

Nationalization of the Live Stock Records*

Reasons Why it is Advisable—Half Rates on Railways

The establishment of a National Association of Canadian Stock Breeders and the National Records has attracted a good deal of attention throughout Canada during the past two or three years. At the first meeting of the National Association held in the City Hall, Ottawa, March 7th to 12th, 1904, the following resolution was unanimously adopted, and presented by a special committee appointed for the purpose to the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture for Canada:

Resolved—That the Canadian Government be and is hereby asked to take steps to regulate the further importation of horses, cattle, sheep and swine;

And it is further resolved—That animals for breeding purposes be admitted free of duty when pure bred, registered in the authorized book of records of the Dominion of Canada, or of the country in which the breed originated, and when owned by a bona fide resident of the Dominion.

As Dominion Live Stock Commissioner I was requested to investigate and report to the executive at the earliest possible moment. I immediately entered into correspondence with the Governments of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, British Columbia and the Northwest Territories and the provincial live stock associations established in each of these divisions.

Annual Convention of the National Association of Canadian Stock Breeders, copies of which may be procured by applying to the Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa.

In the Province of Quebec we find 7,964 cattle, 8,548 sheep, 893 horses and 6,350 swine, recorded to the first of January, 1904. Since then a considerable number have been recorded, particulars of which we have not at hand.

In the Province of New Brunswick 3,989 cattle, 435 swine, and 73 sheep have been recorded. In the Province of Nova Scotia 3,850 cattle have been recorded.

For the Northwest Territories and British Columbia records have been established at Calgary and a number of registrations are being received, but I have not been able to ascertain the exact number.

WHAT THE PROVINCES WILL DO

As soon as negotiations were opened with the various provincial governments we learned that Nova Scotia and New Brunswick were willing to hand over their records to the National Association, provided national records were established, and an order-in-council was passed.

In the Northwest Territories a similar condition existed, but in this case there was no necessity for an order-in-council,

records could be established, and a resolution was passed by the Provincial Board of Agriculture at Quebec favoring the establishment of these national records.

WHERE SHALL HEAD OFFICE BE?

Each Provincial Department of Agriculture was represented at the National Association and I believe every live stock association in Canada had its full quota of representatives. As before stated it was unanimously agreed that national records should be established, but the question has been, "Where shall these records be conducted?"

New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Quebec and the Northwest Territories are not willing that the headquarters shall be in Toronto, but insist that if the national records are to be established the head office must be at the Capital. This request might be overcome so far as the English speaking provinces are concerned, but the Province of Quebec is somewhat differently situated. Hundreds of the live stock men of that province do not speak English, and because of this they have a very decided objection to their stock records being conducted at a greater distance from Quebec than Ottawa. In fact, they would prefer that the work be done in Montreal, but they will, I think, agree that it be done in Ottawa.

TRADE PROSPECTS

Residents in the English speaking provinces in many cases believe the live stock trade of Quebec is of little importance and that it is never likely to



SHENSTONE STAR 183913

FIRST AT St. Louis World's Fair &
FIRST AT Toronto as 2 years old 1904



BELVOIR SIRDAR 205401

GRAND CHAMPION ST. LOUIS 1904
SILVER MEDAL TORONTO 1904

Three noted Canadian Shropshire Sheep, the property

of John Campbell,
Woodville, Ont.



HARDING'S BEST 205208

CHAMPION CHICAGO INTERNATIONAL
FIRST PRIZE AT TORONTO 1904

NUMBER OF RECORDS

It was found that in the Province of Ontario there are records for 12 breeds, in Quebec 13, in New Brunswick 14, in Nova Scotia 7; in the Northwest Territories and British Columbia steps have been taken to establish a record for each breed of sheep and swine, and the establishment of horse records and cattle records is now under consideration. In each of the records already established a large number of animals have been recorded.

In the Province of Ontario have been recorded not only animals belonging to residents in this province, but those belonging to parties residing elsewhere throughout Canada. Full particulars may be found on page 8 of the Report of the First

inasmuch as there the records are conducted by the Territorial Live Stock Associations, which are prepared to treat with the National Association and have expressed their willingness to join in the establishment of a national record.

In Quebec we find matters in a somewhat different condition. There the records were formerly conducted under the Board of Agriculture, as was at one time the case in Ontario. Recently Live Stock Associations have been formed in Quebec and the records transferred to them, but as these records were not altogether satisfactory to the Provincial Department of Agriculture, they determined to establish additional records and had chosen a commissioner and had a quantity of printing done, but when the national convention was called, delegates were sent by the Quebec Department of Agriculture to this Association. The result was that Quebec decided not to proceed with the establishment of additional records until it was found whether or not national re-

cord of much importance. This, however, is not the case. In no province of Confederation is a greater interest being awakened in the improvement of stock than in Quebec. A large amount of money is each year voted by the Provincial Legislature for the support of agricultural associations. This sum is augmented to a considerable extent by membership fees and monies obtained from other sources. Over \$30,000 is spent annually in the purchase of pure-bred animals by the agricultural societies for the use of their members.

Quebec is now a buyer and seller of pure-bred stock to a considerable extent, and this trade is ever growing.

In the eastern provinces a very lively interest in the improvement of stock is being awakened and the trade there promises well. As in the case of Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia make annual grants to agricultural societies, but encourage the associations in most cases to buy pure-bred stock with their funds rather than to hold exhibitions.

*Address by F. W. Hodson, Live Stock Commissioner, Ottawa, before the Horse, Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' meetings, held in Toronto, Feb. 2-5, 1905.