

New Brand Regulations in the N.W.T.

The Brand Register for the Northwest Territories is kept by the Department of Agriculture, Regina. Below is a short synopsis of the provisions of the new Brand Ordinance which became law in 1900:—

1. Brands as Evidence of Ownership.—The presence of a brand on any animal is *prima facie* evidence of ownership.

2. Penalties.—Any person who brands or assists in branding any stock with an unrecorded brand, or who brands with his own brand any stock of which he is not the owner, without the authority of the owner, or blotches, defaces or alters any brand, renders himself liable to a penalty of \$200.

3. Cattle Brands.—(a) Cattle brands for the right or left shoulder, ribs and hip are allotted upon a system that permits of the prompt registration and issue of certificate. Cattle brands, as now allotted, uniformly consist of one carefully selected letter and one figure, with a bar, quarter circle or half diamond above or below. It is an important feature of this system that the selection of such a brand will not, under any circumstances, be in the hands of the applicant.

(b) Brands for the right or left jaw and neck of cattle may be chosen by the applicant in the manner explained in paragraph 4, dealing with "Horse Brands."

All applications for cattle brands should distinctly state the position on the animal for which the applicant desires to have the brand recorded. The fee for allotting such a brand is \$1, which should accompany all applications.

4. Horse Brands.—Any horse brand selected by the applicant (which may, of course, be a brand already registered for cattle) may be recorded, provided it is found, after a careful search, that it does not conflict with brands already recorded. The fee for such is \$1, to be sent with application. It is absolutely necessary when forwarding such an application to describe plainly the brand desired and also the position on the animal preferred. In order to save unnecessary delay and correspondence, all applications must contain a list of at least five further designs marked "second choice," "third choice," etc., so that a selection may be made from these, in the order named, in case the first choice cannot be accepted for record. It might also be mentioned that the brands consisting of arbitrary signs on the books of the Department of Agriculture are very numerous, and there is, therefore, very little chance of obtaining such; there are, however, a large number of combinations of two letters or two numerals, or one letter and one numeral, available, and these are, therefore, the safest brands to apply for, especially if time is an object in the allotment of a brand. Designs will only be selected by the Department if the applicant distinctly makes such a request.

5. Searches and Certificates.—The fee for making searches of the brand records is 25 cents for each brand. If a certi-