

# The Farmer's Advocate

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## EDITORIAL.

### The Toronto Fair of 1901.

The attendance at the Toronto Industrial Exhibition this year was not equal to that of previous seasons, but this was anticipated in consequence of the industriously-boomed novelty across the way at Buffalo. Even without the badly-needed new buildings for which Toronto declined last winter to vote the necessary funds, the show itself surpassed that of 1900. To our mind, the improvements were very marked, and we congratulate the management upon the honest effort at reform which they have made, and it is very satisfactory to find that the degenerate tendencies of a year ago, which produced so strong a revolt in the public mind, as expressed through the press, have received a wholesome check. The debasing and noisy side-show element which dominated the main avenues of the fair last year was almost entirely eliminated, and those admitted were wisely relegated to the background. By another season we trust the management will be able to shut them out entirely, and that the City Council will also refuse space anywhere to the "Midway" faker. Apart from moral or educational reasons, it is only just to the legitimate exhibitor that the attention of the multitudes should not be diverted from beneficial channels by these catchpenny devices. There was a fine advance in the nature and extent of the Main Building exhibits, and it was indeed gratifying to observe how it was thronged by visitors eager to see and delighted with the industrial and artistic displays. It was quite apparent that the building is now wholly inadequate for the purposes intended. All these manufactured articles deserve more space, and there should be ample room to illustrate processes of manufacture in operation. In the new Main Building the ground-floor space should be doubled or trebled. These old-fashioned galleries are a relic of the dark ages in the exhibition business. A new art building is needed. The "Farmer's Advocate" believes in cultivating the finer tastes of our people, and one of the best ways of doing this is to properly display in a popular exhibition the very finest productions available of artistic genius. We would also suggest more space for the natural-history department, so that more complete displays might be made for the education and entertainment of both the old and young. For instance, there should be an exhibit of all the leading native birds of the Province. One of the most popular features of the fair is the butter-making competition, for which, together with the exhibits of butter and cheese, and dairy apparatus, ample provision should be made. The carriage display this year was even larger and better than a year ago, but terribly crowded, and the low-roofed building was practically without ventilation. A few electric fans, and opening the gable ends, would have been a decided help. Leading agricultural implement men are still conspicuously absent, and it is certainly a very great detriment to the fair. However, if we are not greatly mistaken, most of them will be found at the shows again ere long, and their temporary withdrawal will result in more satisfactory arrangements for their comfort in the future. Farmers like to study and compare the new improvements that are being introduced, and the meeting of the heads of the manufacturing establishments with their representatives—

general and local agents—and with their customers, is decidedly advantageous. The implement building was, however, fairly well filled and attracted a steady throng of visitors. The hall in which the general and electrical machinery was shown was also visited by thousands of people daily. The live-stock exhibit was superb, Shorthorn cattle surpassing anything seen on these grounds for many years, and the same may be said of the Ayrshires.

In our opinion, which is likewise the view of many competent observers who saw both, the Toronto Show, as an agricultural exhibition and in many substantial features, by far surpassed the Pan-American. The latter excelled in the beauty and arrangement of its buildings, and its art display and electrical machinery and electrical illuminations. Canadians generally, like Sir Wilfred Laurier, the Premier, acknowledged the excellence of the Toronto Show, and he suggested, on the opening day, the desirability of giving it a Dominion character, with representative exhibits from all the Provinces. As already intimated, this year witnesses a revival of confidence in the Industrial Exhibition, in response to the tangible effort of the management to get rid of objectionable features and make it true to its name—an exhibition of industry, agriculture, and art. It is one of the best assets that Toronto has to day, and if its citizens are wise they will sustain it by replacing the present cramped and leaky-roofed structures, through which the rain pours in torrents, by an attractive and up-to-date set of buildings. Now is the time to secure its permanent success for the future. A policy of hesitating delay has come perilously near driving out of Toronto its growing live-stock market business, and it will be to the everlasting discredit and detriment of the city if the present opportunity to put the Industrial Exhibition upon a secure basis be lost.

### Controlling the Farm Water Supply.

As forests disappear, the problem of water becomes the problem of the farmer, and with every falling tree it grows more serious. Necessary to animal life, growth and productiveness, it is in the vegetable kingdom the one great essential. Without water supply, there can be no plant-growth. It is the sole conveyor or medium through which plant food—fertility in solution—reaches and becomes part and parcel of the developing plant cells, and without it growth stops. The problem is not one confined to the arid regions of the West, which irrigation has transformed to luxuriant gardens. Water supply for farm animals, notably the dairy cow, is driving down the deep well and making the windmill a feature of the Eastern landscape. For lack of regular and sufficient water supply, small fruits and other garden crops have become especial sufferers, and here and there and everywhere in the gardening localities one sees the elevated tank, which can be drawn upon when the clouds fail or the torrent has spent itself. Nowhere yet is there a lack of water; it is rather a lack of timely distribution. Rain-gauges show that the average rainfall for the middle belt of the United States is two and one-half inches, or more than 400 hogsheads upon the roof of a barn forty feet in spread; 26,600 pails full. There are many places where this dash of water—mostly coming in a few hours—may be largely held in plastered pools and cisterns. Large cisterns or

wells, with windmills, are available for a measured contest with drought. It is, however, getting to be understood in many of the neighboring States that a good farm should have at least one driven well, sunk deep into the rock, and giving an un failing supply of pure water. Ordinary cistern and pool water can be used for irrigation; but the driven well is required for all purposes. Such a well, costing from one hundred to five hundred dollars, makes a small farmer practically secure against drought, and safe from poisoning by impure water. The distribution over his fields or gardens must be by wind power and irrigating pipes.

### Autumn Work on the Farm.

The grain harvest in most sections of the Dominion has been disposed of earlier in the season this year than is usual, leaving more time than in the average of years for extra work on the farm during the autumn months. The time was when, in even the older Provinces, these months were largely taken up with the work of hauling grain to the market, and railways being less common than now, the hauling had to be done over much greater distances than is necessary in these days. But with the introduction of dairying and stock feeding in most districts, a great change has come about in this respect, less grain, as a rule, being sold on the market as such, and more fed to cattle and sold when converted into meat or milk, or to hogs and horses, which go off the farm on foot, a system that is certainly better calculated to maintain the fertility of the farm, and one involving less heavy labor. A less acreage of fall wheat being sown than formerly in the districts where that cereal was once the leading crop, leaves largely at the farmer's disposal the time which used to be occupied in that way. Where corn is grown to any considerable extent, the weeks formerly devoted to wheat seeding are occupied by the corn harvest, but that is usually disposed of early in September, leaving a considerable lapse of time before the securing of the mangel and sugar-beet crops is necessary. In average seasons, the apple crop in the sections where it forms a considerable factor in farm produce calls for attention, but this year being unhappily an exceptional one in respect to that crop, the gathering will be a light task, but one requiring all the more timely attention, that none may be wasted or lost, but all secured in good time and the best condition.

While the crops above referred to require attention at the proper time in any year, the early harvest of the present season leaves more time than usual for making necessary improvements on the farm and buildings, and this is work which can be most economically attended to in the earlier autumn months.

Fall cultivation of the land intended for roots and corn next year, in order to the destruction of weeds, should be vigorously prosecuted during these months. If gravel is required on the lanes and walks to the outbuildings and in the barnyard, to ensure cleanliness in passing to and fro, no better time can be found for this purpose. If the stables need repairing, it is better to have it done before the cold weather comes, when the cattle, and especially the milking cows, should be stabled at night, for it is well known that they shrink rapidly in their milk and lose flesh as well when left out in the fields on frosty nights, and should be fed night and morning, to supplement what they get in the fields, for even if rains have