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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, OF
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Editorial.

Boycotting Canadian Records.

The following letter was received by Mr. Henry Wade, Secretary of the Agriculture and Arts Association of the Province of Ontario: Department of Agriculture, Office of the Secretary, Washington, D. C.

SIR.—Referring to your letter of the 24th inst. re the subject of recognizing the Canadian Record Books in the regulations for the importation of animals duty free, I would say that these books were intentionally omitted. A great majority of the breeding associations of the United States have expressed a desire that no books of record should be recognized except those maintained by our own associations. On account of the delay which would be caused by securing a record of animals imported from Europe in the books of the American Association, the European record books have been recognized, but this reason does not apply in regard to Canada, for it will only require a day or two to send any of the American Associations and have the animals recorded and receive certificates of record in return. This could readily be done before the animals, which it was designed to import into the United States, were shipped from the breeding point in Canada, consequently there would be no delay at the port of entry. The decision is not intended to reflect in any way on the Canadian record books, but it is simply an effort to comply with the almost unanimous sentiment of American breeders. J. N. RUSK, Secretary.

This letter fully explains itself. It is evident that the American Government has determined to foster and support the American Record Association according to the strictest protectionists' principles. What effect will this have on Canada? How will it affect her live stock interests?

We in Canada have well-established records for all the various breeds. The rules governing entries in these books are in almost every case higher than those governing entries in the corresponding American records, and in no case lower. They are also more reliable; because in every case the Canadian records are controlled and virtually edited by the breeders, the strictest supervision being exercised over the pedigrees, a reward of from \$50 to \$100 being offered by some societies for evidence which will lead to the detection of parties who have by any means entered animals contrary to the rules governing such records—heavy fines await transgressors in every case. The directors of these associations are in all cases not only practical men, but are those whose experience, knowledge and reputation are beyond question.

The owner of an animal to be entered must prove beyond doubt the purity of the blood of the animal so offered: not so with many of the American Record Associations. Many of the finest breeding animals now in the United States, or their ancestors, were bred by Canadians. We all know to what a large extent importations have been made from Ontario. American buyers come to this Province and buy animals often regardless of their breeding; these they take to the United States and record, often furnishing to the recording secretary pedigrees which would not be considered for a moment by a Canadian editing committee. There are hundreds of sheep recorded in the American record whose breeding would not entitle them to enter Canadian records. Often an American secretary is not to be blamed for admitting spurious pedigrees, because he has not the means of knowing that he is being imposed upon, as he is so distant from the parties who bred the animals or who are supposed to have bred them. For the same reason their editing board cannot detect the dishonesty of the applicants. The rank and file of the American breeders are thus deceived.

Another phase of the American record business is this. Some of these records are conducted simply as an industry, without regard to the breeding of the animals, so long as they "look all right." There are scores of animals entered in certain American records which have been received by the secretaries while visiting Canada. The simplest enquiry would have revealed the fact that the animals were not eligible for entry in any record. They were simply received in order to cross the lines free of duty, or sell well after they crossed. Knowing these facts so well, Canadians cannot gracefully accept the last ruling of the American Treasury.

We have no doubt Secretary Rusk is advised by a few extreme protectionists who are managers of some stock associations in the United States, notably Mr. Clarke and Mr. Mills, who are respectively President and Secretary of the Clydesdale Association. Their object is to force all our people to register in their record. The authorities are induced to believe that this is a very simple matter, and that it would not occasion any delay—that the pedigrees could be sent for and returned within a few days. It can be easily foreseen, however, that it is very easy for a secretary to find a little fault or make some objection to a pedigree which will entail a delay of two or three weeks. Before this time shall

elapse the man who purchased the animal becomes disgusted, and leaves the country. This is exactly what American breeders desire. They wish that a man in the United States intending to purchase should deal either with those living in the United States, or, if he must come to Canada, with those only who are members of their Association. The order as issued results in one of two things,—in compelling all our people to register in the United States records, or in preventing the American purchaser from coming to Canada at all to buy his stock. That we think is the aim of the order, and it will certainly accomplish one or the other point. By destroying our records, buyers even from our own country, especially those from Manitoba and the West, will be drawn towards the United States breeders, for they will control the records.

Nobody can deny that Mr. Mortimer Levering has done more to advance the interests of the Shropshire breeder than any other man in America, or, perhaps, more than any other ten men. How much better would it have been for Canadians had Mr. Levering been a resident of Toronto.

The establishment of a well-conducted record in a province is a powerful incentive to the farmers in that province, and will greatly assist the breeders and advance their interests. Canadians cannot afford to close up their records and hand them over bodily to American associations.

Especially is this the case in view of the fact that the time may come, and most probably will come, when Canadian bred animals shall be excluded from the United States altogether. We have been repeatedly told by prominent Americans that our live stock "is admitted only by sufferance." If we are excluded from their markets, of what benefit will their records be to us?

Canadian breeders, with a few exceptions, sell more animals to Canadian farmers than they do to Americans; because of this, Canadian records are a necessity. Why send thousands of dollars out of Canada each year in the form of registration fees that would be better retained if used to build up what will be in a few years a most important industry? Why should we hand our records over to Americans, and allow them to manipulate them to the injury of the Canadian breeder? The proposition is a most absurd one, and can never be entertained by Canadians, except by those few who are in sentiment more American than Canadian, and who desire to build up American interests to the detriment of Canada.

Again, in Canada there are hundreds of purely bred animals which are registered here, but to register them in American records would cost more than the profits to be got from the sale of them; it would be more profitable to sell them to the butcher. This is well known to American breeders, who know full well that the recent order is virtually prohibitive. The officials of our Government at Ottawa were written to some time ago concerning this subject. Up to date they have not favored the writer with a reply.

This is a matter seriously affecting the farmers, not the manufacturers. We trust that the Dominion Government will take the matter in hand, and do what they can to obtain simple justice, if the Americans are willing to extend it.