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EDITORIAL.

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE NATIONAL RECORDS.

At the annual meeting of the National Record Board, held last month in Toronto, Dr. J. G. Rutherford, Veterinary Director-General and Live-stock Commissioner, took occasion to correct a popular misapprehension, that the Canadian National Live-stock Records are administered through the Live-stock Branch of the Department of Agriculture. As a matter of fact, the National Records are not under the tutelage of the Department. For patriotic reasons, the Dominion Government endorses, and to a certain extent assists, the National Records, but the desire and intention is that this organization shall, so far as possible, in actuality, as well as in name, stand on its own feet, and that the distinction between it and the Department be clearly and sharply drawn in the public mind.

The scheme of organization is, briefly, this: The several breed societies and associations elect their representatives to the National Record Board. The Record Board elects from among its members a Record Committee, to which is entrusted the general charge of the administration of the National Records office. The head officer of this office is the accountant, and, so far as actual business relations are concerned, the accountant and the live-stock commissioner are, respectively, the only two persons through whom the National Records and the Department of Agriculture have official contact.

A clerk of the Department of Agriculture examines the certificates passed along by the breed registrars, and, when found correct, he places the seal of the Department on each one, which stamps it as recognized and endorsed by the Government; but all business relations are between the accountant and the live-stock commissioner, representing the Minister of Agriculture and the Government generally.

REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE FREE IMPORTATION OF STOCK.

The resolution adopted in Toronto on April 30th by the National Record Board, concerning the conditions of free customs entry of pure-bred stock into the Dominion, relates to one of the most complex and difficult subjects with which an organization of breeders could be called upon to deal. Opinion is unanimous that a change is necessary, but just what form it should take, and how far it should go, has been a problem of much debate; and that conceded, the next question was how to frame the new regulations, so as to harmonize all the diverse interests and adequately cover specific cases with a general regulation.

The present customs regulations on this point were framed at Ottawa in 1887, and are so extremely loose and open as to admit duty-free almost any animal pretending to registration. Under them, many animals, especially horses, have been brought into the country duty-free, ostensibly for the improvement of stock, but really to jew Canadian farmers out of extravagant prices for inferior or worthless animals, often recorded in clap-trap registration books, recognized by no good authority in the country whence they come. Doubtless the public has been gradually educated through its mistakes in buying such stock, but the education has been pretty costly, and now that Canadian breeders, assisted by the Dominion Government, have gone to such pains and expense to consolidate their live-stock pedigree records under the National Records scheme, admittedly the best system of live-stock registra-

tion in any country, the importance of doing everything in our power to purge the country of all spurious or inferior pedigree registration, and insist that all animals in Canada claiming pedigreed breeding shall be recorded in our own books, where we have such, surely requires no demonstration. The existence of two or more recognized records for any particular breed is bound to be confusing and an easy lever for deception and fraud. It is greatly in the interests, not only of Canadian breeders, but of the purchasing public, to have in Canada only one record for each breed, and that record should be the one kept at Ottawa, and every one of its pedigree certificates should bear the imprimatur of the Dominion Government as a guarantee of validity, just as our currency bears the stamp of the mint. Any system of pedigree registration that is worth maintaining at all is worth guarding zealously. Precedent is not lacking. Our Republican neighbors have hedged their pedigreed-stock trade about with all manner of federal and corporate restrictions, some of them essentially protective in principle and effect. We understand that a man importing stock into the United States must make three affidavits, including one that he is an American citizen.

The resolution passed at the meeting of the National Record Board emphasized the advisability of having, as far as possible, all pure-bred animals in Canada registered in the National Records, and recommended that free customs entry should be granted only to animals owned and imported by British subjects, and on production of certificates of registration of such animals in the Canadian National Records, in the case of all breeds for which we have such; otherwise, in books kept by certain specified societies in the country of origin, providing that the pedigree certificates purporting to have been issued by said foreign societies be in all cases approved by the Accountant of the National Records, thereby relieving the customs officers from the responsibility of such a duty.

The above resolution, while not unexceptionable, appears to meet the case moderately well. There are, however, some anomalies. The proposal to admit free of duty animals entered in the French Coach and French Draft books of France, the German Coach and Oldenburg books of Germany, the Suffolk and Cleveland Bay books of Britain, the Polled Durham and National Polled Hereford books of the United States, the Ass Registration Society of France, and the Spanish studbook of jacks and jennets, while excluding short-pedigreed Shorthorns and making no provision of any kind for the free importation of Holstein-Friesian cattle, seems hardly advisable. The principle advanced in the resolution, of seeking to have all pure-bred animals in Canada recorded in the National Records, is a good one, and might be followed out further. It is not necessary to prohibit the importation of animals not recorded in Canadian books, but why not require the payment of duty on all animals belonging to breeds not numerous or important enough to have Canadian registers? The payment of duty on a few foundation-stock animals would not debar the introduction of any worthy breed, but it would stimulate prompt effort to have a Canadian record established, and would tend to discourage the importation of animals of various miscellaneous breeds which favor a country most by staying out of it.

The principal real objection to the more sweeping proposal is that it would almost necessitate the establishment of a Canadian record for Standard-bred horses, which, in some well-informed quarters, is considered inexpedient at present. But as this is the only breed of any consequence

to us that would be affected, it would seem that some way should be found to admit animals of this breed without throwing down the bars to twenty-five or thirty foreign studbooks, herdbooks and flockbooks, as the resolution of the Record Board proposes.

It has been given to understand that the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Sydney Fisher, is favorable to the recommendation of the Record Board, and prepared to recommend it to the Department of Customs, so that an early change will be looked for. While it will be very acceptable to stockmen, we take the liberty of suggesting that no impropriety, but much advantage, would result from going a step further and requiring that no animal be admitted into Canada duty-free unless owned and imported by a British subject, and recorded in a Canadian book of record, incorporated under a Dominion charter.

HOW MILKING QUALITY WAS DEVELOPED.

Apropos of the dual-purpose cow discussion running through these columns, let us draw attention to a couple of extracts, taken, respectively, from our Irish and Scottish letters. Writing of Herefords at the Dublin Spring Show, "Emerald Isle" says: "While Shorthorns are pushing ahead, these great Whiteface beef-producers are only marking time in Ireland. They admirably suit the rich grazing lands of the center of our island, but their deficiency as dairy cattle tells against their general advance."

The very day these words were penned, "Scotland Yet," across the Channel, was writing about Mr. John Evens, of Lincolnshire, Eng., who had been awarded first place among the Lincolnshire-prize farmers in 1907. Mr. Evens farms 980 acres, and keeps a large stock, including a herd of Lincoln Red cattle: "The notable thing about the herd is that, beginning to keep milk records in 1885, he has, through the information gained from them morning and evening during these twenty-three years, transformed a beef-producing herd into one of the best herds of dairy cattle in England." It is true we are not told just how Mr. Evens has succeeded in retaining beef type along with the development of milking quality, but it is probable he has attained a very fair measure of success in securing the combination or dual-purpose cow. If he has not, it will be because, in the zeal for dairy production, adequate stress was not laid on beef type. At any rate, the case is of value as signifying what can be done by systematic breeding, selection and development to bring about a liberal degree of milking tendency in a recognized beef breed. It is this kind of systematic effort that is urgently needed in Shorthorndom to-day, if the breed is to gain ground, or even retain the place it holds.

Ten thousand dollars from the City of Guelph, and twenty thousand from the Ontario Government, should sufficiently increase the facilities of the Provincial Winter Fair to meet all reasonable requirements for quite a few years to come. Plans have been under consideration which will accommodate a greatly enlarged fair, and at the same time provide the local citizens with an admirable market-place.

That boy or man, girl or woman, is improperly educated who has not been trained to an enthusiastic and intelligent interest in his or her life-work.