

lines with the best individuals of other strains.

In striving for the best, the American breeders have imported—regardless of price—the finest thoroughbreds the world had to offer. By the importation to America of *Blenheim, *Bahram, *Mahmoud, *Challenger II and *St. Germans, England lost the best animals of the Swynford line, which traced back in male line to Eclipse. To avoid too much inbreeding, American breeders also imported the best that France and Australia had to offer. In view of all this evidence why do people still talk—with a starry look in their eyes—as if the English-breds were super horses.

Possibly it is the aftermath and result of something they know nothing about, but which has influenced their line of thought—I refer to what is commonly known as the “Jersey Act”.

To understand the position it is necessary to know that around 1909 as a result of anti-gambling legislation in the United States, American breeders of thoroughbreds found their market lost in their native land. Seeking an outlet some of them conceived the idea of selling their yearlings in England where they found a ready market at good prices. After a few years, this affected the British yearling market to such an extent that their breeders became alarmed. Lord Jersey was at that time the senior steward of the English Jockey Club, and the stud book authorities ruled that for any horse to be registered, it should trace back at all points to animals already registered in the General Stud Book.

To have some of their best stock arbitrarily labelled “half-bred”, naturally caused some resentment in the United States but unfortunately from the British authorities’ point of view, a considerable number of animals of American descent had already been accepted for their stud book.

Among the mares accepted were Rhoda B, and Sibola Rhoda B became

the dam of Orby (English Derby winner and grandson of Ormonde). England’s champion sprinter The Bug and Sir Cosmo and his son Panorama—in fact the Old Country’s best sprinting blood—trace back to this strain.

From Sibola—winner of the One Thousand Guineas and a second in the Oaks—is descended the unbeaten Italian-bred horse Nearco. He sired the Derby winner Dante and ranks in the very top class as a sire in England. Another mare to gain access to the stud book was Americus Girl, and from her descended the Derby winner and outstanding horse in England of his year *Mahmoud. This simply means that the English stud book is full of this “impure” blood, but their descendants are rather more than holding their own with horses of pure British blood.

Whether the reader be a student of the Turf or not one cannot be unmindful of the fact that French-bred horses have gained more than their share of successes on the English Turf in recent years. M. Marcel Boussac, one of France’s most eminent and successful breeders, attributes this success to the infusion of good American strains of blood in the French blood lines. Ardan, Caracalla (acknowledged the outstanding horse in the world in 1947), Migoli, Marsyas are only a few which bear American blood.

Regarding the above *The Blood Horse* reports: “French stud book authorities barred further acceptance of American strains in the same year as the English, that is, 1913. Like England, France still considers American strains impure except through horses accepted before 1913. France accepts the American blood in English pedigrees, but England does not accept the American blood in French pedigrees.” Here the editor remarks “If this sounds confusing, it is confusing.”

In spite of the above, I have talked to individuals who still were not convinced, and to justify their stand have suggested that “Oh in England it is regarded more as a sport. What naïveté!!