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The Enrolment of Stallions and its Effects.

When the Horse-Breeders Ordinance of the Territories was passed, speculation was rife as to its effects, it being a radical move compared with any existing legislation. For some time past, however, associations interested in horse breeding had urged the passing of such a bill, on the grounds that the use of unsound stallions, and the misrepresentations made to farmers using stallions, was prejudicial to the horse breeding industry and to the country.

The great influence restraining the passing and enforcement of legislation to regulate horse breeding is the inherent dislike by the Anglo-Saxon of governmental interference in such matters. This objection is, however, so far as horse breeding acts are concerned, practically limited to two distinct elements, as far apart as the poles in their ideals and methods of doing business. First, there is the breeder and seller of high class horses, who feels and possibly rightfully so, that he understands horse breeding so far as it relates to his part of the business better than a government appointee, who may or may not be a theorist lacking entirely in experience; second, there is the crook who has an unsound and inferior animal to pass off on the unsophisticated, who seemingly can be hoodwinked by an unauthenticated pedigree, either in the form of a printed bill or typewritten sheet. Under these conditions, which no person will deny, should, if possible, be ameliorated, it would appear that opposition to the passing and enforcement of such acts is ill timed and prejudicial to the interests of the agricultural community. Three provinces in Canada; viz., Alberta, Saskatchewan and Mani-

Breed	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta
Clydesdales	262		81
Percheron			
French Draft			
and Belgians	71		42
Shires	29		10
Hackneys	20		2
Standardbreds	17		10
Suffolks	9		3
Thoroughbreds	8		10
German Coach	3		
Cleveland Bay	2		1
French Coach	1		2
French Canadian	1		1
Grades of all kinds	208		329
	714		491
Percentage pure-bred	60		35
License fee			\$2
Renewal—No provision made as yet.			

The accompanying table shows the immediate benefit of acts compelling enrolment of stallions, inasmuch as a sort of stallion census is obtained. The large percentage of mongrel stallions, in Manitoba — ; Saskatchewan 40; Alberta 65; should be a stimulus to the horsebreeders associations of the respective provinces to plan some effective work along the line of horsebreeding education with a view to showing the immense advantage bound to accrue from the abandonment of the use of mongrel stallions in favor of purebred horses. The remarks quoted below of Deputy Minister George Harcourt, are worth considering. It seems to us that agricultural societies permitting stallions to travel or stand in



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toba, have stallion enrolment legislation on the statute books, more or less adequate for present day requirements. In each of the three provinces, every stallion standing or travelling for public service must be enrolled with the respective departments of agriculture, the certificate of enrolment stating whether grade or cross-bred, and if purebred of what breed. In addition the owner (or owners) of purebred stallions make an affidavit or present a veterinarian's certificate as to the soundness of the particular stallion. The soundness clause only applies to purebreds, the idea being to give sound purebred stallions the advantage over all other stallions, either unsound purebreds or grades. All stallion advertising must contain a copy of the certificate of enrolment, and every stallion must be advertised. Further, in the Manitoba Act there is a provision for a lien on the foals. This applies only to the get of purebred stallions. The immediate effect of the passage of these acts was to ensure farmers a square deal; a stallion was advertised for what he was, and the departments checked the pedigrees and were enabled to verify or dispute the authenticity of the same. The government officials in charge of this work have stated that fraudulent pedigree certificates have been detected, whereon erasures of birth dates and numbers have been noted, and in other cases typed or printed statements purporting to be pedigree certificates have been repudiated and shown to be utterly worthless. If all men were honest there would be no need for laws. Such is the case with stallion enrolment. Up to date enrolment in the various provinces has proceeded apace as will be seen from the following schedule.

their districts without being enrolled are not living up to the spirit or letter of the Act under which they were started.

"You will observe that no cross bred stallions have been enrolled. Application for only a small number of these certificates have been made, but these could not be granted as the applicants were unable to produce the pedigree certificates on both sides. During the year 1906 the number enrolled far exceeded that of previous years as the list indicates, but the Department is under the impression that a large number of stallions have not yet had their horses enrolled as the Ordinance requires. This is due partly to their ignorance regarding the law and to the thought that some entertain that the enrolment is not necessary. The enforcement of the Ordinance depends to a large extent upon the owners of purebred horses who are principally benefitted, and to the farmers in general. A number of stallion owners consider that the Ordinance does not go far enough in aiding them to secure their fees, and that the lien should be given on the mare instead of the foal."

The state of Wisconsin, noting the legislation referred to above, and being desirous of helping the industry of horsebreeding, took up the matter seriously, and the legislature of that state in 1905 passed a law which came into force twelve months ago. The administration of the act was placed in the hands of Dr. Alexander, who is in charge of the department of Horse Breeding of the University of Wisconsin, who after a year's work has issued a report from which we quote. "Since the passage of the law horse breeding has become an engrossing subject of discussion in every farming community of the

state, and this, if nothing else, may be considered a most valuable effect of the new legislation."

As a result of one year's work over one hundred unsound stallions have been retired from the stud, undoubtedly a great gain to the horsebreeding industry.

The following suggestions have been made:

"1. An annual or biennial renewal license fee. [This is already provided for in the Manitoba Act as also is number 2.]

"2. Adoption of a list of diseases to be considered 'hereditary, transmissible or communicable' and consequently subjecting a stallion to rejection as unsound.

"3. Specific authority for the Department of Horse Breeding to refuse licenses to stallions known to be unsound and to revoke licenses granted to stallions since found to be unsound. [This would be considered at the present date a little radical, although it is bound to come.]

"4. Authority to revoke the licenses of 'scrub' stallions of 'unknown breeding' and to refuse licenses to such horses in the future. [Undoubtedly needed right away.]

"5. Institution of a plan for expert veterinary inspection of public service stallions, at appointed times and places, by inspectors duly authorized and acting under the supervision of the Department of Horse Breeding, such inspection to be known as 'State Veterinary Inspection.'

"6. Compulsory state veterinary inspection of all stallions already granted licenses on affidavit of owner, and at a time to be decided upon, state veterinary inspection of all stallions granted licenses when under five years of age. [Five and six we are hardly ready for just yet, but should be in the next five years, when such measures might be put in force; it would be well to incorporate these suggestions in the Acts, and thereby give two or three year's notice of the same.] The most valid reason for five and six is that by so doing the local V. S. would be relieved of the onus of doing what would be unpleasant work amongst his clients, and likely to lose him business, if he happened to be a strictly honest and impartial man.

"7. Institution of a plan for the examination and certification of sound purebred stallions by the Department of Horse Breeding on voluntary request of owner, as to purity of breeding, individual excellence, breed type, character, quality, disposition, suitability and utility, horses admitted to this class after rigid inspection to be known as 'State Approved Stallions.' [This is a matter for the Horse Breeders' Association to decide for their respective provinces.]

"8. Stipulations as to legal posters and their legal use.

"9. From Chapter 116, Laws of 1905, strike out from Section 1 the words 'for profit or gain' and from Section 2 all words relating to the making of an affidavit of soundness by owner. [This would mean that every stallion kept for service would be enrolled and inspected by a veterinarian.]

"10. Provide a separate class and license certificate for 'Non-Standardbred' stallions recorded in American Trotting Register. [This clause does not need very serious consideration in the Canadian West, except to stipulate that such be not admitted duty free into Canada.]

"Something was needed to arouse our farmers and breeders to take interest in the business of horse production, and the new law has already served that purpose. It was not, when conceived and enacted, considered perfect by any means; nor was it thought to be all that could be desired for the best interests of the industry in question. But it was calculated to well commence proceedings, and lead up to added and more effective measures of legislation at such time as education shall have progressed sufficiently to warrant other long steps in the right direction. Too stringent measures cannot safely be thrust upon the people without due warning, preparation and education; hence the recently enacted stallion law started by giving owners the privilege of either making affidavit to the soundness of their horses or employing a graduate veterinarian to make a critical examination and sign a certificate of soundness."

Further the Act "led men to inquire as to what diseases constitute hereditary, transmissible or communicable unsoundness, and pay more attention to the matter of soundness in brood mares.

In the Manitoba Act, the following are considered as hereditary unsoundnesses and therefore should disqualify a stallion for breeding purposes, and do prevent the said stallion being