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# Farmer's Advocate

## and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

ESTABLISHED 1866.

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VOL. XXXIX.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., JANUARY 21, 1904.

No. 591

### EDITORIAL.

#### Pure-bred Live-stock Records.

Representatives of the Canadian Horse-breeders' Association recently waited upon the Dominion Government at Ottawa, for the purpose of urging upon the authorities, in the interest of pure-bred stock, the raising of the duty on horses coming into Canada from the United States, with a view to minimizing the entry of inferior animals. Some of the speakers also suggested the institution of "national records," not only for horses, but for all kinds of stock, in which breeding stock imported duty free would have to be recorded. In regard to the latter proposition, Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, said he had for a long time given it his attention, and he felt they must proceed very carefully, if they proceeded at all. He also mentioned that he had called a meeting of the live-stock interests, to take place in Ottawa in March, when he hoped that representative men from all the Provinces would be present. At this meeting he hoped the stockmen would discuss the matter and reach some conclusion.

In order that a clear understanding may be had of the position of Canadian records as at present conducted, a statement of what records we have and under what control may be helpful to stockmen in considering the question previous to the annual meetings of the Breeders' Associations, to be held next month. In the first place it may be stated that all the recognized pure-bred live-stock records in Canada are now national in name and character, and are conducted under the auspices of national Breeders' Associations, representing the several breeds of stock. For horses, we have the Canadian Clydesdale, Shire and Hackney Studbooks. For cattle, the Dominion Shorthorn Herdbook, the Canadian Hereford Herdbook, the Canadian Ayrshire Herdbook, and the Holstein-Friesian Herdbook of Canada. For swine, we have the Dominion Swine-breeders' Record, which includes Berkshires, Yorkshires, Chester Whites, Tamworths, Poland-Chinas, Duroc-Jerseys, and Essex. For sheep, there are no Canadian records. An attempt was a few years ago made, not by the Breeders' Associations, but by what was termed a Record Association, to institute a registry in this country for sheep, but it did not meet with the general support of Canadian sheep-breeders, and soon ceased to exist, the great majority of breeders in the country being satisfied with the terms on which registry of their sheep are accepted in the American records, Canadian breeders as members having equal privileges with those of the U. S., the presidency of several of the breed societies being at present held by Canadians. For Aberdeen-Angus, Galloway, Jersey and Guernsey cattle we have no records in Canada, the American records being, so far as we know, considered satisfactory.

There is a record in Quebec for French-Canadian cattle, of which Dr. J. A. Couture is secretary, but whether a society directs it we are not aware. Nearly all, if not all, the records of Great Britain and the United States are controlled by the breed societies, which elect their own officers and registrars, and fix entry standard.

The idea of national records, as we have shown, is not new, and its extension may be worth considering, and the breeders will doubtless

see to it that their interests are amply safeguarded and none of their prerogatives interfered with, as they are the people most intimately interested, and who have the clearest understanding of the requirements in the case. Canadian records, as at present conducted, are of as high standard as those of any other country, and higher than many, as Mr. Fisher pointed out in comparing them with United States records, and more accurately kept.

The Canadian horse, cattle and swine records, with the exception of the Holstein Herdbook, which is compiled by Mr. G. W. Clemons, are edited by Mr. Henry Wade, who, as registrar, receives a fixed salary from the Ontario Government, and, in addition, a certain amount from the various breed associations for each pedigree recorded under the rules and regulations of said associations, he paying his own office assistants. The fact of the registrar's office being in Toronto, and part of his salary paid by the Ontario Government, we presume accounts for the impression prevailing in some quarters that the records are provincial, while, as a matter of fact, the Provincial Government does not control nor regulate the records.

#### A Killing Leaflet.

No less important a body than the British Board of Agriculture recently issued a leaflet advising owners of cows how to prevent or treat milk fever. With regard to the former, the usual diet, restrictions are suggested, with mild purgatives. When the disease unmistakably makes its appearance, the leaflet directs that a "good dose of Epsom salts" should be given, and the veterinary called. If the experience of thousands of cases in the past be a guide, this dosing with salts will probably fix the cow's doom, and the offices of the veterinary will be of a post-mortuary character, for paralysis prevents the cow from swallowing, and she is strangled to death. The leaflet then goes on to recommend the iodide-of-potassium udder-injection (Schmidt) treatment, which, properly administered, has certainly proved a great advance on older methods in saving the lives of valuable cows. However, had the author of the leaflet read the "Farmer's Advocate" as attentively as he should have done during the past year he would have learned a still more excellent way, viz., the pure-oxygen udder-injection treatment, with which a firm of leading Canadian veterinarians, during the past season, had forty-seven complete recoveries out of forty-eight cases, the one loss being from mechanical congestion of the lungs, the cow having been dosed by someone else before the oxygen treatment was administered. These practitioners particularly insist that there shall be no such accompanying treatment, as it is practically certain to be deadly in its effects. They have also noticed that milking out the cow's udder clean after calving has been an almost invariable preliminary of milk fever, as it seems, as not a few stockmen and others have observed, to hasten the milk-fever collapse. Leaving the calf with the cow to suckle, removing the colostrum in nature's gradual way, is a suggestion in the way of prevention that should be more generally taken advantage of. The above ideas are not new in Canada, but are repeated with the hope that they may in due time counteract, in some degree, the mischief which might be wrought if British dairymen or breeders were to follow the belated and mischievous teaching of the official leaflet sent out by the Board of Agriculture.

#### The West's Lesson for the East.

In nearly every hamlet throughout Eastern Canada during the winter months may be met citizens of the Northwest who have returned for a short visit to their old homes. Having spent considerable time on the prairie, cultivating the broad fields and harvesting the extensive crops of that country, these men have learned the value of time and the necessity of utilizing horse power and manual skill to the best advantage, and their knowledge of these subjects cannot fail to aid in a solution of the labor question in the older Provinces.

A noticeable characteristic of the Westerner is his pronounced satisfaction with his condition, whether he be located in Manitoba, sunny Alberta, or upon the vast Assiniboia prairies intervening. Asked the reason of his pride in the West, he invariably attributes it to the larger, broader outlook, and more wholesale methods of the country. Instead of measuring his crop in bushels, he measures it in carloads; instead of driving two horses before a plow, seeder or binder, he hitches four and sometimes six horse teams to each implement, reckoning nothing if one or two of his team be oxen or mules. The country is broad, and its very vastness suggests broader plans than are common on farms located among the hills and valleys of the East. By adopting these wholesale methods, each person in the West is enabled to accomplish so great an amount of work that the results cannot but be gratifying, hence the love of the Westerner for his prairie home and processes.

In these practices there is a lesson for the Easterner. Formerly, when pine stumps stood defiantly before the plow and reaper, and much of our best timber was converted into fence rails to lay off ten- or twelve-acre fields, the use of a single plow and ten-hoe drill was almost imperative, but to-day we are under different conditions. The stumps have disappeared, and the fences should be if they are not reduced in number, and over the greater part of Eastern Canada there is every facility for employing implements of greater capacity. A man's time is valuable, and is becoming more so every season, and if farming operations are to be carried on as extensively as before, when labor was cheaper, then larger plows, wider harrows and drills, and longer sickle bars will have to be called into requisition. The Westerner's ideas of accomplishing farm work are modern and advanced; they suit the nature of the times, when in order to do profitable work every man must accomplish the maximum of which he is capable, and there is no one too incapable to drive four horses who has previously driven two, and thus accomplish double what had previously been considered a man's day's work.

When the Westerner tells us we are too slow, it is worth while listening. If there are better methods of accomplishing farm work than we have already adopted, we need to know them. Competition is so keen that we cannot afford to be too conservative in our practices. Without a doubt, much time has been lost by men leisurely following implements of small size, and to prevent further loss, every new machine purchased should be as large as the conditions about the farm will permit of using.