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The attention of livestock importers, breeders and the agricultural press throughout the country generally is called to the communication which appears in this issue from H. F. Page, relative to the case in which he was compelled to pay one thousand dollars duty on ten head of horses, which were imported into this state from British Columbia during October of last year, notwithstanding that the horses were all accompanied by the proper registration papers of the American Percheron Horse Breeders' association as required by law. The contention of Collector Heustis was that inasmuch as the animals were imported to be offered for sale, they were subject to the duty. Mr. Page, through his attorneys appealed the case, and on Monday of this week the testimony was heard in this city by Judge DeVries, who is one of the three members of the board of appraisers, which holds its sessions in New York city, and who is now on a special trip to this coast. This board of appraisers will take the case under consideration and will render their decision some time in August next.

In order that the facts of the case may be clearly understood, we reproduce below that part of Collector Heustis' letter written to this journal in response to a criticism we made regarding his action, and which we published in our issue of March 13:

"Mr. H. F. Page, the importer you mention, is an alien stock breeder residing in British Columbia. On October 18 last he imported at Sumas four stallions and six mares, making entry for same as pure bred Percheron stock and claiming they were entitled to free entry under the provisions of article 475 of the existing tariff, which provides that any animals pure bred of a recognized breed duly registered and certified as required by the regulations of the honorable secretary of the treasury shall be admitted free when imported specially for breeding purposes. Pedigree certificates were presented with the entry, but as the animals were evidently imported for sale, the importer was re-

quired to deposit the amount of duty that would accrue in case the animals were found to be not entitled to free entry, and was given an opportunity to produce satisfactory evidence that they were intended specially for breeding purposes, which said evidence was lacking on entry. Neither the deputy collector at Sumas nor this office questioned the genuineness of the registration papers as intimated in your editorial, and Mr. Page well knows that that was not the reason that he was required to deposit the amount of the duty. It was purely a question of evidence on the point of the purpose for which the animals were imported. As you are aware, Percheron horses are valuable for draft horses, and when imported for that purpose are subject to duty, and a proper enforcement of the tariff as well as regard for the protection of the interests of American stock raisers alike demand a full investigation of the facts."

As we have stated Judge DeVries is a member of the board of appraisers which resides in New York; and it is the board of final appeal upon such matters. The judge in response to an inquiry of a representative of this journal at the close of the hearing, stated that the point raised had never, in his opinion, come up for decision before. He stated that it was purely a question of the interpretation of article 475, and the definition of what is meant when it says pure-bred animals shall be admitted free of duty when imported specially for breeding purposes.

When Mr. Page was required to pay \$1,000 before his horses would be admitted we felt that it was a decided injustice, and contrary to the spirit of the law. We said at the time it was an unwarranted tax; and knew that it would have the effect of causing a complete cessation of importation of pure-bred stock from British Columbia. Such has been the result, which in itself is very deplorable, and much to be regretted by the stockmen of both sides of the line; but if the decision of the collector of this district is upheld, it will have an effect international in character, and the business of importation from foreign countries will be brought to an almost complete standstill. It is well known that many firms make a business of importing from Canada and from the old world pure-bred stock of all kinds; and that such stock is permitted to pass in free, provided it is accompanied by proper certificates of registration. The government does not follow such stock after it leaves the customs office; and the importer is free to dispose of the stock to anyone he likes and at whatever price he can get. If Collector Heustis is upheld in his contention that pure-bred horses must be imported for breeding purposes only, and cannot be sold or worked, it will paralyze the whole business of importation, not only of horses but of all other classes of livestock.

We think that the various breeders' associations should act upon this matter, in order to bring properly before the board of appraisers the widespread injury an adverse decision in the Page case would have on the whole breeding industry.

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The King County Horticultural Society had its usual row at its annual meeting held last week at the chamber of commerce rooms in Seattle. The sessions of that body rarely fail to be enlivened with plenty of excitement if not always edifying. The chairman, Mr. Hart, filled his position well, and succeeded in maintaining decorum to a better degree than usual, although in the heat of argument two or three of the members were somewhat difficult to control.

The nomination of W. H. Brown to succeed himself as county fruit inspector was opposed by J. G. Hopkins who stated that he believed the position should be filled by a man able to pass examination before the examining board of the state agricultural college. He introduced a resolution to that effect but it was ruled out of order. The nomination of Mr. McTier by Hopkins precipitated a heated discussion, which was engaged in quite generally by the partisans of both candidates. Sam Calderhead, a professional politician, whose penchant for speech-making could not be subdued, became carried away by his own oratorical flight, and said several nasty things about greenhouse men, and called them a lot of robbers, thieves, bunco men, etc.; that their greenhouse stuff, shrubbery, etc., was rotten, diseased, affected with insect pests, etc. He was called to order by the chairman. The greenhouse men naturally resented the extreme and absurd statements of Calderhead, and for a while the discussion was pretty warm. J. A. Stewart, who owns the Christopher Nurseries, was more temperate and logical in his support of Mr. Brown whom he thought had made a very good officer; that he was most earnest, energetic, sincere and competent to administer the duties of that office. The vote stood 31 for Brown and 13 for McTier.

The following officers of the society were elected: President, James Hart; vice president William G. McTier; secretary, John D. Patterson; treasurer, John Hopkins; sergeant-at-arms, John Holtz. They were all chosen unanimously, and all are re-elections except Mr. Patterson, who succeeds C. N. Sandahl.

Something of a coup was made by Fred Everett last week when he deposited with the treasurer of King county a check for \$25,000 to secure priority right in purchase of all delinquent tax certificates, amounting to \$9 or over which came due on June 1, and which will bear 15 per cent interest from that date. The fact that a property owner in order to redeem his property must not only pay up but give Fred Everett 15 per cent for the period from which taxes became delinquent shows what a snap that gentleman has obtained, provided he is allowed to work the graft. Everett is one of the pleasantest fellows in the world personally, but it looks to us as though there's something wrong when he is allowed to draw down such a rate of interest on those certificates—practically double the legal rate of the state. It's a cinch for Fred, but pretty tough on the tax-payer.

J. T. Blackburn, of Vashon, is again a candidate for the position of horticultural commissioner. Mr. Blackburn's application, accompanied by a number of indorsements has been filed with the governor. He is a pioneer fruitgrower and during the early '90's



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had a place at the public crib as one of the district horticultural commissioners. The district commissioners were abolished as being cumbersome and practically useless, and one commissioner only handling the work since. Mr. Blackburn was an unsuccessful candidate for the position during Governor Rogers' regime, although he put himself forward as one of the "faithful." He says he is in sympathy with the views of the present governor. This shifting of political position is most convenient, although its efficiency in landing an office is doubtful.

EATING HORSEFLESH.

A man who is interested in food supply matters and all that sort of thing went down to Linnton, near Portland, a few days ago to look over the horse slaughtering establishment. He told his wife that he would bring home a horsesteak for dinner, so that she could test the quality of horse flesh. He did not like to look at the killing of horses, so went out in the big corral where there were several hundred of the animals to see what they looked like. He found several Washington county farmers there buying horses, as there were many in the band suitable for farm work, which they could buy cheap. Some of these horses were hitched inside the corral, and when something started the wild horses chasing around the farmers' horses broke loose and joined in, with their bridle reins and stirrups flying, and the visitor witnessed the greatest circus he had ever seen. Even an old mare and her little colt, only 15 minutes old, joined in, and the foal, with head and tail up, kept up with the procession and appeared to enjoy the exercise. Going home the man bought a fine beefsteak, which he handed to his wife, saying, "Here's your steak." She took off the paper and sniffed the odor of the meat and ran off for the back door, where she retched and vomited till she could no longer stand. Her mother said, "I will cook that steak, and he shall eat it." She put it on the gridiron, and when the fat began to drop on the coals and the smell therefrom to spread through the room, she also made for the back door and relieved her feelings. The man finished cooking the steak himself, the women having recovered, it was served piping hot, well seasoned and buttered, and he ate so much of it with such evident relish that the women were dumbfounded. When he had finished he said he knew women were nervous, imaginative animals, but he had not supposed that their imagination was so powerful as to make them sick at the sight and smell of beefsteak; and then he got out as swiftly as possible, followed by half the dishes on the table. He says one experiment with "horse flesh" is enough for him.—Oregonian.

Some altars are like hotels—for transients only.—Life.