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This Issue

THIS number is largely given up to the horse. A number of fine types of stallions and other horses are shown and several articles bearing directly upon horse breeding are provided. Read these carefully. The report of the second annual spring stallion show is also included in this issue, which cannot but prove of interest and value to every breeder and farmer. Talk it over with your neighbors and get them interested in good horse breeding also.

Records to be Nationalized

The great convention of live stock breeders from every province of the Dominion, held at Ottawa, last week, was the most important gathering of its kind ever held in Canada. Great issues were discussed and deliberated upon, of which we have only space to briefly refer to in this issue. More extended comment, with a full report of the proceedings will have to remain over for next number.

The first and most important matter dealt with was that of nationalizing the records. There were no two opinions in the minds of any of the delegates as to the advisability and value of such a step. After considerable skirmishing and preliminary banter, the decision to nationalize the records and have only one record for each breed of pure-bred live stock in Canada was arrived at harmoniously and without a dissenting voice.

So far, so good. As the delegates soon found out, it was much easier to decide upon a principle than to devise ways and means of effectively and harmoniously carrying the principle into effect. After a great deal of prolonged committee work, and some little discussion of a more or less acrimonious kind, a basis was finally arrived at by which the nationalization of the records may be effectively brought about.

Contrary to the expectations of not a few, no attempt was made to take the control of the records out of the hands of the breeders. Why this impression should have got abroad, when the Dominion Act, under which the various record associations will be and are incorporated, states definitely to the contrary, is hard to understand. As with the question of having one record for each breed, there was no dissenting voice as to the advisability of the breeders having control of their own records.

To decide upon the basis of representation and the location of the place at which the records of each association shall be kept, was the most difficult of all. In fact, the latter point was not definitely decided upon, the matter being left to the board of directors of

each breed association and the Minister of Agriculture for the Dominion to arrange. The Western delegates and those from Quebec and the Maritime Provinces favored Ottawa, while the Ontario breeders favored their own capital city, where the large records of the Dominion have been kept for many years. Naturally, wide differences of opinion on this point could not be easily harmonized, and, perhaps, the plan adopted was the better one. It is to be hoped that the problem may be solved satisfactorily to all concerned and that the principle of national records, now decided upon, will not be jeopardized. Those having the matter in charge have no easy task before them. But the value of national records stands out so prominently that each interest and section concerned must be willing to sacrifice something in order that their realization may be brought about. When once in operation and running smoothly, the benefits that will accrue to our live stock industry will more than repay for any loss of prestige and local influence.

The Stallion Syndicate Fraud

The enormity of the fraud that is being practised on the Western farmer by the stallion syndicate was shown by W. S. Spark, in one of his addresses at the Spring Stallion Show. Mr. Spark has just returned from a trip to the West. While there, he came across the following most glaring piece of continued fraud, which he can vouch for as being correct: A large American Percheron dealer, syndicated a stallion at a point in the West for \$3,600. He turned out to be a non-breeder. When the farmers complained, they were told they could have the pick of any of the other stallions in his stable, none of which were worth over \$500. But they had to be content. This same barren stallion was taken to another point 100 miles away, and there syndicated for \$3,000, the farmers having eventually to fall back on one of the \$500 variety. But this did not satisfy this scheming "Yankee's" desire to rope in more of the Western farmers' good shekels. For a third time the stallion was syndicated for \$3,500 at another distant point and, of course, not getting any colts, a place was found for another \$500 horse. But the fraud did not stop even here, the stallion was kept moving and was syndicated a fourth time, and he may continue thus to bring thousands of dollars to his owner so long as there are farmers willing to be duped by such clever rascality. Mr. Spark also stated that this same dealer had had several dozen medals coined purporting to be from the Paris Exposition, which were being distributed freely in the West.

While the principle of syndicating, properly and honestly conducted, is to be commended as a means of distributing good breeding stock, the system as practiced in the West seems to be a huge and gigantic fraud, affording an opportunity to the unscrupulous dealer to palm off a lot of inferior stuff at from three to four times what they are worth. The case cited above is so glaring as a deliberate attempt to defraud, that some action should be taken by the proper authorities to mete out punishment. An example should be made of the dealer, and his name should be published from one end of the country to the other.

The "Poor" Settler

The National Live Stock Convention last week advised the Dominion Government to place a minimum valuation of \$75 on all horses coming into Canada and to allow only British subjects or *bona fide* residents of Canada to bring in free of duty any pure-bred animals, and that such animals shall be recorded in the Canadian herd book for the particular breed represented, before being allowed to enter. The discussion of these issues brought out some warm debates, and the debating talent of the Convention was of no mean order. The "poor" settler of the West had his champion. Strange to say, he was not found among the Western delegates, but in old Ontario. These champions were especially solicitous that the settler should have the privilege of buying these cheap, useless bronchos. Others there were who were equally solicitous that he should not have this privilege, lest these "poor" bronchos should make the "poor" settler poorer than he had been poor before. The latter view prevailed, as we think it should. The discussion of this point reminded us of the reply of a farmer of the New England States who, when commiserated with for having to live on such poor land, said he was not so poor as people thought he was, as he only owned an acre of this land. So with the "poor" settler, the fewer of these cheap bronchos and horses he owns the better for his pocketbook and morals as well.

The Dairy Census

If you have not yet sent in your reply to our dairy census questions, do so at once. It will only cost you a little time to do it, and we are sure the benefit you will receive from the returns when published on May 2nd, will more than repay you for it. The questions are republished on page 245 of this issue. Turn to them and fix upon the answers now. It will be worth your while to do so.