

STOCK.

The Keeping of Canadian Records.

A meeting of delegates from the various Canadian breeders' associations is to be called by Hon. John Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, for about the time of the Toronto Industrial Fair, early in Sept., to complete definite arrangements for the future carrying on of the records. Under the new Agricultural Act the Government has the power to appoint a Superintendent of Registration whose salary will be paid in part directly by the Government, which will doubtless provide offices for this work in the new Parliament Buildings, Toronto. The Minister is of opinion that the Province can be thus liberal with the breeders' organizations, when it is remembered that the breaking up of the old Agriculture and Arts Association brings some \$80,000 at least into the Provincial treasury, the interest on which will considerably more than compensate for any outlay in the work of registration, the direct guidance of which hereafter rests with the breeders themselves. As head of the Department, the Minister does not propose to exercise control of the manner of carrying on these records, except to insist that the Superintendent acts according to the instructions and up to the standard given by the various associations. The above liberal propositions will very much simplify the future of Canadian record-keeping, the share of expense to be borne by breeders being light, and, at the same time, a system is provided under which a uniformly high standard of registration can be maintained.

A Retrospect of the Philadelphia Horse Show.

The horse show held 28th of May to 1st June at Wissahickon Heights was the fourth of a series which have been conducted under the auspices of the Philadelphia Horse Show Association. Since its inception, so popular has been the Exhibition that it now ranks as the first of the many open-air shows held on this continent, and indeed it is very little behind the celebrated Madison Square Garden Show, with which the exhibits and prizes compare very favorably as to quality, quantity and amount. Indeed, when one comes to reflect, it would be strange were this not the case, as a glance at the board of directors and the list of exhibitors, with their addresses, would convince the most doubtful that some of the former are common to both and most of the latter exhibit largely at each place. Wissahickon Heights is situated in a sort of basin, about ten miles outside of the flourishing and progressive city of Philadelphia, and is a favorite summer resort of the elite from that city, who, tired with their daily toil in a dusty city in the heat of summer, seek refuge at the well-known summer hotel, Wissahickon Inn (most of the summer hotels down there are styled inns), which is built round three sides of a square, two rooms wide, with a central hallway, so as to enable every guest to have a pleasant view when he retires to his room in the cool of the evening for a quiet smoke or to enjoy the society of his family. There is accommodation for about five hundred guests: large dining-room, extensive verandas; heated with hot water pipes (for use, I presume, in winter). The inn is two and one-half stories high, and though not elaborately furnished, is well gotten up, and filled with every convenience. The roads in the vicinity are magnificently constructed, and it is no wonder that the breeding of driving horses is the pursuit of the leisure hours of so many wealthy men, as who would wish to ride a bicycle when the four-in-hand can bowl along for miles at a stretch without meeting a single stone of sufficient dimensions to obstruct even a Thoroughbred horse in its course. The scenery is lovely, the country well-wooded, and one could easily imagine oneself in the heart of England were it not for the almost complete absence of fences of any description. Indeed, if you have a notion to take a short cut, there is apparently no objection to walking across your neighbor's rye field; at least this appeared to be the method adopted by most people when they wished to shorten their journey. Of cattle I saw none, except one fine herd of Dutch Belted cattle (a cut of which appeared in one of your back numbers), the property of S. F. Houston. Within twenty miles of the city may be found some of the best-known Hackney studs in America, and on this account I would like to warn any intending future exhibitor at this show to go well-prepared, as it is an exceedingly risky thing to pit one's stock against men who have millions of money at their command, and can easily go one better should their stock not prove sufficient for the occasion.

The show grounds have this year been removed from their old site and now occupy several acres directly opposite the Wissahickon Inn. Unlike New York, there was ample accommodation for all exhibitors, and visitors were readily granted a preference over residents in the neighborhood. The genial Secretary, Mr. Newdale, who, I understand, is one of America's best-known cricketers, was always ready to do anything in his power to assist a stranger, and one or two offers

which he made to the writer will be remembered with gratitude by him for many years to come. The attendance at the show was of a fashionable character, and on Decoration Day was very large; indeed it tested to the full the capacity of the grounds. On all the other days there was only an average attendance; but when one considers the distance from the city, and the frightful heat which one had to submit to in a broiling sun, this fact is not surprising.

The boxes arranged in front of a semicircular grandstand were all filled, and some of them commanded good prices, though on the whole I think that they would scarcely average as much as the boxes sold at the recent Canadian Horse Show.

The ring was a large oval one, with an upright fence, and promenade all round a fruit hedge; inside of this, cement flooring covered with six inches or more of good tanbark. There was around the grounds a copious display of flowering shrubs and plants which, together with the numerous drags hitched outside the promenade and adorned with female beauty of all descriptions, added much to the appearance of the show. The stables, both stalls and boxes, were everything that could be desired: cheap, roomy in the case of the boxes, the fronts let down on hinges, so as to afford a good view of the stock to the visitors, and the roofs were extended over a promenade, so that one could inspect the stock without fear of being inflicted with sunstroke.

Amongst the numerous exhibitors there were only two entered on the catalogues from Canada: Mr. Robert Beith, M. P., and Mr. H. N. Crossley; the former, for some reason unknown to the writer, did not turn up; the latter was successful in carrying off second and third prizes in the three-year-old Hackney mare class, and fourth in the two-year-old stallion (Hackney) class; but was unfortunate in that he had to compete with three of stock on the day of his arrival at the show, otherwise he might have been more successful. The owner of Rosseau Fireball may consider himself fortunate in one respect, namely, that a son of Fireworks was able, even after a journey of six hundred miles by railroad, to beat a son of the much-lauded Bonfire—the half-brother of Fireworks.

Mr. Beith, though absent, was not forgotten, and those who saw Ottawa, exhibited by John Wiley, could not help wishing that the popular President of the Hackney Society had been there to witness the success of the horse which Mr. Stevens so lately purchased from him at a big figure. Naturally, a good deal of interest centred around this new addition to American Hackney stock, and those who saw Ottawa in the afternoon of May 29th, and in the parade held later, when he and Wildfire were retained in the ring for the edification of the public, witnessed a sight which they will not soon forget. Ottawa certainly went faultlessly, but was hardly able to lower the laurels of that veteran Cadet, who, with less flesh, and feeling in good shape, went better than he has ever done before. Mr. Stevens' horse had to be content with second place. General II., the third-prize winner in this class, was to my mind a better goer than either of the two who got ahead of him, but the judges considered him a little lame, and he was certainly not conditioned as he might have been. Winifred, lately owned by Mr. Beith, and now the property of Mr. Stevens, won fourth in a very strong brood mare class; her foal secured the blue ribbon. Of Canadian-bred horses there were several successful ones, notably, Great Scott, who won first in harness class under 15½; Winoga, bred in Manitoba, third in the trotter driving class; Aspinwall Belle, third in the saddle class, 15½ and over; Oakdale, bred in London, Ont., third in the harness class, 15½ and over. There were many other Canadian-bred horses exhibited in classes which I did not follow very closely. Mr. Hastings also must have felt jubilant when he read the reports of the show, as in the Hackney classes youngsters by Lord Bardolph gained two firsts, one second, and one third.

Of course the principal interest of the show centred in old Wildfire, who has recently been imported by the well-known Chestnut Hill Stock Farm. Wildfire has sired more out-and-out goers probably than any horse who has yet been foaled, and America is fortunate in already possessing several of his get. In spite of his fifteen years, he did not disappoint the public, and though showing against horses who carried only one-fifth of his years in some instances, he proved himself a match for all-comers. Exhibited in three classes, he carried off the premier honors in two, namely, in the veteran cup class for horses over twelve years, beating Mr. Cassatt's celebrated pony Little Wonder, and in the get class, beating the same horse and the equally notorious Cadet. This is the first time, I believe, that these two celebrated stock-getters have been matched the one against the other, and though they are of entirely different types of Hackney, I think that there was no question that Wildfire deserved the honors he got, though it was rather a risky thing to show a new arrival in this country in such a class, when only three or four of his progeny can be found, against Cadet, who has been constantly bred to the best mares on the Continent of America for several years back; the credit, however, is none the less to Wildfire. In the Hackney stallion class, 15½ and under, three years and over, Wildfire was a close second to Enthorpe Performer, who is at last showing in his right form and sustaining the reputation which he gained in England, and which he so richly deserves. In this class, had the

old veteran shown as well as he did in the two other classes, I think that the two judges would have been greatly puzzled what to do; but, fortunately for Mr. Bourne, Wildfire in his first appearance was going a little wide, and being a little low in his back, on account of age, the judges could not do otherwise than place him second. Royalty, a four-year-old Rufus colt shown in this class, took third, and was very favorably thought of by many of the breeders around the ring; indeed there were not a few who considered him the coming horse. Wildfire is a b. roan; thick-set, 15 years, without a blemish, of a color and stamp rarely seen nowadays, even in England; he much resembles some of the cuts in the early volumes of the English Hackney Stud Book; he is entirely different from the big, rangy stock which the Americans have been bringing to this country, and should he become as famous on this side of the water as a sire as he was on the other side, we can look for a considerable revolution in the type of Hackney which we are accustomed to see at most of our American shows. One of the best horses exhibited was Kitty Glen, a thoroughbred Hackney filly, three years old, who took first in the driving class (14 entries). For mare or gelding 14½ and under 14½, Mr. Bourne is certainly to be congratulated on being the possessor of such a sweet mare, and it will indeed be strange if we do not hear of more successes gained by her, as she was undoubtedly the best all-round goer in the ring. This exhibit was of course a great triumph to the Hackney breeders, though not the only one, and it is safe to say that one can not go to any show on this continent to-day without having to compete against some of this popular breed, though as yet there are not many of them in the country.

Now, Mr. Editor, I do not propose to trespass on your time any longer, but will close with one remark: The stand and ring were, I should imagine, about the same, or somewhat smaller, dimensions than those which used to exist at Toronto Industrial. As class succeeds class in rotation, at stated times, every one has a chance of observing those classes in which he takes the most interest, and of becoming educated in the different breeds of stock. Let me ask you, Why did the Industrial authorities take away the part of their exhibition which was the most educating to the farming community, and give us nothing in return? We have magnificent stables, far more expensive ones than there is any need for, but no place, except four paltry enclosures, in which to show our stock. If we can not have a covered building in which we could sit at ease, surely something might be done in the way of providing a simple stand with an enclosure in front, where those who do not care to witness a lot of jumping-jacks, tight-rope dancers, and so forth, could at least be given an opportunity of improving their minds and gaining some increase of knowledge in the walk of life which it has fallen to their lot to occupy.

HORACE N. CROSSLEY.

[NOTE.—In the last paragraph of his very interesting letter, Mr. Crossley raises a point that well-deserves serious consideration by exhibition authorities. Already some of these associations are imperiling their chances of usefulness by pandering to a craze for circus novelties and the like, the creation of the taste for which they are largely responsible themselves. We commend Mr. Crossley's plea for facilities that will improve the educational features of these shows.—EDITOR.]

The Scottish Clydesdale Society.

At a recent meeting of the Council of the Clydesdale Society at Edinburgh, discussion was resumed on the subject of registering American-bred Clydesdales in the Stud Book of this country. A letter was read from Mr. Alexander Galbraith, Secretary of the American Clydesdale Association, giving details of the latest Treasury minute of the United States on the tariff for imported stock. Three top crosses is the standard—that is, a horse or mare must have a registered sire and dam, and these must have registered sires and dams. The Council, having heard this statement, is of the opinion that no barrier exists in respect of the duties now charged on imported stock into the United States to the admission of horses bred outside of the United Kingdom into the Clydesdale Stud Book, and in view of the remit from the general meeting in March, appoint a special meeting of the Society to be held in the H. & A. S. show-yard, Dumfries, to consider the whole question. Mr. Martin gave notice that at the next meeting he would move that the by-law which prohibits the registration in the Stud Book of horses bred outside of the United Kingdom be rescinded.

The attempt to remodel the Stud Book by admitting the Shire cross proved a signal failure; the following motion by Mr. Walker being negatived seven to two:—“(1) That with regard to stock descended from registered Shires, the rule prospectively in force, namely, 'No horse foaled after 1893 will qualify stock for registration, unless he be himself registered,' be, and is hereby rescinded; (2) That animals got by a registered Clydesdale, and out of a registered Shire, and *vice versa*, be entered in an appendix to Volume XVIII.; (3) That the stock of animals thus bred, got by, or out of registered Clydesdales, be similarly entered; and, (4) That where the foundation stock is registered Shire, three top crosses shall entitle to full registration.”