have about 100 head of grade Herefords, using Purebred Hereford Bulls. They started with Collicutt bulls, later bought bulls from Bert Sheppard of Longview and from Hunter Brothers of Macleod. It was this breeding, with some of Bert Sheppard's Cows that produced the Champion steers at the High River Sale for Charlie and Betty.

Tony's oldest son, Paul, is club leader of the Gladys Ridge Beef Calf Club, making the win truly a family affair. But while the Groenevelts operate in

harmony — it's no co-operative. Each has his own land, buildings, and all equipment. Said John (or was it Flores?) "Mebbe that's why we do get along together."

Harry and Dingman, however, are the exceptions. Both single, they operate one farm in a partnership, without the kind of help the others have. Flores gets help from two sons and two daughters. John has two sons and three daughters. Bessie two sons, Bill two sons and a daughter, Andrew three boys and two girls, Tony four sons and two daughters. We never did get around to adding that all up, but it seemed like every one of the youngsters had a calf in the High River Sale — and all were good, well finished animals.

All of the Brothers are members of the Western Stock Grower's Association, and while none of them have gone into any political field, Harry, Flores, Dingman and Tony are all members of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce.

John is a Director of the High River Stock Show and Sale and the associated calf club show and sale. Flores, Andrew and Paul are all Elders of the Gladys Ridge United Church.

For the Groeneveld's their corner of Alberta lying southeast of the junction of the Bow and Highwood Rivers — is home. May the grass ever be knee deep — and the cattle fat.—L. S.

## Cattle Exports in Slump

Emphasizing the effects of the foot-and-mouth disease on Canada's export trade in cattle, the Canadian Government has just revealed that exports of cattle from this country slumped down sensationally in value to merely \$12,000 during June this year as against \$4,934,000 in the corresponding month of last year so that total shipments of cattle

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out of Canada are down to merely \$4,181,000 for the first half of this year as compared with \$37,346,000 in the same period a year ago.

The \$12,000 worth of Canadian cattle which did leave this country, it is learned here, moved to St. Pierre, owned by France.

However, exports of Canadian fresh, chilled and frozen beef and veal meats, surprisingly enough under the prevailing conditions, amounted to no less than \$7,574,000 during June this year as against \$10,161,000 a year ago in this month when no foot-and mouth disease troubles existed to interfere with normal trading on outside markets. In the first half of this year, such beef and veal exports are down to only \$9,101,000 against \$26,657,000 last year in the corresponding period.



Charles Groeneveld of the Gladys Ridge Club showed The Grand Champion at the High River Junior Beef Club Sale.

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