

A Uniform Standard.

BY JOHN SHARMAN, SOURIS, MAN.

Is our system of registry for pure-bred stock what it should be? We think not. What a state would the trade of our country be in if each branch of business were allowed to regulate the standard of weights and measures used by it in its particular business? We would have as many standards as there are now among the breeders of the different breeds of so-called pure-bred stock.

Legislation was required to make the system of weights and measures what it is, and legislation is required to make our herd-book standards conform one to the other.

What has the readjustment of the Shorthorn Herd-book cost the breeders of the country? Would the standard adopted by the D.S.H.H.B. Association have been adopted, had the breeders who had sold stock that were to be rejected, been required to refund the purchasers the price received for the stock less their value as a grade? We think not. If, then, as we claim, there is no more need of two or more standards in registering pure-bred stock than there is for so many standards of weights and measures, how can the desired end be attained? We would suggest as a means to forward this end, a meeting of the officers of the different Associations, at some convenient time and place, to discuss a standard; and when satisfied as to the standard required by them, let them organize as the Dominion Pure Bred Live Stock Association (or some other name to be agreed upon by them), and petition the Dominion Legislature for an Act to incorporate them under such standard as adopted, with proper provision for the punishment of parties who would sell as pure bred stock animals not registered by this Association.

The different breeds would, of course, come under their own different heading in the books of the Association, and as soon as the owner of one animal of a breed differing from those now registered in the country, produced the necessary evidence that his animal was eligible for registry according to the standard of the Association, the Secretary would be required to open a new book for that breed. Provision would, of course, have to be made for the issue of the different Herd Books, as required.

For the last two years, one could hardly take up a stock journal or farmers' paper without seeing an article on Stud, Herd or Flock Books, and in nearly every case a difference of opinion existed as to what the standard of the book in question should be. The Shorthorn men appeared to be as far apart as it was possible for them to be. If they could join hands over the breach, why not all the breeders of all the different breeds? If some such action as we suggest is not taken at an early date, will the standards of some of the other Associations not cause new loss and trouble to breeders, similar to those caused by the Dom. S. H. H. B. A.? Is it right that one's meat should have to be bred to such a perfect standard, that the horse, the noblest of all animals, should require only four crosses to make it eligible for entry in the records of the Canadian Clydesdale Association?

In an article in a recent issue of one of your contemporaries, a hint is thrown out to those who think of forming a Sheep Association and Flock Book, that might be well for any Association to keep in view: that is, "the adoption of

a scale of points," as, if the object in raising the standard is to lessen the number of animals registered, it can very effectually be done in this way, as there are still in the Dom. S. H. H. B., and probably some in all the other Herd Books, that the adoption of a scale of points would shut out.

I am sorry to ask so much of your valuable space, but know you see the importance to the country of its stock interests, and will be willing to grant any reasonable space for the discussion of so important an interest.

The Herd Books.

The losses sustained by the farmers by the multiplication of the Herd Books is simply incalculable. The over-booming and over-estimating of two or three kinds of stock has kept from our country animals that would in many localities yield more profit. The uniting of Government officials to gain more money and more power, and to use their united influence adverse to the farmers' interest, has again been evinced at the attempt to coerce from the farmers the control of the best Ayrshire Herd Book in Quebec. They are united, and may conquer the practical farmers, but the injury will not end there. If any one of those paid officials would, at their public meetings, point out to their audiences the real facts—who pays them; from whom they expect to gain the money they advocate expending, and for whose benefit the additional tax is to be raised, it would afford a valuable insight into their methods.

Both political parties have had their partizan meetings, and now it is time to give the *bona fide* farmers a voice. We are losing too many of our best farmers' sons. We are driving them across the lines. The interest of a few at the expense of the masses is the cause. The true interest of our people and our country, if we are to become a nation or a people of honor, must be looked after. At the present time it is not. Look at our runaway financiers, and the open scandals allowed to exist, like the swindles on the farmer. Our legislators should find a duty to perform in protecting the honorable and punishing the knaves that generally go scot free. Credit is too often taken by legislators and their vassals for ideas and plans that have been promulgated by the farmer, without the honor or honesty of giving any credit to the originator or inventor.

Some persons may have been led to believe that the proprietor of this journal is opposed to thoroughbred stock, but this is a false impression, for no one appreciates well bred stock more than he. There is no breed of cattle horses and sheep that is suited for all kinds of work, and much as he esteems the Shorthorn and Clydesdale, he objects to their standard being made the spectacles through which other breeds are judged. The injuries caused by pampering any one breed of animals is not only confined to that breed; but the injurious effects are unduly reflected upon other breeds also.

In a recent issue of the New York Times a letter was published in which the writer made the assertion that the amount represented by the faces of the farm mortgages of the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri, was \$3,422,000,000. Estimating the interest at an average of 7 per cent., the annual charge on this enormous indebtedness would be \$239,000,000—a sum, in the opinion of the writer of the Times, too great for the profits of agriculture to bear.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE has done more to introduce the best varieties of grain, stock, plants, implements, trees, shrubs and flowers than any other publication in the Dominion edited and owned by one individual. It has furnished the best information on the dairy and agriculture generally. No publication has done so much to prevent the introduction and spread of contagious diseases. Its proprietor has done much more than has ever been published to keep the stock of the country in as healthy a state as it is. No publication has endeavored to keep down unnecessary or injurious Government expenditures more than it—its aim has been to guard morally and financially for the country and its readers. It has never been the organ of either of the political parties, consequently the Government officials have expended large sums to boom up opposing journals and pamphlets, most of which have ceased to exist.

The most independent and honorable farmers in each of our Provinces are supporters of this journal. Partizans having their private ends to serve may have united to attempt the suppression of the only FARMER'S ADVOCATE that has ever been published in this Dominion, and influences may have been brought to bear on members of Parliament that have not been acquainted with the real facts, and the public moneys have been used for the purpose of misleading the farmers.

As will be seen in our correspondence column, the unsatisfactory results with commercial fertilizers are very frequently due to their improper application. Men having made these fertilizers a thorough study, rarely fail in obtaining beneficial results with them. At a late meeting of the Mass. Hort. Society, Mr. Bartholomew, who has conducted many careful experiments upon his fields with chemical fertilizers, was asked what real benefit he had derived from his investigations. He replied that he had learned to place great confidence in commercial fertilizers; that he had learned that his farm, which his father, after 50 years of acquaintance and cultivation, had pronounced ill adapted to the raising of corn, gave him, under similar treatment, with the use of phosphate of lime in addition, in corn, one of his profitable crops; that by the proper use of commercial fertilizers he could obtain, at a fair profit, finer potatoes, free from disease and blemish, than by any other means known to him; that by the use of one or more of these substances as adjuncts to farm manures he could obtain at small expense superior crops of corn, oats, and potatoes, with less manure, while the remainder of the manure applied as top-dressing to grass lands had materially increased his crops of hay; and he found that he was keeping more stock, getting better crops and better satisfaction from his farm than before.

Sometimes judges very materially differ in their decisions as to the relative merit of the articles left for them to classify. Lately the samples of wheat having been awarded the prizes at the last Provincial and Industrial Exhibitions, together with some samples exhibited there without receiving prizes, were forwarded to Mr. Harris, Dominion Grain Inspector, for relative classification. The samples having received first at the exhibitions were placed by him at the foot of the list, while one of those not having received a prize at all occupied the first place, and the one having received second at the Provincial the next place.