

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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What Three Men Think.

Wm. Graham, under date of May 15th, 1895, writes from Huron Co., Ont.:—"You will please find enclosed \$1 for the renewal for another year of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, the best farmer's paper published in Canada,—good, clean, moral, and useful, the best both for old and young. If more farmers would take such a paper, and keep posted, it would help to prevent them from taking the "blues" in the tough times we have of late come through. Wishing you every success with your splendid paper."

Henry Smith, Pugwash, N.S.:—"Your paper is well liked, being independent and fearless in advocating what is right."

Frank Mingle, St. Annes:—"In renewing my subscription, I desire to state that I have received more practical information from the ADVOCATE than from any other Agricultural paper I have taken."

The Future of Canadian Records.

As will appear from our report of the recent meeting of the Dominion Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association, a committee was appointed to consider registration and the publication of records, and to confer with the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. John Dryden, upon the subject. Readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE are well aware that the new Agriculture and Arts Act transfers the control of Canadian Live Stock Records directly to the breeding organizations interested; but the Government retains the privilege of appointing a person or persons to aid in carrying on this important work. We took occasion, in dealing with this subject in our issue of March 1st, to point out that this is a work which our various breeders' associations can well control themselves; in fact, we think it tends to develop a more progressive and self-reliant spirit when they depend upon and carefully administer their own resources, rather than relying upon State aid. No doubt, in recognition of this principle, the Minister of Agriculture, by the new Act, provides for direct control by the breeders rather than through the machinery of the old Agriculture and Arts Association, which passes out of existence on Dec. 31st next.

As we showed a couple of months ago, the Canadian Holstein-Friesian Association, which is run wholly by the breeders without outside aid, this year report a surplus sufficient to warrant them in undertaking the publication of a second record volume. So far as we have heard, their work has been satisfactorily done. The reason for the establishment of this Association, we might explain, was the excessive fees exacted by the American Association, which, we may add, brought another very thrifty record association of the same breed into existence in the Western States. Our Canadian "black and white" record is precisely equal in standard to the parent organization, but it costs far less money to run it. A big monopoly is not usually merciful upon those under its control.

We are glad to know that the work of restoring the Canadian records, burned in the Agriculture and Arts fire last winter, is going steadily and successfully forward. At such a particular juncture, interested parties may inspire elaborate suggestions that would throw the control of these records "across the lines"; but we are inclined to think the breeding fraternity of Canada will not be disposed to countenance any crawfish movement of this sort. Nor is this from any narrow, so-called national spirit, though that possibly exercises its influence, and rightly so. Our United States friends have, perhaps, more than Canadians, through their school system fostered a strong national sentiment which has made every boy and girl proud of the Republic. There are other and more practical reasons why our independent records should be preserved.

The permanent success of Canadian agriculture depends upon live stock husbandry, and that dependence must, in the natural order of things, increase. Pure-bred stock constitutes the basis of live stock husbandry. Without it there can be no improvement, no progress. We do not propose retrogression in Canada. Hence, the home demand for pure-bred cattle and other classes of stock must increase with the development of this country. There is already, as we predicted last winter, an upward tendency in Canadian farming. Nor must we forget our great Northwest, and its rapidly-growing live stock interests. Our pure-bred cattle trade now with the States may not be, for example, what it once was before their herds were established, but they will always find it imperative to draw, in many classes, more or less upon the superior breeding stock of Canada. It did not need even the World's Fair to teach this lesson.

Our United States neighbors (and from their standpoint, one cannot blame them) have been seeking to fill the coffers of their record treasuries, using as a lever a Government regulation which compels the registration of Canadian stock in their records before it becomes a case of "free trade" in pure-bred stock. [Whether buyer or seller pay these fees may, for aught we know, be made a consideration in the deals.] Of course the trade from Canada to the States has of late been largely sheep and swine, and to register on both sides (where that is done) is a hardship; but the Americans have steadily resisted every effort to relax their "embargo"—they want the registry fees. As a prominent American said to the writer last winter: "Our Government at Washington simply did what our breeding organizations told them to do in this matter." It is, however, intensely selfish.

Some weeks ago one of our readers wrote us a great "affiliation" of breeders' organizations with "international registration," but the big end of which would be found south of the great lakes and the 49th parallel of latitude. The scheme is first mooted on this side of the line, and comes with a great cloud of words, hopes being held out of reduced expenses and cheaper registration. We do well to have a care lest we grasp at a shadow and

lose the substance. We have records now, but we don't know what we might have or what we might not have once control slipped from our hands. It is notorious that some U. S. standards are lower than ours. To abandon our independent records, the fruits of years of careful labor, would bring us face to face with hopeless entanglement in the event of attempting to retrace our steps.

Furthermore, to eliminate registration would be to remove one of the strong elements of permanence in live stock organizations, and these we must always have. Canadian stock has a world-wide reputation, and at this juncture in the history of Canada as a great agricultural nation, let us retain the control and maintain the integrity of our own live stock records, doing our own registration and publication. There is no pretence that the American standards are superior to the Canadian, so that the gentleman whose words we quoted above simply told the plain, unvarnished truth. They have never met the representations of Canadian breeders through our Federal authorities, and, as Mr. Robert Miller put it at the Clydesdale meeting in Toronto last winter, Canada is entitled, apart from all other considerations, to expect a prompt recognition of the justice of the representations made upon the well-accepted amenities that prevail among nations.

As heretofore, we have in Canada ample ability to run these records economically and well, whether it relates to Shorthorns, Clydesdales, Aryshires, etc., or to sheep and swine, and breeders can doubtless count on any aid required at the outset from the Provincial Minister of Agriculture; in fact, he has made provision for that in the terms of the new Act. We can also still live on the best of terms with our neighbors; but we have a right to expect fair, reciprocal dealings in the matter of record recognition.

We cannot, after due consideration, regard this "great international affiliation" (as far as the future of Canadian breeding interests are concerned) as other than a one-sided and dangerous suggestion; but surely the resources of international statesmanship are not yet exhausted!

Trouble Brewing.

The immense numbers of sheep imported into Great Britain on the hoof last year (not to mention dressed carcasses) must have had a disturbing effect on the dreams of the Old Country shepherd. If we read aright, in the light of the past, the constant clamor that is being kept up in agricultural circles there regarding diseased foreign sheep, something in the nature of an embargo would not be altogether unexpected in the near future. In view of the terrible punishment British breeders and farmers have endured in the past from animal diseases of various sorts, notably pleuro-pneumonia, we do not wonder that they are apprehensive. The burnt child dreads the fire. People in this country, where pleuro, etc., have never obtained a foothold [the case brought over from Britain years ago being promptly snuffed out of existence at the Quebec quarantine; nor has any trace of the disease ever appeared in Canada since], really do not appreciate as they should their clean health bill. The loud complaints we have been hearing of late from the Old Country relate to United States sheep; but it behooves the authorities at Ottawa and their officials, not only at ports of entry or quarantine, but at ports of export, to keep a "weather eye" open for squalls, or we may have a repetition of the Canadian cattle embargo. When British breeding interests and the interests of the "colonist," as they sometimes call us yet, come in conflict, so much the worse for the "colonist" every time. A very slender peg will be found sufficient upon which to hang an embargo, and once established, any attempts at removal will be about as hopeless as the task of the Mohammedan tailor who attempted to eject the camel which he incautiously permitted to gain admission to his domicile on the pretext that it simply wanted to put its head in. The quarantine of sheep and other stock from all quarters, Britain included, and the inspection of sheep, as well as other stock for export from Canada, cannot be too rigidly enforced, in order that no unsound animals be admitted or that no weakly ones be allowed to go forward, and which might, through exposure, develop some acute trouble in transit. In the case of cattle, it does not appear to make very much difference whether British experts can concur in any unequivocal statement that the lesions said to have been detected were those of contagious pleuro-pneumonia or not. If they "looked like it," that appeared to be sufficient to settle the matter, and one of these days there may possibly be a somewhat similar experience to record regarding the export sheep trade, which last year attained such large dimensions. The best that we can do in the meantime is, like Caesar's wife, to keep ourselves above suspicion, not only for the preservation of our export trade, but for the continuance of sound health among our flocks.