

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:
IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BANNATYNE AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

BRANCH OFFICE: CALGARY, ALBERTA, N.-W. T.

LONDON (ENGLAND) OFFICE:
W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
London, W. C., England.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

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may do a large amount of farm work while raising her foals, and be all the better and safer breeder for such work. There are at present a considerable number of imported mares and fillies in the hands of breeders that may be purchased at reasonable prices, and some public sales of imported mares and fillies of breeding age are advertised which afford excellent opportunities for securing the class of stock that is needed in the country. And, with the present outlook, there is little risk in investing in good mares, as the probabilities point strongly to an increasing demand and advancing prices for an indefinite period. It will be the part of wisdom in this as in other lines of production to study the trend of the times and the markets, and to produce the type and quality of horses needed to meet the demand.

The Best Men All Have It.

Please find enclosed \$1.50, my subscription to the "Farmer's Advocate." I am well pleased with the paper. During my trip to the Pacific Coast, I found the "Farmer's Advocate" in the homes of the progressive farmers from Winnipeg to Victoria. In fact, I did not find one up-to-date farmer that did not take the "Farmer's Friend"—the "Farmer's Advocate." With best wishes, I remain,— JAMES McMAHON,
Wyoming, Ont.

Do You Want a Situation?

WITH ONE OF CANADA'S LEADING FARMERS OR STOCKMEN? THEY ALL READ THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE." AN ADVERTISEMENT IN OUR "WANT AND FOR SALE" COLUMN WILL NOT ESCAPE THEIR ATTENTION. SOME OF THEM WILL WANT YOU. TRY IT. SEE RATES UNDER THAT HEADING IN THIS PAPER. ADDRESS: THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, LONDON, ONT.

The National Records.

The nationalization of Canadian records of pure-bred stock, consummated at the convention of delegates from the various breed societies recently assembled at Ottawa, marks an important epoch in the history of pedigree registration in the Dominion. The Act of Parliament of 1901, which provides for the incorporation of but one Record Association for each breed of live stock, may appear, at first sight, an arbitrary one, but it will be generally conceded that the existence of more than one registry for a breed in this and other countries has, in the past, caused considerable confusion, resulting, in not a few instances, in financial loss to breeders and detriment to the industry of pure-bred stock raising.

The proposition to unify and nationalize Canadian records has from the first met with general favor on the part of the breeders of the country in all sections, the only apprehension being in regard to the control of the records and registrars, which it was wisely determined should be maintained by the breed societies, and which has been effectually provided for in the constitution of the National Record Association. It is a matter for congratulation that this important change has been brought about with so little friction, and with comparatively little inconvenience to any of the interests involved. Nearly all the breed societies in the Dominion have voluntarily agreed to affiliate with the National Association, and there is every probability that the few which have not yet assented will, in the near future, come into the compact.

The new arrangement is, of course, in some sense, an experiment, but there is little room for doubt that it will prove permanent and successful. The officers and directors elected are men of experience, thoroughly conversant with the business of record-keeping, and may be confidently trusted to steer the ship in a safe course. In the election of Hon. John Dryden to the presidency, the breeders have made a wise and judicious selection. Himself an experienced and eminently successful breeder, and having run the entire gamut of stock-breeding and record evolution, he is eminently qualified to preside over the destinies of the National Association. Mr. A. P. Westervelt, the secretary, has proved a careful, methodical and capable officer as secretary of the general Cattle, Sheep, Swine and Poultry Breeders' Associations, and manager of the Ontario Winter Fairs, and has the confidence of all that his part will be well done. And the directors representing the various Provinces are men of sterling character, and generally conversant with the needs of the breeders and of the country. The Record Board, perhaps the more important and responsible of the twin organizations, has been wisely manned in the election to the chairmanship of Mr. Robert Miller, a stockman to the manor born. Keen-sighted, level-headed, decisive, and withal, thoroughly conversant with pedigree lore and registration, the position could scarcely have been better filled, while the other members of the board, Messrs. R. Beith, Wm. Smith, A. W. Smith, R. Ness, Hon. John Dryden, and J. E. Brethour, representing the different classes of stock, are all practical, experienced and successful breeders.

In the appointment of Mr. W. A. Clemons as Registrar-General, whose duty will be to examine all registration and other certificates issued and affix the seal of the Department of Agriculture, the Minister has made a popular appointment. Mr. Clemons has the confidence of breeders of all classes of stock, and his experience and training have well fitted him for the position. The three breed registrars so far appointed, Messrs. Frank and Gerald Wade and Mr. J. W. Nimmo, have had extended experience in registration work in the office of Mr. Henry Wade, Toronto, and are familiar with all its details, and should do satisfactory work under the new regime.

"For better or, for worse," the change has been made, and whether it proves for better or for worse will depend to a very considerable extent on the manner in which the Record staff accomplish their work. It may appear a gratuitous suggestion to remind the staff that, though the offices are in Ottawa and in the Government buildings, they are not altogether Government officers, but subject to a board of farmers whose

idea of a day's work differs materially from that obtaining on Parliament Hill, and that promptness in the issuing of registration certificates frequently means much to the breeder making the application, and will mean more in future, as shipments at the special freight rates will depend upon the presentation of the standard certificate. And may we venture to hope that in future volumes of the herdsbooks, the "errata" list may be shorter than has been, a condition that would seem to the unsophisticated to be within the range of practical possibility.

Co-operation for the Bacon Industry.

The farmers are co-operating to sell their apples, and the movement is spreading so rapidly that it will soon have advertised organized co-operation throughout the country. With the facts so well known as they are, thanks to the "Farmer's Advocate" and the Farmers' Institutes, no one will doubt the usefulness of this kind of organization in the sale of fruit at least.

If for the sale of fruit, why not co-operate for the sale of any other farm product? Why not co-operate in selling our hogs? The hogs of Ontario have as great an annual value as the apples of the Province, and greater. The farmers are as dissatisfied with the conditions of the industry, and certainly there are more complaints. A remedy is urgently needed for these conditions, and—let no one be misled by the failure of so-called "co-operative" bacon-curing factories—the remedy is co-operation.

Here is the situation: The market at home and abroad demands a fine quality of bacon, and offers a high price for the best. Denmark supplies the best, and only the best, and gets the highest prices for the goods. Ontario supplies a large amount, but only about sixty per cent. of it is of good quality. Indeed, it is true that recently we have gone backward in quality rather than forward. The packers write to the papers, and tell the farmers at the Winter Fairs that this is a bad state of affairs, and that it is all the fault of the farmers. They say that the farmers must bring that sixty per cent. up to the possible one hundred per cent. of good quality by breeding and feeding, and promise that then they (the packers) will reward them by paying what the best bacon hogs are worth. As it is, the farmers who have been producing that sixty per cent. of good bacon have received just the same price per pound for it as has been paid for the corn-fattened hogs of Essex and Kent, and everyone knows that it costs a good deal more to produce the right kind than to turn out the corn-fattened kind. That is a remarkably poor way to encourage the right kind of breeding and feeding, and unless some other way of improving our bacon export is applied, it is absolutely certain to degenerate to "shanty-pork" again, and our profits from hog-raising will disappear.

One way to improve the situation would be for the packers to pay a better rate for the best grades than for the seconds. If they would do away with the flat rate and grade all hogs so as to pay each farmer just what his hogs are worth, Ontario would soon be making the finest bacon in the world. But the packers will not change their ways. Don't expect it. They make more money as things are, and they claim that "competition is too keen" to allow of any such change as the payment of discriminating rates. As a matter of fact, there are too many packing-houses to allow of a proper payment to the farmers out of the prices the bacon brings on the market.

Another way to improve the situation would be for the farmers to form a close combine, buy or erect a factory or factories of their own, and cure all their bacon themselves. To be sure that this plan would work, it would be necessary to make it very expensive for a farmer member to sell his hogs to any outsider. Otherwise, the private packers would soon ruin the whole business, as it is unfortunately impossible to ensure perfect co-operation except by imposing fines on those who do not support the common object. But this plan would cost a good deal to commence with, and would require more machinery than another method which will solve the problem just as well.

Without doubt, the best plan by which to accomplish what we all wish is for the farmers to organize, not to manufacture, but to sell their hogs. Such a plan, if properly put into operation, will be both very simple and very effective. It will soon make our bacon of as high an average quality as is possible. It will encourage every farmer to make his hogs as excellent as possible, by paying him more for superior than for inferior animals. It will do away with the commission buyers, who now tax every farmer ten per cent. on all the hogs he sells, no matter to whom he sells them, and it will give that ten per cent. to the farmer himself. It will economize the manufacture of bacon from the hogs the farmers raise, and every cent so economized will go into the farmer's bank account. It will save to the farmers in this way at least ten per cent., and more probably twenty-five per cent. of the money that comes into Ontario for bacon. It will, if carried far enough in its application, do away with the commission men in Great Britain, and save, as almost a clear gain, the commissions which have been making them wealthy at the expense of the unorganized farmers of Canada. It is a solemn and easily-proven fact that instead of getting from \$5.50 to \$6.50 per cwt. for