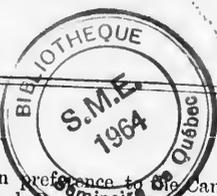


THE AMERICAN HERD BOOK



To Mr. Gibson.—The American Herd Book is held in preference to the Canadian. When Allen alone was at the head of the American Herd Book, it is palpable that breeders had little confidence in it, and a change became necessary. A board of censors was then appointed and continues to exist, and, although Allen is the authority, it has complete control over everything in the book, and people have confidence in this board, although they have little in him alone. A thoughtful writer, in 1875, says:—"Twenty-nine years ago our esteemed friend, Lewis F. Allen, of Buffalo, New York, brought out the first volume of the American Shorthorn Herd Book, and it has been continued by him until now it numbers more than a dozen large volumes. Through all these years I am sure Mr. Allen has carried forward his great work, not only as a very able but a strictly conscientious man. It has been under his own personal control, and any assistance he has received has been such only as his correspondents afforded him. In the last few years this work has been attacked, from many quarters, with great bitterness, and oftentimes with great injustice. The feeling engendered by these criticisms has at last resulted in the organization of a National Association of Shorthorn breeders in order to exercise some control of what shall be admitted to the Herd Book and what shall be rejected. At this point there is very great diversity of opinion, and meantime the character and influence of the work, as an authority, has suffered in the public estimation. Now if this National Association had been organized twenty years ago, there would have been a weight of influence and authority about it that would have kept its authority for good unimpaired. More than that, it would have saved the community from the scandals brought upon the breeding public by inconsiderate and ill-informed writers, etc."

THE ENGLISH SHORTHORN HERD BOOK.

Coates' English Shorthorn Herd Book has been published many years, and there have been many discussions among breeders as to what it should admit and what reject, but fortunately it has been under the supervision and control of a "Board of Appeals," and the intelligence and high standing of the committee have given their deliberations and conclusions the weight and authority of law, and it would be difficult to find a man in the realm who would dispute the wisdom and justice of their decisions. Breeders have no confidence in the Canadian Herd Book, because it is not under proper control.

WALLACE'S TROTTING REGISTER.

So it is with Wallace's Trotting Register of the United States. When Wallace issued his first and second volumes the pedigrees were found there all right. But there was dissatisfaction with it, as many argued want of faith in any single individual, and others insisted that pedigrees of their stock should be received as sworn to by them, and they should have them inserted. The National Breeders' Association saw the evil that was to result from this system, and they obtained control of the volumes. It then came out under the direction of a board of censors, but substantially edited by Mr. Wallace as before, and the result is that everybody has confidence in it.

A BOARD OF CENSORS REQUIRED IN CANADA—CERTIFICATES.

Our Canadian Herd-Book requires, then, a board of censors. There is no horse register in Canada, and no means to register a horse and to distinguish one from another, as there ought to be. Mr. Wisor sends some of his stallions through Canada for stud purposes and issues with them a certificate, giving the history of the particular stallion, and stating that "this mare was served by this stallion" at such and such a place. The groom signs this certificate, and leaves it with the owner of the mare that the horse had served.

[*Dr. McMonagle.*]