

a Dominion Act certain associations have been organized, which will have their head office here and a Dominion record kept. If the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Association is under a provincial charter, how do you work that in?

Mr. FISHER. It has now become incorporated under this Act. It used to be under the provincial charter of the province of Ontario, but it has made its application to come under this charter and to become really Dominion in character. It was, I confess, practically Dominion before.

Mr. SPROULE. It was Dominion, because it accepted registration from any part of the Dominion.

Mr. FISHER. I know that. They could accept registration from the United States or England or anywhere else, and they called themselves Dominion, but at the same time their charter was a purely provincial charter, and outside of the province of Ontario they had no legal existence. But coming under this charter they have a legal existence all over the Dominion. But there is another very important point in this Act. When one association is formed of a Dominion character, no other can be formed. There must be only one national Dominion association. There was the Shorthorn Association under the Ontario Act, and there were also shorthorns registered in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Quebec under associations in those provinces—not specially confined to shorthorns, but registering any other class of cattle that it was desired to register in their records. Under this Act, however, there can be only one Dominion association recording pedigrees for the Dominion, and that is one of the chief reasons why the different breeders' associations have wished to come under this Act. The danger was that there would be half a dozen associations. There were actually already four different sets of records in Canada, and there was a danger that there would be two or three more established, in Manitoba, the Northwest Territories and British Columbia; and it was to avoid that multiplication of records that this Act was passed originally, and that this movement for the nationalization of records has taken place. It was done in the interest of the live stock men. They themselves have asked for it and have brought it about, and I am proposing a law which is necessary to facilitate and carry out their wishes and intentions.

Mr. SPROULE. If there are two or three associations in existence at the present time, of which the standards may not be all the same, I take it that this Dominion association will assimilate these standards, and there must be a cutting off or weeding out of the present records somewhere.

Mr. FISHER. There will be. The Nova Scotians have already signed an agreement coming under this Act and handing over their records to the department here. The New Brunswick government have done the same. I fully anticipate that within the next few weeks the records for the province of Quebec will be dealt with in the same way. The leading live stock men of the province have expressed their desire to do so, and the only question is the settlement of the negotiations. The same has been done with regard to the Northwest. In that way the local records will disappear, and there will be but one Dominion record for each class of stock. There are two or three very important reasons why this is necessary in the interest of the live stock men. Perhaps the most pressing is that at the present time, through the efforts of the live stock commissioner of my department, the railroads have given special facilities and rates on thoroughbred stock. Such stock can be sent all over Canada to-day at lower rates than any other stock, where it is intended to be used for breeding purposes. The railroads, in a public-spirited way, recognizing the importance of the improvement of the live stock of the country, have given these special rates for the carriage of live stock. They have asked us what pedigrees they must recognize, and when they were asked to recognize three or four different certificates, they protested. They said: we cannot go to the trouble of examining three or four different certificates; we must have a certificate which is recognized as a national one, and we want it to be endorsed by the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. That is one of the arguments.

Mr. SPROULE. Is there an understanding that there will be a reciprocal exchange of registration or acceptance of certificates as between the Dominion association and outside associations, for instance, in the United States.

Mr. FISHER. That is a matter I was coming to. On various occasions the live stock men of Canada have discussed with the United States authorities and the live stock men in the United States the question of the entry free of duty of Canadian thoroughbred animals into that country. The United States customs laws have a provision authorizing thoroughbred animals to be admitted free of duty when introduced for breeding purposes, but they have certain rules and regulations which up to the present, have shut out Canadian thoroughbred animals. It is hoped that when we establish here a national record for thoroughbreds, with the stamp of the Department of Agriculture, we may induce the American authorities to accept such certificate. We shall certainly make the attempt, but our success does not depend on ourselves alone, and therefore I can say nothing absolutely.