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Your Opinion Wanted

A LITTLE more discussion on the question of licensing stallions in Ontario would be in order. If you are in favor of the movement, now is the time to say so. If, on the other hand, you are convinced that serious objections exist, whether of a general or a personal character, affecting the public or the stallion owner, let us hear the argument. THE FARMING WORLD will welcome discussion on this or any other subject of common interest. It is probable that the Government will in the near future take the matter in hand and decide what action to take on the evidence then before them. Tell the other readers of this paper how it will affect and appeal to your own locality.

The Sheep Records

The breeders of the country have had no more gratifying report presented to them for several years past than that of the National Record Committee, a condensed summary of which appears in this issue. The most ardent supporter of national records could not wish for anything better, especially so far as the money end of it is concerned. To seven associations alone, there was a saving of \$4,678.33 in 1906 on registration, printing, postage, etc., as compared with what it would have been under the old plan. While it is possible that there may be some little thing in connection with the working out of national records that is not altogether to the liking of every one concerned, still, on the whole, and in a financial way, the experience of the past year amply justifies the action taken by the breeders' associations a couple of years ago when they decided to have one recording office for the Dominion and that at Ottawa.

The report as a whole is, therefore, a very gratifying one, yet that part of it in which the committee admitted its failure to establish international records for sheep other than Shropshires, is rather disappointing. It does seem as if the members of the committee have not been as aggressive in this particular as they were in connection with other phases of the work that have turned out so satisfactorily. Many breeders are asking why the Shropshires have been singled out in this way and the others not. Perhaps, those who control the American records are to blame. If so, there is little more to be said.

However, some remarks by Dr. Rutherford, Live Stock Commissioner, at the sheep breeders' meeting may supply a reason for this anomalous state of affairs, that of purely Canadian records for certain breeds of sheep and one breed singled out for international re-

ords. When the scheme for national sheep records was first proposed, the Government at Ottawa, through the Department of Agriculture, as we understand it, agreed to pay the cost of putting these records on a basis whereby they could be satisfactorily carried on by the breeders themselves. This, in the case of the Shropshires, seems to have entailed more expense than the Government counted on, and consequently a new basis for bringing in the other breeds has apparently been decided upon. But, be this as it may, no new arrangement will be entirely satisfactory unless there is uniformity in the methods of recording for all breeds of sheep. As regards the extra cost, if this be the reason for a change of program, the Government should not complain if it runs up into the hundreds of dollars, so long as the work is satisfactory and

breeds the privilege which the Shropshires now have of recording in International records for the same price as for national records.

Weeds

"As ye sow, so shall ye reap."

Which is the surest crop—grain or weeds? Which stands the drouth the best? Which thrives and grows strong and stalwart amidst continuous show-ers? In a word, which gives ample returns under any or all circumstances? The merest child set to the task of keeping the weeds down in the flower bed can rightly answer any or all the above questions. Besides, the boy or girl answers accurately because it has been burned into the mind by personal experience. Does any one really desire to grow weeds? We venture to answer, not a man, woman or child in all Canada. The weeds are robbers—robbers of the best that is in the soil, robbers of the peace and happiness of the farmer, robbers of his character as a grain grower, robbers of his returns for all his labor. They are usurpers of the rightful place intended for the grain. They seem to act in unison, crowding out the useful and valuable and giving instead something unfit for the dung hill, and men gather them in all ages and burn them. They are man's curse, and will always be with us.

Can weeds be kept under control? They can and are in some places. Is it worth while? Without any doubt it is and success is impossible without it. Then why are they grown? Carelessness, indifference, discouragement, ignorance express the reasons. Given a good start, very little labor is needed to keep them down. It is always a fight, but not a hard one, provided they are not sown with the grain. He who would by sheer carelessness poison his soil by planting foul weed seeds does not deserve to own his land and seldom does very long. Many a man has not thought about it at all. He has gone on sowing his neighbor's seed, assuming what is good enough for his neighbor is good enough for him, and so through sheer indifference he finds himself confronted with a fight for supremacy. Then, the danger is, he becomes discouraged after a few years and gives up the battle or resigns it to a tenant who can't pay the rent. When that stage comes, the land must wait the coming of a man of capital, who can afford to take time at the task. Leaving it in grass, he tackles it piece by piece and the war is waged until all is again in a normal condition. Some there are who do not seem to know that certain failure is already written on the farm where neglect is seen in this particular. Through sheer ignor-

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a complete system of records is secured. A few thousands spent on nationalizing a few sheep records is neither here nor there where millions are spent every year on railways and canals. Besides, is it necessary even with the Shropshire records to make all animals recorded eligible for American records? Would not the business be as well served if only those making a request for it were recorded in both records?

The principal market for Ontario pure-bred sheep is in the United States, and our breeders, in order to do business there must record in American records. Any Canadian system of records, whether it be Shropshires, Cotswolds, Leicesters, or any other breed, must recognize this or these breeders cannot be expected to patronize it very largely. It, therefore, seems up to the Record Committee to still further prosecute their efforts and secure for the other