

14,131 lbs. milk and 520 lbs. fat to her credit, but she is excelled in butter-fat by Lenore 2nd. One Ayrshire cow has a 4-year record of 58,128 lbs. milk and 2,209 lbs. fat, while another gave 52,520 lbs. milk and 2,378 lbs. fat in the same length of time. Every breeder should breed for production as well as type and conformation, but unless the test is applied many valuable cows will ever remain unknown to the dairy world.

The record in the show-ring, the performance at the pail, together with the fact that she is a good forager and economical producer, is making many friends for the Ayrshire cow.

HORTICULTURE.

Preparing Fruit and Vegetables for Exhibition.

Few are able to appreciate the amount of labor and worry expended on the fruit and vegetable exhibits seen at the large exhibitions. Often passers-by remark "Oh, we have just as good stuff at home." Possibly they have. One exhibit does not contain all the choice products of the province, yet we venture to say that if any one man would attempt to select a quantity of fruit suitable for exhibition in the display from his own plantation his efforts would culminate in disappointment. The large group exhibits are not selected from someone's back garden. Often dozens of orchards and vegetable gardens have been visited by some experienced person who knows what will look right when it is prepared and also what constitutes a perfect specimen. In a favorable season it is not so difficult to find choice material to exhibit, but it is next to impossible to secure perfect specimens. Often an exhibitor will work long and hard to find and prepare some kind of fruit that will be just about right, and after all his labor some critical person will come along and attracted by the excellence of the display will examine it closely. The good samples therein will attract most and usually after a close examination of the package or single specimen he will remark that if it were not for such and such a defect it would be perfect. The visitor is generally correct in his statement and that is the disconcerting feature. The function of an exhibit is to show a perfect specimen when possible and when that is not accomplished the exhibitor feels that, to a certain extent, he has failed in his duty to the public.

The leading paragraph sets forth one phase of exhibition work and while it is not our object here to discuss the preparation of large display exhibits, since they are usually in charge of some experienced person, we have advanced this feature in order to emphasize the fact that fruit and vegetables at all worthy to be shown, and to be awarded prizes or ribbons cannot be chosen speedily or indiscriminately. The industries thus represented are extensive and demand that they be brought before the public in a pleasing and efficient manner. It is an injustice to the industry and the visiting public to display at a fair a quantity of fruit inferior to what may be seen in the window of the town or village fruit store. That is turning the wheels backward instead of forward. We have seen apples that would not even grade No. 2, awarded first prize at an Ontario fall fair. The fruit was wormy and scabby. The judge was as much at fault as the exhibitor, and although, perhaps, it is not within the powers of a judge he should have thrown the exhibit out of the window rather than award it a prize. The incapacity of the judge in this regard was demonstrated by the fact that a choice sample of Spys, smooth and well-colored, was passed over because the defective sample was larger. The decisions made at many fairs have been responsible to a large extent for the quality of many poor entries at the present time. Judges should be fruit or vegetable men of experience if they are to educate the public as to the outward indication of perfection in such products.

Selecting and Preparing Fruit.

First be sure of the variety when entering in a certain class. A perfect sample of Ontario has no claims to a prize in a class for Northern Spys. Then the quality must be considered. Eliminate all wormy and scabby stuff; it will not even grade No. 2, in a commercial package. Color is the next consideration, and it is a very good indication of what the quality of the interior will be. It also indicates maturity. A medium-sized specimen of a variety is usually superior to an over-grown one. Size does not count for so much unless it is accompanied by good color and all the earmarks of maturity. Over-maturity must likewise be avoided and only firm specimens selected. Fruit should be normally developed. That is, all sizes should be uniform and as near equal in size as possible. In dessert apples or fruit usually packed in boxes this is becoming quite an important factor, for irregularly shaped specimens do not pack well in such containers. Furthermore, it is not a perfect sample if larger on one side than on the other. Some varieties have this peculiarity to a slight degree, but when it is not a characteristic it is frequently due to improper fertilization or the attack of insects or fungus. Single specimens may be either large or small so long as they possess the desired qualifications, but in a plate of five or more all should be as near the same size as it is possible to get them. Uniformity in this regard has a wonderful influence on the capable judge. When fruit is only to stand on exhibition for one day perhaps it will look as well with the natural bloom left on it. However, apples are sometimes improved by being polished with a clean, soft piece of cloth and

all fruit should be wiped in this way after dust gathers, which it frequently does in a fair building. In a group, arrange each specimen so the best-appearing side is visible. It should be unnecessary to proffer this advice, but too often, one enters a fair building and beholds the defective side of a specimen turned boldly to the public gaze in a very defiant manner.

Selecting and Preparing Vegetables.

What has been said relative to fruit will apply in a broad sense to the selection and preparation of vegetables. Do not choose the large samples unless they are smooth, typey, firm and heavy for the size. Considerable washing and cleaning are necessary in the case of vegetables, for dirt will detract from the appearance and prejudice the exhibitor's chances of receiving any prize thereon. A brush is a very useful article in removing particles of soil or small scabs. After cleaning, the entry should be kept in a cool place until handed over to the exhibition committee.

Potatoes are judged largely according to their size and smoothness. They should be perfectly free from particles of dirt, but the skin should not be removed in the process of preparation. Internally the potatoes should be solid at the heart, free from any discoloration or streaks, and of a texture that would indicate a mealiness when cooked. The skin should be thin and the exterior surface should be smooth. Deep eyes are objectionable as are protuberances or any bulging of the surface.

Uniformity can hardly be over-done when gathering a sample of vegetables. They should all be as near the same size as possible in the one bunch or measure.

Begin Now.

The selection and preparation of fruit or vegetables for exhibition should begin now. Single out specimens on the limbs or in the ground and afford them every opportunity to develop and mature. Cultivate the vegetables frequently and provide plenty of moisture. Allow the sunlight access to any fruit that will mature about the time it will be needed for the fair.

FARM BULLETIN.

War Profits.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

The report of the Meredith-Duff Commission certainly did not contain much nourishment for those who looked for a fine juicy scandal. The Minister of Militia has been exonerated, the Shell Committee has been exonerated and only Col. J. Wesley Allison has been censured. While it is gratifying to find that there was so little foundation for the charges that were made so clamorously it is not pleasant to remember that these charges were made at a time when the attention of the country should not have been distracted from the war. Charges should not be made at such a time unless those who made them were sure that they could be fully proven. It is nonsense to say that the investigation helped to clear the air. The air should not have been fouled. Of course it is a good thing to curb the profitably patriotic activities of Col. Allison, and to discourage all others of his kind, but the charges revived partisan bitterness and that probably overbalances any good that may have been accomplished. I am not surprised that a soldier writing to me from the trenches, "Somewhere in Belgium," remarks somewhat pathetically, "All news from Canada is good news, except news of politics." When so many Canadians are making heroic sacrifices, we who are at home should be able to employ ourselves with something better than party squabbles.

Yesterday's papers carried an item of news that is more important and more illuminating than the findings of the Meredith-Duff Commission. Mr. F. W. Baillie, Manager of the Canadian Cartridge Company of Hamilton, has returned to the Government the sum of seven hundred and fifty thousand dollars representing the company's profits on war orders to date. Of course everybody applauds Mr. Baillie for his patriotic action in manufacturing munitions at cost, but the question immediately arises, how did he manage to make such vast profits? As yet there is no report of the extent of the orders he handled though it is mentioned that he was given the contract by the Shell Committee "at the prevailing rate." This means that all manufacturers of similar munitions have been in a position to make similar profits. Perhaps all orders for munitions have been placed on the same liberal basis. Up to the present, over five hundred million dollars' worth of munitions have been ordered in Canada by the British Government. The orders have been placed with over four hundred firms in different parts of the country. It is not likely that Mr. Baillie's company received an unduly large order, and yet he made a profit of three quarters of a million. If the other manufacturers are doing equally well their war profits will swell into many millions. They will hardly thank Mr. Baillie for the sudden light he has cast on the profits of the munition business. Here again we are confronted by the fact that while many are making the last possible sacrifice for their country others are straining every nerve to make profits. Mr. Baillie has set an excellent example, and it will be interesting to see how many will follow it. He at least cannot be accused of profiting by the necessities of the Empire—an intolerable thing for any Canadian to do. If the other manufacturers do not follow Mr. Baillie's example the Minister of Finance should devote some special thought to their case. Their

profits are more justly open to taxation than any other source of revenue in the country. They are making profits where excessive profits should not be made. The British Empire is now spending over thirty million dollars a day on the war, and one does not like to think that any considerable part of it goes to swell the profits of Canadian munition manufacturers. But Mr. Baillie's company cleared three quarters of a million on contracts that I understand were awarded last August—less than a year ago. What are the other fellows making? Some questions are justified by Mr. Baillie's action. He has made no charges, but he has done something more deadly. He has proven that great profits are being made, by the fact that he has returned to the government his own amazing profits. It will be interesting to see what view the people of the country will take of this surprising act of patriotism.

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This week I received a letter dated "Somewhere in Belgium," from a boy—a stranger to me—who was a reader of "The Advocate" when at home in Canada. As the letter had to be passed by the censor he confined himself largely to telling me about the kind of farming he saw in Europe, but the closing sentence seemed like an accusation and I am going to quote it in the hope that it may sound accusing to others. He wrote, "You are enjoying yourself, while we are strafing the Hun." As I read that, and pictured to myself a lonely boy in the trenches writing a letter to a stranger whose name he happened to know, in the hope that he would get a letter from "God's country," as he called Canada, I felt that there was something wrong about "enjoying myself." I am afraid that we do not realize sufficiently how lonesome and homesick those boys are. Another letter that I saw last week was from a man who had left his wife and children behind. His wife had sent him a photograph of the family and he said that when he got it he cried. And he could hardly write to her because of the tears in his eyes. It is hard for us who are at home enjoying ourselves to realize what those at the front are feeling and suffering. Above all things they seem to want letters from home, and I think we should all write to them as often as we can. If you know a soldier at the front you should write to him, whether he is a friend or relative or not. He is making his great sacrifice for you as much as for anyone else, and if a chatty letter from you will help to cheer him up for a few minutes you should not begrudge the slight task of writing it. I shall certainly write to the lonely boy who wrote to me, and hope that readers of the Advocate will write to any lonely soldiers they may know. We would then have a little better right to enjoy ourselves at home.

Manitoba Provincial Exhibition.

The Manitoba Provincial Exhibition, one of the best shows of Western Canada, was held at Brandon, Man., on July 17 to 22. The machinery display, dairy, poultry and other agricultural exhibits all contributed to make the Brandon event a most outstanding one from an agricultural viewpoint. The turnout of the horse kind was a feature of the livestock department, and of all the breeds the Clydesdale was most conspicuous. The cattle classes were not contested so strenuously as last year, although keen competition was to be seen, and some of the most noteworthy animals, representing the highest of constructive breeding on the continent, came into the ring. This was especially true in beef cattle, where many notable herds of Shorthorns, Aberdeen-Angus and Herefords attracted much ring-side attention, and demanded a very close scrutiny on the part of the judge. The dairy breeds while being forward with nice specimens did not present the same strenuous competition. The sheep and swine display did not surpass in numbers the exhibit of previous years, yet it was in many instances of better quality, representing rather a higher class of exhibits in all breeds than usual.

The judges in the live-stock department were: Clydesdales, John Gardhouse, Weston, Ont.; Percherons and Belgians, Dean Rutherford, University of Saskatchewan; light horses, E. W. McLean, Winnipeg; beef cattle, Prof. Pew, Ames, Iowa; dairy cattle, W. H. Gibson, Supt. Experimental Farms, Indian Head; sheep, A. J. McKay, Macdonald; swine, Dean Rutherford.

Horses.

The Clydesdale classes were exceedingly strong, and represented a class of horse with a little more substance than has been observed in some show-rings of the West. In a lot of ten aged stallions, Belle Isle, exhibited by O. J. White, of Hamiota, Man., received the red ribbon. Mahomet, the horse found in second place, and owned by G. A. Stutt, never came out in better shape. Next to him stood Prince of Aden. In the three-year-old stallions, Royal Shapley 2nd, won the class for F. J. Hassard, Markham, Ont. In two-year-olds, King of Brookside, a deep bay with lots of substance, won over Grand Royal Gem, a colt of very correct underpinning but not so massive. These two horses were owned by Frank Brooks, Chater, and G. A. Stutt respectively. Prince Charnock, sired by Charnock, was easily the winner in the class of thirteen yearlings. The stallion championship went to the winning aged horse, Belle Isle.

Some very nice specimens of the Clydesdale breed came out in the classes for females. R. H. Bryce's Doune Lodge Lady won over Rosie B. in the three-year-old fillies. Seventeen two-year-old fillies were to the front, and from this number Lady Jane, shown

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