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## GOSSIP.

VEXATIOUS RAILWAY RATES.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Society (U. S.) of Record Associations, was held at the Great Northern Hotel, Chicago, Ill., September 30th. The chief work transacted was the consideration of the present rates on shipment of pure-bred live stock, in less than carload lots, and railway requirements in connection with same. A large number of specific cases were submitted, wherein shippers of pure-bred live stock had been required to furnish an attendant to personally accompany such purebred live stock, and pay full passenger fare for said attendant, both going and returning. It was shown that the freight rate on shipment of one pure-bred bull, from vicinity of Chicago to Knoxville, Tenn., would be \$22.20, while the expense of passenger fare for the attendant, and cost of his employment for the time required, together with cost of meals and incidentals en route, would amount to more than \$50, making the total charges in excess of \$70, which breeders will readily recognize is practically prohibitive. It was brought out that the roads operating north and west of Chicago have no such burdensome restrictions, and that they accept and handle pure-bred live stock in less than carload lots without question. The South-western roads, and the roads in the Southern classification, appear to be the ones which are the most serious offenders.

President B. O. Cowan stated that the matter nad recently been brought to the attention of the live-stock agents in Missouri, with the result that the railroad regulations on roads operating in that State had been amended so that they no longer require an attendant with such shipments.

Director Curtiss called attention to the fact that the railroads imposing these requirements were pursuing a very inconsistent course, in that many of them were at the same time furnishing, free of charge, trains for the dissemination of agricultural information, with a view to improving the agricultural methods in the districts tributary to their line; and it was pointed out that to burden livestock breeders with the necessity of providing an attendant in charge with shipments of pure-bred live stock, in less than carload lots, practically amounted to an attempt on the part of the railroads to secure their profits by taxing pure-bred seed, which the breeders were attempting to distribute in the localities tributary to the lines of the railroads. In other words, instead of doing all possible to encourage and facilitate the distribution of pure-bred seed among the farmers contributing traffic to the lines, and securing their returns in the increased traffic, due to the production of more and better live stock, the railroads were attempting to secure their tribution of the better seed.

A committee was appointed to collect all possible specific data, and prepare same for presentation to railroad authorities, and, if necessary, to the Inter-State Commerce Commission.

Breeders throughout the United States are asked to report specific cases where they have been obliged to provide an attendant and pay charges incident thereto, to Wayne Dinsmore, Chicago, Ill., Secretary-Treasurer of the Association, who has charge of the collection of information for the committee.

## STICKING TO FACTS.

"Children," said the teacher, while instructing the class in composition, "you should not attempt any flights of fancy, but simply be yourself, and write what is in you. Do not imitate any other person's writings, or draw inspiration from outside sources." As a result of this advice, Johnny Wise turned in the following composition: "We should not attempt any flites of fancy, but rite what is in us. In me there is my stummick, lungs, hart, liver, two apples, one piece of pie, one stick lemon candy, and my dinner."

Said an English clergyman, "patriotism is the backbone of the British Emistre; and what we have to do is to train that backbone and bring it to the fault."

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