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EDITORIAL

New for the county fairs.

A man cannot be beaten at his own game. "Midway" fakers are a first-class proof of this old adage.

Fine exhibits, fair weather, fascinating and frivolous feats of folly and large crowds, all go to make up a successful fair.

Label all fruit according to quality. Our market rests with the people who pack and handle the fruit. Deceit is costly.

Apple-crop reports still indicate a small yield and considerable scab, although some growers believe that at picking time a better average than most people expect will be realized.

The leaves are commencing to color and drop, being the first warning that summer is fleeting and winter approaching. Fall is a busy season on the farm, and it is just as important to keep well up with the work now as at other seasons.

An early harvest in many sections served to give farmers an opportunity to commence autumn cultivation early, and many are the fields which have been cultivated lightly in preparation for a deeper working later on. Many weeds should succumb to this treatment, and general good tilth result.

The man who wrongly labels his fruit in order to get a higher price for it and knows that he does so, is the worst kind of factor, for not only does he deceive the purchaser, but he does other producers an irreparable injustice by arousing indignation against all growers in the section from which the fruit came.

Over one million people saw the Canadian National, and each and everyone should have carried away some valuable hints to help in the daily routine of life. There were plenty of educational features. Did you see them or did the midway attract your best attention and get your money, giving nothing in return?

There is no game of chance in watching closely the decisions of the judges at the fair. Awards are made with a reason, and usually there is something to learn from them. It is not necessary that all agree on placings. Good judges frequently differ. In these differences many helpful points are generally brought out.

There is hope for the cause of the people when a United States Senate can resist the temptation to "log-rolling" and pass the Underwood tariff bill, providing substantial though moderate reductions from schedules that have long been recognized even by strong protectionists as altogether excessive. While the new bill may not have the large effect hoped for in the way of reducing costs of living, it will tend to stem the increase, and should pave the way for a much more liberal policy of commercial intercourse in years to come. The Chinese wall is crumbling.

The Most Worthy Winners.

"She is a very nice cow, but she is no good." Such was the remark which a well-known showman made regarding a cow at one of this fall's large exhibitions. Upon being asked why the fine specimen before us was considered valueless, the breeder said, "She never produced a calf." This cow is good enough individual to attract more than passing notice, and red and blue ribbons and championships might, according to our present methods of making awards, rightfully rest on her halter, but of what use is she to the breed she represents? Here is the question. A prize-winner is not always the valuable animal that his or her winnings would indicate. The real test is breeding value. If the prize-winning cow or bull is able to produce calves of greater individual excellence than themselves, then are they worthy winners, and no laurels are too good for them. Small wonder is it that breeders lay more importance upon winning prizes given for herds of calves bred and owned by the exhibitor. This shows the comparative breeding value of their herds, which often cannot be ascertained from the open classes, where stock is bought in at astounding prices to show, or where animals are non-breeders. The best individual, even if it be a non-breeder, has a value to illustrate type, but the animal which has the greatest true worth is the winner which is not only a winner but a producer of winners. A premium should be placed on breeding ability, and "get of sire," "progeny of dam" and "calf herds", are worthy of being made even stronger features of our exhibitions. This is applicable to all breeds and all classes of stock. Encourage showing and also encourage breeding.

A Return of Interest.

Judging from the interest manifested at the ringsides at various shows in Eastern Canada this year, the beef breeds of cattle are gradually regaining some of their lost ground as far as popularity is concerned. The dairy breeds, as usual, had a large number of admirers and rightly so, but a certain apathy which has hung about the judging of the beef breeds in very recent years seems to have taken flight, and the stock-loving public are returning to their former love. It may be that the agitation in favor of the dual-purpose cow has served to arouse the slumbering, for well do they know that such must come, if come it does, from a beef type rather than from the extreme dairy breeds. The great cry of the scarcity of beef may be making itself felt. And there are those who are getting tired of the labor of milking cows, and long again for the beef animal. Beef-raising is a staple industry. Like all other such, it is subject to ups and downs, due to the inherent desire of all humans to make changes. Supply and demand operate in its case as effectually as in any other branch of agriculture, but, no matter what happens we must have beef cattle. They cannot be replaced, and it is good to see them again standing high in public favor. This need not necessarily affect the dairy interests detrimentally. They, too, are on solid ground.

A Breach and a Bridge.

The idea, occasionally expressed, that the drift of young people to the cities and towns is due to lack of rural amusement, is no compliment to the sturdy young manhood and womanhood of the country, and it would be nearer the truth to say that the real, underlying cause is economic, coupled with a system of public school education that has made a breach with the farm and a bridge to the occupations of the town and the professions which largely centre there. Rightly or wrongly young men see, or think they see, prospects of more immediately remunerative employment in the town, and an opportunity to marry and have homes of their own. Young women swarm into the towns because of multiplying opportunities to make a livelihood for themselves. Considering the conditions under which agriculture is very generally carried on, the objects referred to may not be so speedily obtainable, but foresight and consideration for the aspirations of young people on the part of some whose holdings of land and farm methods are becoming more extensive, would go far towards refilling empty rural houses, and the erection of new ones of a moderate type in size and cost. Youth desires—and so ought any rationally constituted adult—a fair share of recreation and rest. These are available in properly ordered rural life, but that the craving for amusement is the chief townward driving force, is rather a superficial view, though it is a factor, of course.

Irish Farm Labor Movements.

There are some apparently curious anomalies in connection with the supply of farm labor in Ireland. The report of the Department on Irish Agricultural Laborers shows that there is a decreasing number of those migrating annually for temporary work in England and Scotland. The total number estimated for 1912 as 16,000 is slightly over that for 1911, but as compared with previous years, there is a steady decline for the last five years, when the number crossing the Channel for temporary employment was given as 24,000. Most of those go from Connaught, the largest contributors being the Unions of Swinford and Westport, where the numbers are returned as 2,889 and 1,228 respectively. Ulster is the only province where there is any large movement of migratory agricultural laborers, and 91 per cent of those go from Donegal, where the returns estimate 1,914 for last year. The total amount of savings brought or sent back to Ireland by these migratory laborers, is roughly estimated at £190,000 in a season.

Strange to say, the Irish farmer has the same difficulty as those in Great Britain or Canada in securing farm hands, and especially those of a skilled type. This is due partly to emigration, and to the migration to towns where better wages can be had, and the total number of agricultural laborers in Ireland has declined from 509,344 in 1871 to 199,900 in 1911. A great deal of this is due, of course, to the introduction of binders and other labor-saving machinery. The farmer does not require the same amount of assistance as he did forty years ago, when a much larger proportion of the work had to be done by hand.

But the first question that arises is—why should there be a dearth of skilled labor in Ireland when so many Irish workers go to the trouble and expense of annually going over to