

tion. Herefords, Devons, Ayrshires, and all the rest, must trust to their good looks, for they have no place in the Herd Book. If the breed is to be kept up, every breed or family of horses, and every breed of cattle, should have its register. In regard to the Clydesdale horses, it is deemed so important, that a Clydesdale Registration Society was about three or four years ago established in Scotland. In Boston, as noticed in a former chapter, the Holstein cattle have their Herd Book. Then, in England, there is a Suffolk Horse Society, a Hereford Herd Book Society, a Welsh Cattle Society, a Galloway Cattle Society, and recently a Shire Society to perpetuate the breed of the old English cart horse. The American Herd Book, the Kentucky Herd Book, the American Trotting Register, the Ohio Shorthorn Register, and many others, attest the value placed by breeders on the existence of an authoritative record of all kinds of stock. It would not, perhaps, be expedient in Ontario, or even in Canada, to establish a number of separate books or registers; but one for all descriptions of pure-bred cattle, sheep and swine, and another for horses, would be most desirable.

The Commissioners do not propose to offer any opinion as to the principle on which the present Herd Book is conducted. Five crosses in the male and four in the female entitle to registration. The system was, no doubt, adopted with a sincere desire to meet existing circumstances and the wants of the country. It is a perfectly honest record, showing on its face the history of the thing registered. But it is none the less certain, that, from whatever cause, a Canadian register does not secure confidence in the States, where are to be found the best customers of the Canadian breeder. Canada is assuredly to be one great source of supply of pure-bred animals to the States. Our food supply, climate, and habits are all favourable to this form of enterprise, and enable Canadians to furnish a better article than the Americans can raise themselves. Hence another reason, not only for registration, but for registration on such a basis as shall be unimpeachable. It must not only be honest of its kind, but of the right kind in every respect.

While every farmer should understand the general principles of breeding, the business of raising pure-bred stock is really one of itself. And while it is an open question as to who should issue a Herd or Stud Book, it does appear to the Commissioners only a matter of common sense that breeders, either as an advisory board or board of censors, should have a potential voice in its management. As there is absolutely no Stud Book in Ontario at the present time, and as there is no Stock Register at all in Ontario except the Shorthorn Herd Book, the field is an open one, and nobody should be assumed to have anything but the public interest to consult in the matter.

Intimately connected with this question is the suggestion thrown out by more than one witness for the licensing of pure-bred stud horses travelling the country, with a view to discourage the use of inferior animals. That is a proposal on which some difference of opinion will probably be found to exist, although viewed with favour by many.

The Commissioners suggest that a convention of breeders of pure-bred stock, called under the auspices of the Department of Agriculture, might be a convenient means of eliciting the views of persons most competent to advise: (1) as to what extent registration is needed; (2) the best method of securing a system of registration; (3) the principles on which, in regard to the several breeds of animals, it ought to be conducted; and (4) what means could be most effectually adopted to encourage the use of only pure-bred male animals for breeding purposes.

The Commissioners believe that, if this step were taken, a scheme might be devised for ensuring, not only a sufficiently well-guaranteed record for that which has now no record at all, but additional confidence in and respect for the existing Herd Book, in whatever form or under whatever authority it might be presented to the public.