

(2) The railways should have a superintendent in charge of the re-loading, to whom the engineer should be subordinate, a man who will not stain his hands with bribes.

(3) The railways should not work their men beyond their strength. While we condemn unsparingly that corrupt engineer for taking bribes, we do not blame him much for taking his rest. The railway might and could have one to relieve him, in which case the work of re loading need not have been interrupted.

(4) It is safer to hold large shows where there are competing lines. It is wonderful the influence this has in securing to the public rational treatment and suitable accommodation. Where the guarantee is not sufficient that exhibitors will get fair treatment, the wiser plan is not to exhibit.

The Canada Ayrshire Record.

Our thanks are due to the officers of the Ayrshire Importers and Breeders' Association of Canada for early access to their new work, Vol. I., of the "Canada Ayrshire Record," which is just fresh from the press. The book contains 474 pages, and the pedigrees of 970 bulls and 1827 cows, all either imported or tracing to well-known imported Ayrshires, and an index of both.

In the introduction it is stated that "it was considered expedient in 1870 to open to subscribers a written record of pure-bred Ayrshire cattle and their descendants, under the supervision of a committee of Ayrshire importers and breeders named by the Council of Agriculture," which ultimately led to the formation of the society above referred to, with Wm. Rodden, Plantagenet, Ont., as president; James Drummond, Petite Cote, Montreal, P. Q., as vice-president; and Georges LeClere, Montreal, as secretary.

In the president's address, which is a sort of prefatory introduction, is mentioned, what appears to us, the astounding statement, that "it is estimated that there are now in Canada over 50,000 pure-bred Ayrshire cattle, and not less than 300,000 Ayrshire grades;" but doubtless the writer has carefully weighed his every statement, and knows perfectly whereof he speaks. In treating of the origin of the breed, he leans to the very sensible opinion that its absolute origin will never be traced in its entirety, being involved in greater mists than ever brood over the waters of the Irvine, a river occupying that place in Ayrshire lore assigned to the Tees in that of Shorthorns. He is of opinion that the present Ayrshires are made of crosses of English, Irish, French, Dutch, and Alderney cattle, and that much of this crossing was done in the eighteenth century.

In the chapter that considers "which of the families of dairy cattle are the most suitable for Canada," he makes out a pretty strong case in favor of the Ayrshires. The pillars of his argument rest upon these two foundation stones; the enquiry (1) "What breed of cows will produce the largest and best yield of milk, butter and cheese, with the least expense of food?" and (2) "What breed of cows will bring the most money during their lifetime" (we suppose he means in dairy produce), "which, when added to their value when fed for beef, will afford the best return for the cost of breeding and feeding till killed?" The man who establishes the claims of his favorite breed for supremacy in these two particulars, wins in the dairy war, and we would that dairy writers and experimenters may henceforth use their stones and mortar in building on these bases, rather than to strive to build towers that shall pierce the skies, based on the argument of isolated tests.

By way of explanation it is mentioned that the committee propose, "In the second volume, which is soon to be proceeded with, to insert a list of members of the association, and of any deaths which may have occurred, names of Scotch breeders and exporters, also of importers, breeders and owners of Ayrshires herein recorded, of transfers and of deaths of animals." A scale of points suited to Ayrshires of the time, and rules for making entries are also promised. It is rather a matter of regret that these are not in the present volume, but we know that it is much easier to say what *ought* to be done, than to do it.

But what is here? On page 13 of the enquiry we read, "There are also a large number of Ayrshire grades bred from Ayrshire bulls. It is to be regretted that any of these grades have been admitted for entry in a herd book kept in western Canada that should have been confined to pure-bred animals." Here is a direct thrust at the low standard of the Ayrshire herd-book, published under the auspices of the council of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, the first volume of which appeared more than a year ago. Now this charge is either true or not true. We have no shadow of a doubt but that he who makes it is satisfied that it is true, and we apprehend at the same time that there are those who will be disposed to dispute the statement. We are not in a position ourselves to pronounce authoritatively on the matter, and we therefore invite the president of the Ayrshire Importers and Breeders' Association of Canada, who we presume is the author of the statement (that is, if we are correct in our assumption), to prove its correctness. An Ontario Ayrshire Breeders' Association is now being organized, and we assume that most of the stock of the members of this association is registered in the herd book published in Toronto, and if in that herd-book a part of the stock is *grade*, we can at once see that dead weight under which the breeders will labor.

In such an event we have but a repetition of the Shorthorn blunder over again in reference to herd-books, with this difference, that it has not gone so far, and therefore the evil consequences that will follow will be less disastrous in case of an early expunging of cattle of too low a standard, if this is found necessary.

We therefore urge upon the two associations of Ayrshire breeders, indeed upon all such associations as may exist in the Dominion, as we did in the case of the Shorthorn breeders, to come together in friendly conference with a view to the amalgamation of their herd records. As we see it now, one Ayrshire herd book is enough for the Dominion, and better than more. As at present, with one virtually for Ontario, and one virtually for Quebec, though not in name, and with an alleged or real difference in standard, confusion must follow, and of a nature that multiplies equally with the increase of Ayrshire cattle in these provinces. Every argument that applied in reference to the wisdom of union in the divided Shorthorn interest applies here, and we do hope that ere Vol. II. shall have been published by either of the associations, the two records shall have been merged into one.

We know this cannot be done without some friction, and to some it may be less, but it is much better to undertake the work of union when both of these are at a minimum than later. Now that the east and the west have distinctive associations, as it were, interested parties can the more easily approach each other, through means of duly authorized representatives.

We are aware that some have blamed us for the action we took in the Shorthorn controversy, and others

have gone further: they have cancelled their subscription to the JOURNAL. We can only say that we sympathize more deeply than ever with those men, for in every instance it proclaims to us that they are smarting keenly under the sense of pecuniary loss.

Yet we have not a shadow of a doubt that when the great wave of the present agitation and uncertainty shall have subsided, and when the Shorthorn breeders who shall take our places shall look back over the calm sea of Shorthorn prosperity, that in those days writers in the stock journals of the time shall wax warm in controversy as to who deserves the honor of originating a movement that has brought so much of blessing to the interest with which they shall then be identified. Rather, then, than shrink from our position, and try to shrivel into another self, we put it thus early upon record, that the amalgamation of the Shorthorn herd-books originated at the annual meeting of the British American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, held in Toronto on the 23rd Feb., 1885, when the editor of the CANADIAN LIVE-STOCK JOURNAL, alone, amid a shower of disapproval, preceded by a little simoom of scorn that almost wilted, proposed and advocated the taking of steps by the association to bring about an amalgamation of the books. By this action to-day we stand or fall. Why, then, should we not most earnestly urge an amalgamation of the Ayrshire records at the earliest possible moment?

Who Owns the Exhibit?

The shows of another year have come and gone, with all their advantages and disadvantages, their pleasures and vexations. The seeds they have sown have already germinated in part, whether for good or evil, and the harvest will as assuredly be reaped as that it has been sown. Although they have not all been managed as well as they might have been, on the whole the directors and managers have done what they could, and those who are disposed to criticize them severely should first ask themselves, are they quite sure that they would have done better. The exhibitors do not always do their part better than the fair managers, and until they do, they should be chary in condemning. Of the several little shortcomings of exhibitors we shall dwell upon but one at this time, and that is the neglect of preparing cards and posting them on every pen or stall containing a live animal in their possession. The breeder who does it not as soon as his stock is housed is recreant to his duty, unless this is prohibited by the rules of the association, and the association which issues rules prohibiting this, is acting very foolishly. Sometimes associations prohibit the posting up of cards on stalls until the awards are made, lest the judges should be influenced; but judges that would be influenced by such action are wholly unworthy of the name. Stock is brought to an exhibition that it may be shown, not only in the ring but also in the stalls. For every one who examines a beast critically in the ring, one hundred will do so in the stalls. But it adds very much to the interest of the examination if the name of the owner is known, and how can it be known if it is not posted on the stall? "Who owns the exhibit?" "Whose is this?" and "whose is this?" are questions that continually fall from the lips of passers-by, and questions which for the most part are unanswered.

Self-interest should induce exhibitors to let the public know whose the stock is. They bring them to the show either to advertise their business, through prize taking, or for purposes of sale, or it may be for both purposes; and when they neglect this simple means of telling their story to passers-by, they so far frustrate