

Cities are growing fast in the west, and sooner or later the question of mutual co-operation between two or more fairs in each province will have to be seriously discussed. The sooner this is attempted before custom and vested interests become too dominant factors, the easier will it be to reach a satisfactory understanding. The live-stock men as an element of the farmers may use their influence with fair boards, between now and the close of the exhibition season, toward effecting a more rational arrangement of dates.

On Class Legislating and Tax Gathering

There now seems some probability that the Senate of the French Republic will refuse to ratify the commercial treaty recently entered into between France and Canada. It appears that the French agriculturists fear that this country with the advantages which this treaty gives her, will be able to compete too well with French farmers in their own markets. Consequently they are urging the Senate to refuse its sanction. Animal products in France, meats butter, cattle and hogs, have been scarce and high priced for years. The French Government, in the hope of reducing somewhat, the cost of these to the consumer, and at the same time creating a market abroad for certain products which French people produced in abundance and required to export, entered into an agreement with the Dominion, whereby certain products from each country were given entry into the other at a reduced impost rate. French farmers claim, however, that the advantages are not mutual that the treaty has been framed to benefit only one class in their country and while reducing the burden which that class bears, has increased the load which the agriculturists require to carry.

It is the old story again of legislating for classes. Wherever national revenues are derived indirectly, as they are in most countries, by levying a tariff on imported products, this complaint will be heard, that government is legislating for the benefit of this, that or the other class, not for the country as a whole. Sometimes of course governments do enact tariff legislation that is flagrantly unfair to certain interests. This the French peasants aver their government did when it agreed to a reduction in the import duty on Canadian farm products in return for certain reductions accorded in the Canadian tariff to such French products as wines, spirits, etc. One class is getting the benefit, and another having the burden it bears increased.

But indirect taxation has another and a more serious weakness. People when they do not realize that the funds for public expenditure are coming out of their pockets, do not concern themselves much as to how or how much money a government spends. Nobody outside the editors of opposition papers ever gets interested in the

fact that a government is spending several million dollars more than its income. The country is rich and nobody feels that the money is coming out of his pocket. He never sees the taxgatherer. There's no use talking national economy to a people not one of whom realizes acutely that he is contributing anything to the public revenues. This is the real weakness of taxing indirectly. Public expenditures can be increased to almost any figure, appropriations made for all manner of undertakings and nobody outside a few professional politicians seems to give a hang. But when a British government increases expenditure, groans and bleats and teeth gnashings are immediately heard. The income tax goes up.

HORSE

A Last Word on Foundation Lines.

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

I write you in mid Atlantic, I should have done so long ere this date, but could not find the necessary time. I did not at the time reply to Mr. Bradshaw in regard to the doubtful breeding of the Clydesdale, and hope it is not too late to do so now.

I notice another writer makes bold to enter the controversy, signing himself T. R., Alberta, who by the way, calls for little attention other than to say, that if he had divulged his identity his letter might have carried some weight. He speaks as having resided 30 years on the Borders, therefore in a position to know how the breeds were intermingled, and to what extent. I can speak with the same authority, having been born and raised in the Borderland. I should know something, surely, of the matter in dispute. T. R. produces no evidence whatever, to support Mr. Bradshaw's claim, "that the breeds are full of the blood of one another."

Turning to Mr. Bradshaw, I would like to examine his statement closely, and perhaps even he himself, might admit he is, or might be, in error unwittingly. In stating that the breeds are full of the blood of one another, he reflects rather scathingly on the honesty of the different record societies interested.

If Mr. Bradshaw will admit that the Canadian standard of admission to the stud book, four crosses on the filly side and five the stallion, constitutes a pure animal, then his whole conclusions are in error and based on a false assumption. But in case he does not admit this, let us treat of his statement in a general way.

First of all then, to anyone not versed in the individual characteristics of the breeds, there is an apparent resemblance between the Shire and Clydesdale, but not more so than with some other pure breeds both in horses and cattle, and many other animals. To make comparisons, wherein lies their likeness and their distinguishing characteristics; First, both are breeds with feather or hair on their limbs, although the Shire has most. 2nd. both are heavy boned, although again the shire is the heaviest. 3rd. both are alike in color and white markings, although generally the Clydesdale has most white. When the foregoing characteristics have been stated, the whole

ground of similarity has been covered, and to a trained eye their conformation, weight, etc., are sufficient to stamp distinctly to which breed they belong. To follow up this comparison among other distinct breeds, let us see how an untrained eye is apt to go astray as far as in the case of the breeds under dispute. Take the Hackney, Standard-bred and Thoroughbred, mix them all up together, and to one not a judge, it will puzzle him to pick out each one and name the breed he belongs to. Take again the Percheron and Suffolk, two breeds that possess many characteristics in common, and yet, even Mr. Bradshaw will admit they are entirely distinct and always have been, in blood lines, and I venture to assert that put 10 horses of each breed together and let the Percheron be all chesnut in color, a color common to the breed, and not unknown in another, and to the untrained eye they will all look as one, and undistinguishable.

In the cattle world, let us take the Shorthorn, and the Devon, or even the Hereford, without their characteristic white faces. How many not versed in cattle knowledge would distinguish them. I might go on and multiply comparisons but a few now will suffice. In the world of swine take the Yorkshire versus Chester White, the Berkshire versus Portland China. In the sheep world, the Leicester versus Lincoln, etc., etc.

Secondly. Take the common stock argument, of the Shire origin of what has been termed the corner-stone of the breed, the famous horse, "Prince of Wales." I need not necessarily take up space, under this head, as even admit Prince of Wales was half Shire, which he was not, that does not say that the Clydesdale of today has a drop of Shire blood in his veins, to admit this would be to deny all our well formed opinions of what amount of breeding up makes a pure-bred animal.

But to the point, Prince of Wales was a short pedigreed horse, which like all others of his day was of necessity, being among the first to get a plan in the newly started stud book. Among all other stud, herd or flock books started it was a necessity that the early entries had short pedigrees, however good their individuality or breeding. Prince of Wales had for his two grand-dams two gray Englishbred mares. It is not even admitted they were Shire mares. It is less of Shire origin, simply they happened to come from England, and many critics of the Clydesdale have jumped at the conclusion that the mares must have been Shire when they came from there, and the Prince of Wales must have been a Shire in descending from them, a theory that is based on a doubtful foundation.

The horses Prince of Clay, and Mains of Airis, are practically in the same position as Prince of Wales, being descended from the famous mare Pandora, whose breeding it is claimed carried much of Shire blood. There are many other who constituted the foundation of the Clydesdale breed and who perforce had all short pedigrees that might be traced to other sources. If we were to be strictly logical we could base our theory on the same stock arguments of Mr. Bradshaw and others of his school. There is not such a thing as a strictly purebred horse in the world, but all are full of the blood of one another.

In conclusion I would like to say that I am a firm believer in keeping the Stud Book open to admit of fresh blood being added from time to time, and I believe the greatest drawback to the Clydesdale today is too much inbreeding, and following out exactly what Mr. Bradshaw thinks



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