

records placed under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture here at Ottawa and removed here for the convenience of people all over the country. I would premise by saying that this work has been more or less local in its character up to now. In the great province of Ontario, which is the great centre of thoroughbred live stock in the Dominion, live stock associations were called, as a rule, Dominion associations, although they were formed under provincial Acts of Ontario. They practically did the work very largely for the Dominion, but still there were other associations and organizations in other provinces formed for the same purpose—in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick and in the province of Quebec, and I think there was also one association started in the Northwest Territories. There was, however, a very strong movement on the part of the people of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories for the formation of more associations of this kind, and it is largely due to this movement that the request came for the nationalization of the records. The object of this nationalization is to simplify the records. If we were to have in Canada a registration for, we will say, pure bred Ayrshire cattle in Toronto, another in Nova Scotia or New Brunswick, and another in Manitoba or British Columbia, it would be obvious that there would be a great deal of confusion, and it would work to the detriment of the breed. Anybody purchasing a thoroughbred animal would hardly know in what record to look for its pedigree, and he would hardly know whether the certificates given by each and every one of these associations had the same and equal value. Therefore, it was found by the live stock men that the point had been reached when it would be extremely important that these records should be made national in their character and should be under the same supervision and control.

When this matter was presented to me I felt that there were two points to be very carefully considered. The first was that the live stock men themselves who had been managing this work, in the province of Ontario especially, extremely well, should continue to manage the work, that there should be no interference with the business of the association on the part of any government officials or on the part of the department, but that the work must be carried on by the men who were interested in it and who had succeeded in the past in doing it very well. The only question was as to the representation of people all over the country in that work, instead of it being local in its character. Then came the question of affixing an official stamp to the certificate, and I felt it was rather a delicate point to take up. If there were an official stamp affixed to the certificate of pedigree, it could only be of any value when it was affixed after consideration and investigation to see that the pedigree was correct.

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Mr. SPROULE. The minister will not pretend to say that the records we have up to the present time are of no value?

Mr. FISHER. On the contrary I say that they are of great value and have been very perfect in their character, but my hon. friend (Mr. Sproule) was speaking to the leader of the opposition and was not listening to what I said. I did not say that the record must be of value, but that the affixing of the stamp to be valuable must be done after supervision and inspection to see that it was correct. I said therefore, that for this purpose it would be necessary that the proper officials of the department must have a certain supervision and right of inspection of the records or otherwise the affixing of the stamp would be purely perfunctory and would carry with it no value. I find that under the present law, chapter 33 statutes of 1900, there is no authority given to the department or to the minister to affix any such stamp, and for that purpose this amendment is suggested:

The following section is added to the said Act:

At the request of any association incorporated under this Act authorized at the annual meeting or at a meeting called for the purpose, the Minister of Agriculture may, through an officer of his department thereunto authorized by him, approve under the hand of the said officer and the seal of the said department or such other seal as may be adopted for that purpose, the certificates of registration issued by such association.

It is only at the request of the association concerned that the Minister of Agriculture will affix this seal. This safeguards the association; safeguards the interests of the live stock men and secures that there should be no interference on the part of the department except at the request of the association concerned. The work of nationalizing the records has been carried on. The different record associations at present existing and incorporated under this Act have passed resolutions requesting that they should be given house room in the department here; that their records should be transferred to Ottawa and maintained here, and that the department should affix this seal to their records. For this purpose there must be a certain amount of co-operation and combined work on the part of the different associations. Each association will still absolutely control its own particular business, but when there are some ten or fifteen or twenty different associations all working under one organization there will be some work which is common to all, and which they can better do as a united organization than by each working separately and disjointedly. In the present Act there does not seem to be any authority for these associations to work in conjunction with other associations for a common object. I therefore desire, for the purpose of the new