

stubble field with fair grass supply, or, if a piece of rape has been sown, the lambs will do remarkably well on this after becoming used to it. They should not be put upon this at first when it is wet from rain or dew, but in the afternoons on fine days, and they will be better at first for the run of a grass pasture as well, though, when used to the rape, they will thrive satisfactorily confined on this alone, and will fatten faster on rape late in the fall than on any other pasture, even when the rape has been repeatedly frozen, and, indeed, when partially covered with snow.

When the lambs are being weaned, the ewes should be kept in a field as far distant from them as can be arranged, and should be kept on short or dry pasture for a few days in order to dry up the milk. If any udders are noticed very full, they should be relieved by hand milking two or three times, at intervals of a couple of days, to avoid injury. For security from attacks by dogs, it is well to have a small cowbell or two on members of each branch of the flock.

Special Officer to Assist Breeders

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Referring to a communication in your issue of June 15th, signed "Western Breeder," and your editorial note, perhaps a few remarks from me would not be out of place, as I have an especial knowledge of one or two matters referred to.

I write you at this late date only after having

Heavy horses, light horses, beef cattle, dairy cattle, sheep and swine—I can see great difficulty in persuading any one of these sections of breeders to entrust its interests to a representative who will not be on the ground to look after them.

Perhaps, you, Mr. Editor, or some of your readers can suggest a way out of this difficulty. I am sure a workable idea would be welcomed by the Canadian breeders as a whole, irrespective of any mere provincialism. My view is that we should look at these matters, not from the standpoint of the East alone nor of the West alone, or of any one province or section, but in that broad national spirit which is developing so rapidly in this great growing country.

In regard to the prosecution of a Western cattle breeder, your correspondent has an entirely wrong impression. The prosecution was not at all at the instance of either the Record Board or the Record Committee, neither of whom had anything to do with it. The Attorney-General's department of Alberta assumed the responsibility for the prosecution under the following circumstances: They were asked by the solicitor for the prosecution to act; the deputy minister wired the Dominion Live Stock Commissioner, asking if the Dominion Department of Agriculture would assume the responsibility for the costs. This department could not of course legally do this, and the matter was referred by the commissioner to me as the acting head of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association. I at

to lay an information under the Live Stock Pedigree Act or for forgery (because this was forgery, if anything) in the same manner as for any other criminal offence, and if properly advised to call to his assistance the crown prosecutor and other crown officers. This he did not choose to do, for what reason does not appear from a perusal of the documents in the case, which I have had the opportunity of going over carefully. It is very questionable whether the Record Committee should be responsible for these prosecutions. Under existing circumstances they have no officers qualified to undertake it, or whose duty it is to gather the evidence; nor it seems to me are they in a position to employ anyone.

In every case you will find that the complaint comes either from a party aggrieved or from some source either anonymous or where the party does not wish his name used.

When one of these complaints reaches the office, the board is practically helpless. All they can do is to write the parties or others whose names are given, and in the great majority of cases no reply at all is received to these letters; and naturally so, because neighbors do not want to get mixed in these matters. The committee cannot go ahead with the prosecution until the evidence makes out at least a fair case, and they have no means of getting the evidence together.

I for one do not believe the committee should be asked to do this work at all. They are breeders of repute and not detectives. How then are offenders to be brought to justice?

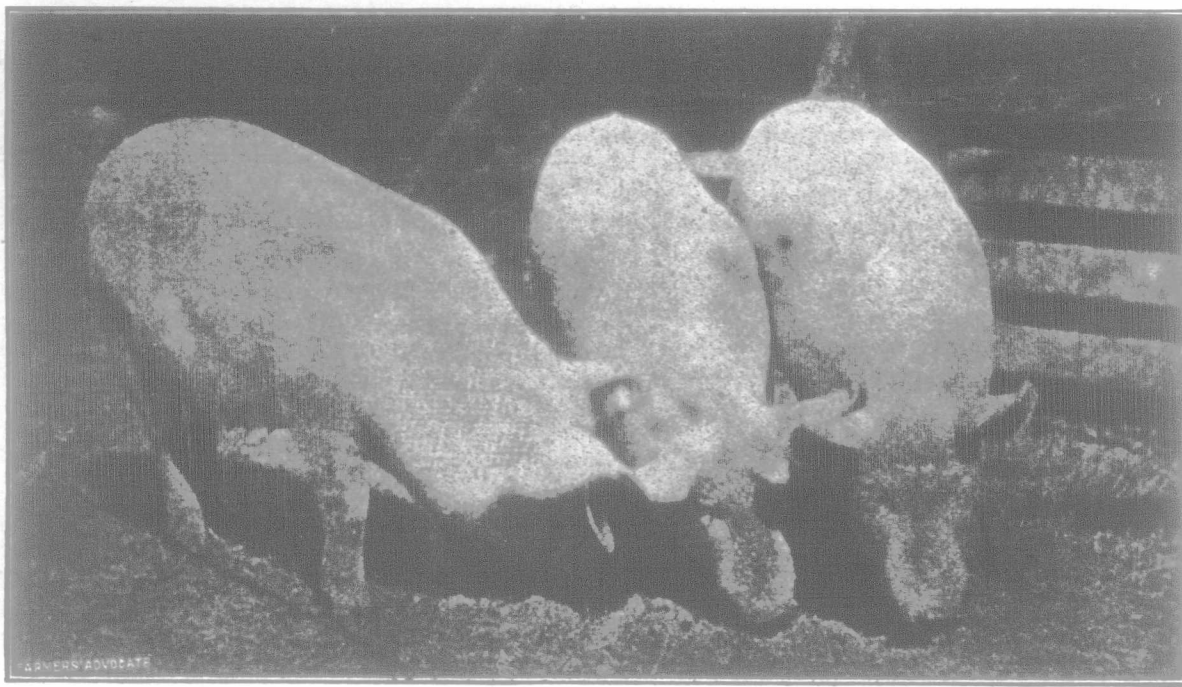
My suggestion would be that the services of a special officer be provided either by the Dominion Department of Agriculture or the Breed Associations, and who in any event would be under the control of the Record Committee, which upon a complaint being lodged could send this officer to investigate, gather the evidence and report. If a reasonable case were made out, the committee could then direct a prosecution. Either this or an arrangement might be made with the departments of the attorney-general of each province to detail an officer on each case as required and that each case be the same as any other offence. I would for this purpose repeal the provision of the Live Stock Pedigree Act, which creates the offence and transfer it to the criminal code.

I believe—in fact I know—that the reason for the case referred to not going ahead is not, as very improperly suggested by your correspondent, because the alleged offenders come from Ontario, but from the fact that the Record Committee have no machinery for prosecuting. I can see no good that can come from the suggestions made by "Western Breeder," that the Record Committee acts impartially in these matters, when the real trouble is that they are so hampered that they cannot act at all.

As to the suggestion of the Dominion Live Stock Commissioner that all pedigrees for all breeds be of the tabulated form, this suggestion is a good one for certain breeds, for the very good reason that it is shorter, does not give so much information and that therefore there is less liability to error. In other words, from an office standpoint, purely and simply, it is desirable and perhaps also in certain breeds of animals where the family names or foundation breeding is not material. But for Shorthorns, for example, the short form of tabulated pedigree is simply impossible. Be that as it may, however, neither the Record Board nor the Record Committee can alter the form of pedigree certificate for any breed. This is a matter which concerns the particular breed association and the breed associations alone can act in this respect, so that the blame for perpetuating the long pedigree, if blame there be, attaches not to the Record Board or the Record Committee, but to the various breed associations who can and do adopt any form which suits them.

It would have been fairer to the Record Committee if "Western Breeder" had taken the trouble to consider this before finding fault with them for a matter over which they have no control.

Just one word to yourself, Mr. Editor, in reference to your suggestion that a Western represent-



APPROVED BACON TYPE OF HOG

J. J. Stewart won the prize at Winnipeg for best trio of purebreds suitable for bacon trade with these Yorkshires.

carefully considered the contents of "Western Breeder's" letter, and with the sole object of placing matters before your readers as they are. Permit me to say that I am not a member of the Record Committee, nor have I any connection with this body. In fact, I was one of those opposed to the nationalization of our records; not on the ground that nationalization in itself was undesirable, but I did not like the way it was gone about and was strongly against some, at least, of the provisions constituting the board.

It is well known to breeders in Canada that the National Live Stock Record Board is composed of representatives of the various breed societies or associations (the number from each association being determined by the number of members). The sole function of this board is to meet soon after their appointment and appoint "The Record Committee," composed of a chairman and six members, and to discuss generally matters of interest to the Canadian live stock interests, passing, of course, any resolutions pertaining thereto which may seem necessary or advisable. This record committee (not the "board") it is which in reality does the business of the National Live Stock Records.

The committee holds its meetings at Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, and it must be apparent that it would be impracticable for any Western breeder to attend with any regularity, and as each section of the breeding fraternity is represented on the committee—one for each:

once called a meeting of the executive, who decided to send a representative to Alberta to confer with the attorney-general in regard to this and future prosecutions, and when it was pointed out to his deputy that the fine if imposed would be the property of the province he had no difficulty in arriving at the conclusion that it was the duty of the crown to prosecute, and at once instructed the crown prosecutor at Edmonton to act, as of course he would and ought to do in any other criminal or quasi-criminal matter, and the prosecution was conducted by the crown prosecutor at the expense of the province.

The impression seems to be pretty general that the Record Board or the Record Committee or the particular breed association concerned should undertake these prosecutions, while the fact is that they should be undertaken by the same officers who are responsible for bringing to justice an offender against any law of a criminal nature. The offence of falsifying a pedigree is an offence against a Dominion statute and not against the constitution of either the Record Board, the Record Committee or of any breed society, though most breed societies have by their constitutions power to and do discipline members by suspension, expulsion or otherwise, who have been guilty of this offence or other conduct unworthy of a member.

Now in regard to "a case of apparent fraud on the part of some Ontario dealer in purebred stallions," it was open to the party aggrieved