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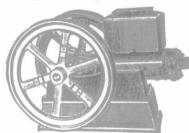
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horses had been recorded by the organization of 15 or 20 years ago, to secure original certificates of registration Effort also was made to have the Percheron society of France recognize certificates that had been omitted from their volumes.

When we went to Washington the last time we felt that this frequent raising of question as to the genuineness or correctness of pedigrees of horses—many of them imported 10, 15 or 20 years ago, the pedigrees of which had been relied upon by the breeders of the country all this time, and which a very large number of the breeders of the country were interested in—was damaging to the breeding business; and that no good could be accomplished in raising these questions at this late day, for the reason that it would be impossible to find the evidence that would throw full light upon these transactions of 15 or 20 years ago.

We felt that in a large sense the principle of the statute of limitations should apply, and that the breeders and farmers of the country, interested in the Percheron horse, should not be constantly harassed with doubt and uncertainty in their breeding operations.

The action of the Percheron Society of America, in registering imported horses, is necessarily based upon the French certificate, and when the importer presenting such certificate has complied with the rules of the Percheron Society of America, and has received his certificate of registration from this association, we believe it to be the imperative duty of our society to stand behind every pedigree so issued, upon which it has set its seal and the signature of its proper officers. A certificate of pedigree issued in this manner, as provided by the bylaws of the society should be absolute and conclusive on all parties concerned, and no doubt should ever be entertained afterwards as to the genuineness or reliability of such certificate of pedigree and the registration thereof.

So the Percheron Society of America recommended that the Department of Agriculture establish a system of inspection for all imported horses: That it may be accurately determined whether or not such horses have authentic certificates of pedigree from a reliable pedigree association in the country from which they come.

2. "That such horses be inspected as

2. "That such horses be inspected as to their identity, for the purpose of ascertaining whether or not they are correctly described in the pedigree submitted with them, and represented to be the pedigree of the said horse, and also for the purpose of determining whether or not said pedigrees are genuine and duly authenticated.

3. "That it may be determined whether or not such horses are free from dangerous, infectious and contagious diseases, and suitable for improving purposes in this country.

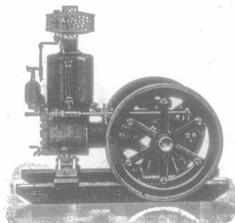
"We further recommend that when inspection has been made, as herein provided, that an accurate and careful report of such inspection be transmitted to the Department of Agriculture immediately, and that a complete record of all imported horses, with the results of the inspection, be kept and made a matter of record in the Agricultural Department of the United States, for the information of all American Record Associations interested in the breed of horses; and that when information concerning such record and inspection of horses is requested by this society or any other having an interest in the same, it be furnished with as little delay

as possible.

"We further recommend that the Department of Agriculture communicate with the Department of Agriculture of the Republic of France, or the Percheron Society of France, for the purpose of impressing upon said Percheron Society the importance of having authentic pedigrees, and a correct record—made in the Percheron Stud book of France, of all horses imported to this country, in order that no conflict may hereafter arise in the published records of the stud book of the Percheron Society of America and the stud book of the Percheron Society of France."

The government have now stationed at the port of entry an official whose duty it is to inspect the horses, pass upon their pedigrees, thus relieving the

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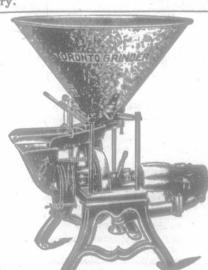
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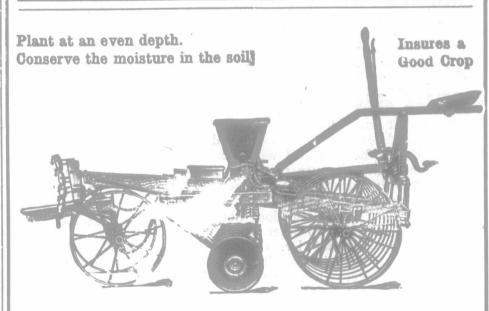
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