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Keep American "Culls" Out

IS it not about time that something were done to check the supply of cheap useless horses that are coming into Canada, chiefly into the West, from the United States? The bulk of these horses are not worth more than \$5 to \$10 each, and come in on the very low duty of \$3.00 each. Hundreds of this class of horses are being brought in every week. They are of no practical use to the farmer who buys them and yet they injure the sale of the better class of horses bred in this country.

The most annoying part of it is that, while our American friends can send their "culls" over here at a mere nominal duty, we cannot send the poorest kind of an old, broken-down horse into Uncle Sam's domains for less than \$30 duty. One of these useless "bronchos" can be brought in here at a duty charge of about \$3.00, but the same animal cannot be taken back one hour later, to where it properly belongs for less than \$50. This is certainly not fair to Canadian farmers; and the government should take action at once to remedy matters. If nothing else can be done raise the minimum valuation at which horses shall be allowed to come into Canada to \$100 or \$150 each. This would prevent these cheap, trashy horses from coming in and would be no hardship upon anyone who wishes to bring in good animals.

But there is, perhaps, a more serious grievance still. At the Clydesdale meeting it was stated, that hundreds of stallions were being brought into the West from the United States and sold at high prices for breeding purposes. There would be no complaint as to this if the animals were of a quality calculated to improve the horses of the West. But they are not. They are chiefly the "culls" of Uncle Sam's breeding "studs" sent over, to be got out of the way, and for which high prices are received from Western farmers and syndicates. A great many of them are crossbred Percheron horses, registered in a stud book that is not recognized even by the leading breeders of the United States as being of any value whatever. The United States authorities do not recognize this stud-book, and yet animals registered in it, are accepted by the Canadian authorities and allowed to enter this country free as breeding animals. Besides, num-

bers of so-called Clydesdales and Shire horses are brought in as breeding animals that are not eligible to register in Canadian herds-books. These are some of the grievances that Canadian breeders, and rightly so, are complaining of. It is now up to the government to do something to remedy matters.

But what is to be done? Resolutions were passed at the different horse-breeders' meetings, asking that the government place the same duty and the same restrictions on horses coming into Canada from foreign countries, as such foreign countries place upon horses brought into their country from Canada. In the case of cheap horses, there are none brought into Canada except from the United States. As to breeding stock, Canada imports large numbers of horses every year from Great Britain. But these are all eligible to be registered in Canadian stud-books and, therefore, the importing of good horses would not necessarily be interfered with. A part of the resolution is not very clear, however. The United States authorities have recently put a new interpretation upon their custom laws, by which no animal will be allowed in free of duty unless the importer himself is going to use it for breeding purposes. Canada is hardly ready for a restriction of this kind, and we do not think the breeders want it. All they are asking for is that all breeding animals brought into Canada shall be eligible for registration in Canadian stud-books, or books recognized in Canada.

But what about the Western farmer, who will be affected more, perhaps, than any other, if the regulation asked for is granted? From what we have been able to learn of Western conditions, restrictions along the lines indicated would be of the greatest benefit to him. It is certainly only a waste of good money to invest even \$10 in a cheap "broncho." As to breeding stock, the class of American stallions that are being sent into the West from the south of the line are not calculated to raise the standard of Western horses. A better class of horses could be secured in Eastern Canada at less money. We have heard of cases where some of these inferior American stallions have been syndicated at \$3,000 and \$4,000 each. For this money the Western farmer should be able to get some of the very best of Canadian and imported stock.

Farmers Ask for Relief

During the past few days, the farm help question has received considerable attention. The Dominion Grange discussed it and also ways and means of remedying it. The York County Council also gave it their best attention. A special committee was appointed to wait on Premier Ross and ask him to take immediate steps to relieve the situation by sending agents to Great Britain to procure suitable farm laborers for Ontario. In the discussion which followed, it was pointed out that if farmers would erect separate houses for their men, it would not be so difficult to get or keep help. Thos. Southworth, Director of Colonization for Ontario, addressed the County Council on the subject, referring to the efforts his department is making to relieve the situation.

As spring approaches, this subject becomes more acute. It is certainly time that steps were taken to relieve the situation. Farmers may do something themselves, by arranging more regular hours for work, and by making provision for a married man. All things being equal, the married man will give better satisfaction and will remain longer in a situation than a single man. Once settled comfortably in a little home of his own he will not be in a hurry to leave unless some very big inducement is offered.

Prefers Ontario

An interested visitor at the stallion show, last week, was Dr. Medd, Willerdale, Ont. Dr. Medd was, until a few months back, manager of the Waverree Stock Farm, Minnesota, where is kept one of the best Galloway herds in the Western States. He has recently purchased a large farm north of Toronto, where he intends entering upon the stock-raising business on a large scale.

Agricultural College Examinations

The results of the Christmas examinations at the Ontario Agricultural College on the work of the fall term are out. We have not space this issue to publish the names. Seventy-one passed in the first year, sixty in the second year and twenty-four in the third year. This is the largest class the College has ever had, which speaks much for the growing popularity of this valuable institution.