

*Animal Pedigree Act*

purposes of this Bill in identifying the level of credentials behind each of the animals registered.

A pure-bred animal will now be one that is seven-eighths pure. An animal containing 50 per cent and more can be registered under this Bill. This will include NIP animals which before were classified under the identified category. Under the changes proposed in this Bill, the term "identified" will now only be used for evolving breeds.

Associations must be formed on a national basis. Local organizations will no longer be permitted. Therefore, this Bill gives the Minister slightly more discretionary powers as to the types of associations that might be formed. Associations cannot impose fines or monetary penalties. This will be left to the Department itself, and to the over-all Livestock Records Corporation.

Associations are now authorized to keep semen and embryo records and to issue those certificates. This was something that was not absolutely clear under the old Act. Many of the associations did do this, but it was not required under the old Act and it is now. Since this technology is very much available and applicable, it is a good step forward in the registration of livestock pedigrees.

Under this Bill, an association must apply to the Minister for official recognition of any new breed. The major change in the bookkeeping side that comes from this particular legislation, is a change in the Canadian Livestock Records Corporation, which is a central livestock registry. It will be the successor to the current Canadian National Livestock Records. The old agency was not a legal entity. The new one that is being prepared in this Bill will be a legal entity. It will cover the registration services to associations where the association decides now or in the future not to provide this service itself.

Under the Bill the Minister will have the authority to perform an inspection or inquiry if there are irregularities in the association's affairs, or suspected irregularities. There are clearer rules for offences and fines. The maximum fines have been substantially increased. The fine on summary conviction will be \$25,000, and the fine on an indictable offence will be \$50,000.

It has been reported that most of the dairy breeds are quite pleased with this particular direction. Some of the beef sections are showing a few concerns with Clause 59(g) which makes it illegal for an association to sell an animal of a breed that is not registered or eligible to be registered. This concerns some of the beef associations, because they have been operating under slightly different rules. For instance, it is fairly common practice to sell a commercial grade Charolais that cannot be registered, a practice that has been going on across most of the country. We are told that the amendments being proposed will perhaps be able to handle this problem.

• (1220)

In addition to the question of frozen embryos and frozen semen some other problems have arisen in the registration of pure-bred pedigreed livestock in Canada. I am not sure that some of these issues have been dealt with thoroughly by this proposed legislation, nor do we know at this stage whether or not the amendments will deal properly with it. Some of the viewers and perhaps a few people in the House will be aware that there has been a fairly long-standing controversy over the registration of a particular Hereford bull called Perfection. It was found much after the fact that his parentage was in some doubt. Under the technology of the day it appears, from a thorough search of the records of the Hereford Association of the United States, and consequently Canada, that his mother had produced far more progeny than it was technically possible to produce back in those days, and so the registration of the bull was in some doubt. This has had fairly large financial implications on Canadian breeders because two of his progeny were sold to Canadians. They won great honours in the show ring and were sold for very high prices. Now the registration of the descendants of those bulls has been put in doubt. A rough calculation shows that some \$350 million worth of lawsuits are at stake over this bull and his progeny.

I am not sure that, with Bill C-67, we will be able to solve the problems concerning this animal and his offspring. We are expecting that some proposals may come in the amendments, and we will await the presentation of them to find out if, in fact, a solution on handling the descendants of the old fellow in Canada is possible.

For Canadian producers of Herefords and their association we have generally taken the view in Canada, after some vacillation, that an animal not eligible for registration in the United States would not be registered here. Because Perfection originated in the United States, our Hereford Association initially banned his progeny, relented, and then reinstated the ban. We do not know whether the proposed amendments will solve the question of registering animals that have come down to us through Perfection. This Hereford bull looked very good and appears to have very good breeding behind him. But there are some doubts as to his mother.

**Some Hon. Members:** Oh, oh!

**Mr. Althouse:** I think I am using correct parliamentary language in this matter, Mr. Speaker.

Similar though different problems have arisen with the Hereford Domino 15-G and the Sundance lines. These bulls have presented a somewhat different type than is normal for Herefords to present. There is still some doubt within the association as to whether owners of the descendants of those bulls should be permitted to continue to register them as pure-bred animals under the old Act.

We are awaiting with interest the amendments being proposed by the ministry to see whether these problems can be