

The result is that the stallions with these certificates have more than they can do, because people have faith in the correctness of the certificates.

#### A REGISTER OF BLOOD STOCK.

Out of this practice Mr. Wiser has evolved a theory, which I think is a good one. I do not approve of the licensing system, as it would be pretty expensive. I agree with Mr. Wiser that it would probably be better if this Commission could get an Act passed through the Legislature to provide for the registration of all the blood stock in Canada in some bureau or with some official, that registration should be under the control of a board of censors, and that no one should be allowed to travel a stallion for pay unless he had a certificate of registration. The registration fee might be nominal, say two dollars; and if the board of censors gradually eliminated everything that was not thoroughbred, and if a horse that was not registered could not collect anything for his services, you would gradually come to the exclusive use of thoroughbred stock. That would be a system that would lie easily on the community, and about which there would be no complaint. It might be the means of centering the knowledge of all the thoroughbred stock of the Province—bulls, boars, rams, and horses—in one place, in Toronto. The board of censors should be independent of the government, appointed from the best breeders in the Province. I would have them appointed by the Government, but appointed for their superior intelligence and breeding ability. I think the Government is capable of making a selection of that kind without incurring the imputation of political motives.

#### WANT OF CONFIDENCE IN THE CANADIAN HERD BOOK.

*To Mr. Dymond.*—I have no reason to doubt the accuracy of the Canadian Herd Book, but I know that people have not confidence in it. I think so well of Canadian registration that I would not register my horses in the American Registry, but must soon of necessity do so unless we have one in Canada. There is no reason why the Canadian Herd Book should not be made an authoritative record under the control of the gentlemen who at present direct it. The "Live Stock Record" has been giving breeders "hail Columbia" for admitting four crosses. I have confidence in four crosses in horses producing a good result; but I have not confidence in any herd book that is not controlled by an impartially selected board of censors. The gentlemen at present controlling the book are just the gentlemen the Government ought to select for the purpose, associated with men of acknowledged learning in the breeding problem. The whole to be a "board of censors" for registration, with power to reject or admit. I cannot see any way in which the Government could exercise undue influence over the board. They ought to be high-toned, honorable men.

#### AGE FOR BREEDING FROM MARES—TREATMENT OF COLTS.

The age at which a mare intended to be a breeder should be put to the horse is four years—not less than four. A colt should be weaned at five months. The first winter it should be fed with all the hay and oats it can eat, and kept perfectly warm. It is a mistake not to feed colts plenty of oats; it is nitrogenous food, and gives them plenty of flesh. Old cut hay is not so good as hay that is cut while it is green and new. Corn and soft feed, such as turnips and carrots are not nearly so good for nourishing them, and giving them endurance and vim, as hay and oats, and they will grow thirty per cent. more on the one kind than on the other. Probably once a week I would give them about a teaspoonful of saltpetre with a little wheat bran mash. There is no greater mistake than to water a horse directly after he eats his feed. His stomach is small, and any feed that he eats before you give him his drink will be washed through undigested. The proper way is to water him an hour or so before you feed him his grain. Colts do a great deal better with ground oats than with unground; the agitation of the mouth produces a certain amount of saliva that aids digestion. I have always kept my colts tied in their boxes.

[*Dr. McMonagle.*]