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Vol. XLV.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1871
LONDON, ONTARIO, FEBRUARY 17, 1910

No. 908

EDITORIAL.

Breed something "classy." Nondescripts are nearly always at a discount. It is the top-notch, excelling in a certain class, or for a certain purpose, that lines the breeder's pocket.

The Parliamentary committee considering the Miller anti-race-track gambling bill must not take too seriously the resolutions adopted at several of the horse-breeders' annual meetings. They appear to have been introduced by men who have merely friendly or else a sporting interest in the Thoroughbred, and were passed in that perfunctory manner in which motions sometimes go through. To our personal knowledge, several men who sanctioned them questioned their propriety afterwards, and expressed misgivings as to the wisdom of allowing them to pass.

Mr. Biggar endeavors to hold out to Canadian sheep-raisers the same fond, illusive hope of cheapening goods to the consumer by raising the tax on them—both on the raw material and on the finished product. This promise of subtraction by means of addition is the time-honored means by which ultra-protectionists have ever deceived themselves. And they do it honestly, too. We are ready to admit that an industry adapted to a country may sometimes be earlier established by a little judicious tariff aid, but a business that cannot do with a virtual protection of thirty per cent. is hardly worth the whistle.

The request of the cattle- and horse-breeders' organizations, which recently met in Toronto, for a large amphitheatre in which judging may be accomplished with comfort, without fear of interruption by bad weather, and with seats for the thousands of would-be spectators, will surely commend itself to the good judgment of the Canadian National Exhibition Directorate. The experience of the large American State fairs, which, after providing such arenas, have only regretted that they did not build larger, and of the Winter Fair, Guelph, where the thousand seats provided proved hardly enough to accommodate a third of the keenly-interested observers, preaches the need more eloquently than argument could do.

That a readjustment of the tariff on wools and woollens, in accordance with the desires of Canadian manufacturers, would tax the consumer about fourteen millions in return for a benefit of four and a half millions to the Canadian sheep-raiser, was the conclusion arrived at by the Dominion Sheep-breeders' Committee on the woollen tariff, appointed in 1909 to look into the matter, and confer with the manufacturers. That is about the way any demand of Canadian farmers for increased protection is liable to work out. Not only are the consumers taxed by whatever amount the farmer might be benefited, but his request is sure to be made an excuse by manufacturers for increases in the tariff on their goods. The farmer's true interest lies, therefore, not in demanding more protection, but in working to have duties generally scaled down. Meanwhile, we quite approve of the Dominion Sheep-breeders' position that the duties on wool at present prescribed in the tariff schedule should be collected, that this duty should be extended to cover tops and noils, and that a proportionate impost should be levied on imported rags.

"Beware of Dogs!"

The idea that the period of the year in which dogs are liable to contract hydrophobia is limited to the torrid summer season, sometimes called the "dog days," has been rudely shaken by the appearance of numerous outbreaks of the disease in the coldest weather of the present winter, in widely-separated districts in Western Ontario. So numerous have cases of rabies become that the Dominion and Ontario Governments have issued orders requiring the confinement or muzzling of all dogs in that part of the Province lying west of the eastern boundaries of the Counties of York and Simcoe, under the possible penalty, for infringement of the regulation, of a maximum fine of \$200 under the Federal Act; while, under the Provincial Act, a fine of \$20 for each infraction of any regulation of the Provincial Health Board may be exacted. The history of the present prevalence of rabies is said to date from May, 1907, when a stray dog carrying the disease crossed the boundary from the United States at Queenston, Ontario, since which time forty-two persons, of whom half were children, have been bitten by mad dogs. Sixty-three cattle, one horse, six sheep and thirty swine have died from rabies, and two hundred and six premises have been quarantined, owing to the presence of the disease. Most of the persons bitten have been sent to the Pasteur Institute in New York for treatment, incurring very large expenses. A peculiarity of the disease is that, as soon as rabies develops, the dog starts to roam the country, biting and infecting dogs or live stock, and frequently carrying the disease 30 or 40 miles away before the dog dies. From Queenston, the disease spread to the Counties of Welland, Lincoln, Haldimand and Brant, by June, 1908. In the following months, outbreaks were reported in Norfolk and Oxford. Early last year cases were reported from Waterloo, Wentworth and Perth, and in July infected dogs had gone as far west as Clinton, in Huron County. During the past few weeks cases have been reported from Simcoe and York, and from nearly every county in the whole of the Western Peninsula. In Galt and Paris over 60 dogs have been killed, and a few days ago a case of rabies was reported from Toronto.

In view of the fearful character of the disease, and the danger to human beings and live stock, the situation has become so serious that there should be no hesitation on the part of the owners of dogs to conform to the requirements of the regulation. And since it is a fact that a very large proportion of the dogs kept are absolutely useless for any practical purpose, and that they have become a menace to the keeping of sheep by farmers, one of the most profitable branches of agriculture, the present situation affords a favorable opportunity for the shortening of the dog census, which might well be cut in two as to numbers, without pecuniary loss to the owners, and with much greater safety to the public in many ways. It is safe to say that in few ways is so much selfishness and lack of consideration for rights and safety of others manifested as in the keeping of dogs, which in many instances are a public nuisance, and a frequent cause of well-founded complaint. Our towns and villages, where there is no earthly need for them, swarm with worthless dogs, which are liable to diseases communicable to persons, and which are a nuisance in various unmentionable ways, and are responsible for much loss to farmers by reason of the worrying of sheep. We would by no means be understood as condemning all dogs, some few of which are useful, and many of which are companionable and affectionate hardly second to man, but all will admit that there are thousands of dogs with the

services of which the country might well dispense. It is fervently to be hoped that the rabies regulations may result in a wholesome weeding out of the unfittest.

Canadian Seed Corn.

The report of the Ontario Corn-growers' Association for the year 1908 was, according to Prof. L. S. Klinck, of Macdonald College, Que., a revelation to thousands in old Ontario. The fact that in the south-western Counties of Essex and Kent, as well as portions of Elgin and Lambton, dent corn was grown and ripened for grain to such an extent as that report revealed, came as a great surprise to very many. Throughout the greater part of the section mentioned, it is common for farmers to have from 20 to 30 per cent. of their arable land in corn. This is not grown for silage purposes. Silos and dairy herds are almost unknown there. The corn is all ripened, and is used principally for hog-feeding, though other farm animals get their share, also, especially when mixed with oats or barley, and ground.

A movement towards making a specialty of growing corn for seed purposes has developed lately. It has been demonstrated that corn grown for silage in Eastern Ontario and Quebec is much later in maturing when seed from far south has been planted than when seed of the same variety is used which has been grown in more nearly the same latitude. Some of our best authorities, as, for instance, Prof. Klinck and Seed Commissioner Clark, are backing up this movement. Already, quite a considerable amount of seed corn is being sent out from this district, and the possibilities for a very large increase in the trade are excellent.

Much of the discussion that took place at the Ontario Corn Show and Convention was directed to this point. The most desirable type of ears, for maximum amount of grain, combined with medium-early maturity, and the proper treatment of corn intended for seed, were given prominent place. The season of 1909 being specially unfavorable for the full ripening and proper curing of corn, growers were specially warned that the future trade depended upon carefulness in sending out only seed that they were sure would grow. There has been just cause for complaint in the past, there should be none again. Very careful instructions were given by Prof. Klinck as to how to detect lack of vitality in seed from indications on the grain itself, but, as he said, the only sure thing is the germination test.

The corn-growers of Essex and Kent are in earnest, enthusiasm has been aroused to a great degree, and it may with confidence be expected that a large trade in seed corn, profitable both to seller and buyer, will result.

At the annual meeting of the Canadian Ayrshire Breeders' Association, the question came up as to the meaning of a certain item of \$100 received by the Record Committee from the Breed Society. The explanation, which will be of general interest, was that the National Records Office has no authority to pay out any money on account of the Breed Societies; and since it often happens that breeders, in sending in pedigrees, will remit more than necessary, the Records Office must have some fund out of which to reimburse these breeders for the excess of their remittances. The difficulty is overcome by the Breed Society depositing to the credit of the National Live-stock Records a sum ample to cover such probable refunds.