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Editorial.

Canadian Records and the National Live-stock Convention.

The meeting of stockmen and officials of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa last month was, as reported in our columns, strongly national in its spirit, self-reliant, optimistic, determined, and for all practical purposes fairly representative of the West. The location of the records provoked debate, and was the means of splitting some parties and uniting others; a result full of meaning to the Western breeder, whose representatives went down fully determined to place their views on representation on the various association executives fairly before the Ontario and Eastern men.

The men from the West of Lake Superior have great faith in the future of their country, and wish the foundations of the proposed records, especially in the matter of representation on the various boards, so laid now that it will not be necessary or advisable a few years hence to have a redistribution of officers, etc., a move of course which might engender a lot of friction. The treatment accorded them by the majority, and the resolutions passed, show that the Ontario breeder, with the exception of some vested interests, are seized with the importance of securing the Western market, especially so as the States market is vanishing into thin air, as a result of restrictions imposed by the U. S. Government and U. S. Herdbook Associations. The meetings were full of subjects all the time; in fact, the fault to be found with the programme, if any, is that it was overloaded.

The convention adopted a resolution in favor of the establishment of one live-stock record for each breed in Canada. Such should be done at once, and each record should be known as CANADIAN, not Dominion; the latter term meaning nothing to outsiders. Under the present system a great deal of Canadian live stock is registered in States herdbooks, the consequence being that even if such stock is sold abroad, it goes with a certificate branded American instead of Canadian. As a consequence, the Argentine, the Cape, Australia and other places look upon the U. S. as the place to get pure-bred live stock, and Canada loses the advertising she should get. Then, again, with only one record for a breed, and the certificates from that record association bearing the imprimatur of the Canadian Government, would be a guarantee that the certificate was absolutely authentic.

There is one thing sure, and it is this, that the temper of the Western stockmen is such that if the resolutions passed are balked in operation by the minority, including the vested interests, distinct registration schemes will be evolved for the West. It may not be known to Ontario breeders, but is a fact, nevertheless, that more Polled Angus, Galloway, Red Polled, Hereford and West Highland cattle are already to be found in Canada west of Lake Superior than east of that mark. Modern public sentiment, however, is, we think, strong enough to encourage the Minister of Agriculture to carry out to a finish a scheme by which the Federal Government stamp will be attached to all live stock certificates. Once this is done, a bone of contention between the railroads and live-stock associations, due to multiplicity of records, will be done away with, and a stronger feeling of security will exist among buyers of pure-bred stock as to the authenticity of pedigrees than exists at present, which feeling of confidence will be an immense advantage to the pure-bred stock industry.

Trade is bound to grow as a result. At present

ent foreign governments look askance at our records, although in many cases of higher standard than their own; if certified to by the Dominion Government, refusal to accept our records would be a national affront, almost a casus belli! The admission of pure-bred stock from other countries free of duty, and the records to be recognized came up, and a resolution was passed to meet the case (see page 392, March 16th). The convention was not as happy in the resolution passed by them, re minimum valuation on horses: \$75 is rather high, \$50 would have been ample, as the Manitoba Live-stock Associations had already approved. It must not be forgotten that a large number of the equine misfits so much detested are home-bred; sometimes the produce of matings with mongrel and undersized roadster stallions. The plea that such imported horses do harm to the horse-breeding industry is quite legitimate. All grade stallions should be barred out, and it might be good policy to indicate that mares valued below \$75.00 were not sufficiently good for breeding purposes, and bar them out on those grounds; to make an arbitrary customs ruling would savor too much of protection, which farmers might find hard to reconcile at some later date with their objections to higher tariffs on lumber or implements.

The plea that on account of disease some equine stock should be barred out by putting on a prohibitive valuation of \$150, and also that the U. S. settlers' pig should be left to the tender mercy of Swift and Armour and not allowed across the line, is going to rather an extreme. We doubt very much if there is one authenticated case in the whole Northwest of hog cholera being brought in by settlers' stock. It would have been more consistent to have called attention to the annual seeding of Western Ontario with hog cholera by the railroads running from Detroit and Windsor to Buffalo, via Chatham. The fact is, that in the past Manitoba had an outbreak of hog cholera due to infection brought from the part of Ontario mentioned. That the hog-cholera germ can be brought in by dressed meats shows the absurdity of the excuse for barring out settlers' hogs. This matter belongs to the veterinary branch to deal with. Manitoba has been scourged with glanders in the past, but it must not be forgotten that the germ of the disease is no respecter of horseflesh, and that a customs valuation is no deterrent to the B. Mallei.

The resolution asking for delegates' expenses, criticised adversely by the man from Gengarry, Lockje Wilson, was shelved. We see very little difference between paying the actual expenses of bona-fide (elected by the associations of each Province) representatives and paying those of our M. P.'s. The live-stock association representatives are out their time, no inconsiderable expense, and when the matter is considered fairly, distance travelled, etc., taken into account, it might be advisable that the breed associations meet the expense, which would be possible if all the records were consolidated into Canadian in place of Provincial records.

The ideals of our breeders are high. They believe in advancing the interests of the various breeds irrespective of cliques or provincialism; all such must and will be swept away in the march forward towards perfection of the pure breeds we now have. Our stockmen recognize the fact that improved live stock is the keynote of a successful agriculture, and that as the influence of the breeder of pure-bred stock widens, that influence will spread to the graded herds, studs and flocks of the country, resulting in their uplifting and permanent improvement.

The Horse-dealer and the Farmer.

There came to this office a short time ago a query by letter, which we could not see our way clear to answer in the way desired by the writer. It was as follows: "An agent of the firm . . . is just now syndicating a horse (. . .) in this vicinity. Enclosed is description and pedigree of horse. Can you say anything as to the standing and reliability of . . . ? The price of the horse is \$3,500, on three years' time. What do you think of this as an investment from the shareholders' point of view?"

We cannot help but feel somewhat elated that our opinion is called for in such weighty matters, which feeling, however, is dampened when we think of the columns of articles re syndicating stallions published, which only goes to show that much of the advice given fell upon dull ears, or as the seed of the sower, it fell by the wayside. In order to protect ourselves we refrain from putting on paper our candid opinion in reply to our friend's queries; we have no wish to be defendants in the courts. In matters of this kind we cannot protect the farmer against himself. If he is not posted on market values of stallions, etc., he must expect to take the consequences. In March 16th issue was published the prices obtained for stallions at sale by auction. What better information than market quotations can any one wish?

It should not be forgotten that there are dealers and dealers in horses, and that horse-dealing is a calling in which expert knowledge of horseflesh means the difference between success and failure. The question of how much a district or company of farmers can afford to pay for a stallion is a matter for each individual company to settle; no hard-and-fast price can be decided upon. It is also unfair to expect a higher grade of honesty in horse dealers than obtains in other bodies of men engaged in pursuit of the dollar.

If we were to say we considered that \$2,000 was the outside figure to be paid for any stallion by any company of farmers for use on their mares with profit, none could question our motive or accuse us of exaggeration, especially if we qualified the statement by saying that in that amount \$500 was allowed to compensate the dealer for his risks, advertising, bad debts, sterile stallions, etc.

We believe in the syndicate system, if properly handled, as in many districts it is impossible to get a stallion any other way. For a syndicate to be successful and satisfactory, the following rules should be observed:

1. Form the company, find out how much money that company can raise at the bank, and get it.
2. Decide on the kind of horse required, and go to the stables of the dealers and select one.
3. Never go on a joint note with others, no matter whether one to twenty are signers. If you are in a company and cannot pay cash, just give your individual note. On a joint note you are liable for the whole amount for which the note is given.

We believe it is possible to indicate a sum to which an aggregation of farmers or an individual owning grade mares can go; the breeder with a stud of registered mares has pedigree and other contingencies to meet, and therefore may find it necessary to go higher in price for a first-class horse. One word more: Our readers can rest assured there is no reason why they cannot get the best stallions possible from our advertisers, and we are certain that better satisfaction will be obtained by dealing with such men than with those not to be found in our columns.