

detail the proceedings connected with the amalgamation of the various Ayrshire associations. During the year the Shorthorn Association has secured control of the P. E. 1. Herd Book, so that there is now only one Shorthorn record for the Dominion. The beneficial effect of this work will be more noticeable, perhaps, a couple of years hence, when the stability which one uniform record for the Dominion will give the industry will be more fully recognized. At the Holstein-Friesian meeting an amalgamation of a wider nature was suggested, that of having one record for Canada and the United States. While it is of the greatest advantage to the various pure breeds that there should be only one record in the Dominion, it is a debatable point whether it would be an advantage to extend the amalgamation beyond the border.

At the Dominion Shorthorn and Dominion Cattle Breeders' meetings strong resolutions were passed, urging upon the Dominion Government to allow all pure-bred cattle to come into Canada from Great Britain without a test for tuberculosis being applied. Our trade in pure-bred cattle, particularly of the beef breeds, after a few years' depression, has revived, and was never, perhaps, more promising than at the present time. The one thing, above all others, which seems to be hampering it at the present time, and which makes breeders and importers doubtful as to the future, is the application of the tuberculin test to stock brought into the country from Great Britain. This matter is more serious than those not directly interested are aware of. It was the almost unanimous opinion of the stockmen who visited Toronto last week that unless the Government does something, and that right away, to remove the too stringent regulations regarding the testing of imported cattle for tuberculosis the beef cattle trade of this country cannot be developed as it ought to be. So much doubt has been cast of late on the efficacy and reliability of the test to locate tuberculosis that the demand of the stockmen to allow pure-bred cattle to come into this country without being tested could be granted without endangering the public health in any way. Only last week an important committee of live stockmen at Buffalo made a similar protest to Washington against Senator Wills' bill for a tuberculin test of all cattle imported into the United States, for the reason that it would seriously hamper the cattle industry of that country.

No more important work has been done during the year than that accomplished by the Dominion Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations, chiefly through their efficient secretary, Mr. F. W. Hodson, in developing interprovincial trade and securing reduced rates on the railways for carrying pure-bred stock to and from the various provinces of the Dominion. The special privileges secured cannot help but stimulate interprovincial trade. The distances in Canada are so great that, unless something of this nature is done, this important trade cannot develop, as there is every prospect of it now doing. To give an idea of the privileges secured it is only necessary to state that, while formerly it would cost \$18.10 to send a bull, under six months old, from Toronto to Winnipeg, under the new arrangements such an animal can be carried the same distance for \$8. Half rates have been secured for all pure-bred stock going over the railways east of Fort William, besides special rates to Newfoundland. No greater work has ever been done for the breeders of this country than this. The regulations governing these special rates have been worked out in detail, and will be published shortly for the benefit of breeders.

Another important work has been the publication of the monthly lists of stock for sale. These lists have been sent to prospective buyers in the outlying districts of the provinces of the Dominion as well as in the United States and other countries. They have greatly encouraged provincial trade and made it possible for purebred stock to be shipped by the associations in car lots so as to secure the very best railway rates obtainable. A very important line of work has been planned by the Swine Breeders' Association with a view to ascertaining by experiment and observation the best way to feed hogs to produce the best

quality of bacon. There is much to be learned on this line, and this experimental work will be both timely and valuable.

There are other features of the work that has been carried on by our live stock associations and planned at the recent meetings which it would be profitable to discuss; but we have noted a sufficient number to show that these organizations are faithfully and energetically looking after the interests under their control. We predict for these interests a more prosperous year during the one upon which they have just entered than any previous one, and their prosperity means the advancement of Canadian agriculture along nearly every line. Full reports of the various meetings will be found elsewhere.



Inspection and Regulation of Stallions

This question has been given some attention in these columns of late, and it is one worthy of careful consideration by Canadian horse breeders. There is no doubt that the unsatisfactory condition of the horse trade during the past few years is in a large measure due to the "too promiscuous" use of cheap or inferior stallions. And to-day, though the trade in horses is looking up, it must be remembered that the improved demand which now exists is not for the "scrub" horse but for the finest types of heavy draught and coach horses, and every breeder knows that to produce these only the very finest types of stallions should be used.

At a special meeting of the Canadian Horse Breeders' Association, held in Toronto last December, a report of which appeared in FARMING for Jan. 10th, a letter was read from Mr. Wm. Hendrie, Jr., urging that some practical steps be taken towards securing the inspection and regulation of stallions standing for service in the country. As far back as 1895 Mr. Hendrie brought this matter before the Dominion Minister of Agriculture in a series of letters, setting forth the position of the horse-breeding interests of the country, and advocating a plan for Government inspection of stallions, as the following extract from the correspondent, which he has kindly sent us for publication will show, and which, we trust, will bring out some discussion on the subject:

Hamilton, Oct. 3rd, 1895.

To the Honorable The Minister of Agriculture,

Ottawa:

SIR,—There is no doubt horse breeding has gone back considerably, and the worst results will not be reached until 1897 or 1898, when the heavy draught, well-bred saddle and harness horse will be more difficult to find than even now.

Three things are responsible for this decline:

1. (a) Financial difficulties in the United States, a good market in the past for our high-class horses.

(b) Farmers and breeders, at the introduction of electric power, got alarmed at low prices and stopped breeding altogether.

(c) "The cheap stallion." This is a subject I have taken great interest in, wrote upon frequently in the different country papers, and in my travels impressed upon the farmers the foolishness of breeding to him.

The results of his too promiscuous use are only too evident. The country is full of scrubs, kept at a loss, and every day becoming more unmarketable.

As to a remedy, it is a difficult problem, but I am satisfied something can be done to place horse breeding upon a better basis.

The suggestions mentioned to you I do not think would be of much practical good if worked out.

If the Government imported stallions they would still be in the same fix as private owners are now, viz., competing along every side-line and concession with the cheap, underbred stallion, whose service in many cases can be got for \$2 or \$3.

The cost of providing suitable men to fill the position of lecturers would cost more than the benefit derived.

I would suggest that the Government empower your department to organize a Royal Commission on Horse Breeding in Canada, to be composed of men who have a practical knowledge of heavy breeds, thoroughbreds and harness horses. No doubt such a body could devise some scheme to recommend to your Government.

My opinion is that every stallion standing for public service should be inspected yearly by Government or commission—a certificate granted to owner, if sound, upon the payment of a nominal sum, this money to be given back to the country shows as prizes for young stock sired by inspected stallions.

Another matter of importance the Government should be particular about when granting money to fairs or shows is that the prize lists in-