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The Agricultural Societies.

December 9th is the date set by statute for the annual meetings of the Manitoba Agricultural Societies, at which will be submitted the financial reports, etc. All business concerns have a stock-taking and thus find out where they stand, and it is in order for the Agricultural Societies to do likewise; not only so, but it might be well to plan for the coming year's work. Too often such important matters as the revision of the prize list is left until the summer-time, when it is often difficult to get a corporal's guard together. If there is one thing that might well be revised, it is the prize lists. A uniform classification for the local shows would be a good thing, and any move looking to such a condition of things would be commendable. It would not be a hard matter for each society to have a delegate attend a meeting of Agricultural Society members in Winnipeg at the time of the live-stock meetings and strike off a prize list up-to-date in its arrangement and suitable for all the local shows. Another question of great import to the societies is the question of judges. At the majority of the fairs the judging is a farce and entirely defeats any educational benefit the local show might confer. In this connection the Department of Agriculture might well select and send out expert judges. Such a scheme would involve the arranging of fair dates in circuit to avoid the far too frequent clashing, which spoil some fairs and cause hard feelings. The new regulations in force among the Institutes will tend to snuff out the weaker ones, and it is a question whether a similar enactment could not be introduced to snuff out, not necessarily the small fair, but those not doing good work. As it is now, some of the societies are just vehicles for the handing out of so much public money, for which value is not received by the community. With respect to the expert judges for local fairs, one man might judge all the live stock, another the roots, vegetables, grains, etc., and in each case give reasons for their decisions. The societies might as well do away with the attempt to hide an exhibitor's identity, as is now done by a complicated system of numbered tickets. Such efforts at secrecy are of no value with regard to live stock (or anything else, for that matter), and are reflections on the honesty of both judge and exhibitor. All prize tickets should have the owner's name written on them, as a great deal of interest is often taken in an exhibit when the onlooker knows who the exhibitor is.

Apart judges, some societies still hang on to the antiquated system of a form of jury. The single-judge system is the only fair and correct system of judging. The Department of Agriculture might well add a section to the Agricultural Societies Act, that "no prizes be awarded to any males unless pure-breds." In some rare cases we believe the society would be better to close up their annual show and devote the money to buying first-class stud males for their districts.

Now will be the time for all the Agricultural Societies to pass resolutions, and go on record with regard to the Agricultural College, and thus show the Government that such an institution is really desired by the people. The members of the societies should let no political bias enter into such an important matter. As the annual meeting is the time for the members to speak out, it would be well if a strong stand was taken, in every society against the so-called attractions of the first place, the local show, and the expense of \$200 to \$250 by any local shows of such a nature.

sheer waste of money and no educational benefit is derived therefrom. Several local shows this year made an attempt to have attractions, which were in the main so poor, ranking no higher than the performance of the street-corner quack medicine vendor, that we believe the directors will not again attempt it. Given a good board of directors and a live secretary, the local fair should afford a holiday to the neighborhood and a chance to see whether any improvement is being made in the live stock of the district. The societies fortunate enough to own exhibition grounds might well look more closely after them. Trees should be planted and the weeds and grass should be mown before the show, suitable enclosures made for judging (for horses, oblong will be the preferable shape, and thus enable the judge to see their action in the proper way). The societies might well encourage bringing the exhibits before the judge in better shape, broken to lead, etc., and insist that no prizes be awarded when the stock is unworthy. The enforcement of such a rule may cause a little trouble at first, but will undoubtedly work wonders for the show eventually. More attention should be given to pens, stalls, etc., and what are put up should be convenient, with doors, etc. A loading chute costs very little money and will aid in bringing out exhibits. Many people keep their stock at home because of the difficulty in loading or unloading it. A refrigerator for the dairy exhibit should in all cases be provided. We cannot do better than refer our readers to page 671, Nov. 5th issue, for helpful suggestions as to how to make a clean and successful fair.

Live Stock Association Meetings.

As winter draws on, the stockman begins to think of the bill of fare to be served up at the annual meetings in February. There is at the present time a veritable hunger for up-to-date live-stock training, and the Associations knowing that to be the case might well endeavor to appease that hunger by getting capable men to give lessons in stock-judging at the morning or afternoon sessions. Such instruction is needed, and would be greatly appreciated by many beginners as well as by most of the veteran breeders. Representative specimens of several of the prominent breeds of cattle, horses, sheep and swine would have to be brought in and a suitable building secured so that those present would have ample opportunity of seeing the animals while the instructor indicated the characteristics of the individuals, and the breeds to which they belonged. Of course, the services of men thoroughly qualified to take up this work would have to be secured. Such men as Peats, Curries, of Iowa; G. E. Day, of Guelph; W. L. Carlyle, of Wisconsin; J. H. Grisdale, of the Dominion Experimental Farm, Ottawa; or Alex. Gallbraith, the noted Clydesdale breeder, Wisconsin, who have made stock-judging and lecturing on that subject a specialty, would ensure the success of such an innovation as suggested.

Any person who has stood at the ring-side of our local shows will know the need for such instruction. To see men undertake to pass judgment on horses without ever having those animals walked and trotted in a straight line to and from them, would discourage any horse-breeder. As a rule, the majority of the so-called judges seem to be of the opinion that all that counts is the color of the horse, and they are not at all particular as to the shape of the horse. At the present time the only way to get a better class of judges is to have a series of lectures on the subject.

have more men capable of discriminating between the good and inferior stuff, and the stock-judging lessons would certainly help us to attain our object. While Agricultural Societies may make honest efforts to get the best judges available, owing to the expense they are often debarred from getting capable men and have to fall back on some person from the ringside, whose qualifications are nil. Given a start at the Association's gathering, many men would soon be available as judges, who, even if they did make mistakes, as all judges are liable to do, would in the main give a superior service than the societies have heretofore been able to get.

Farm Siftings.

Ye editor evidently does not believe in the retirement of the farmer from active duties to become a town parasite, in which opinion we humbly concur. If the farm is good enough to spend the early part of life on, it is surely suitable for one's declining years. The troubles of the retired farmer with a family begin at once on going to town to live. The young people pick up the vices, such as laziness and night hawking, first thing, and in the mad race for distinction in the little social vortex of the country town often become artificial in manners and long-time debtors. Unfortunately, good manners and sound brains do not always accompany a spick-and-span suit or the latest style of hat.

In this year of plenty of rough feed, the weed seeds may be overlooked. Many practical men rate pigweed seed pretty close up to flax as a useful laxative and adjunct to other feeds. In this connection, I think the farmer wise who sells his grain at an elevator where it is cleaned before weighing and where he gets the screenings back.

Better to sell some of the stronger feeds this fall and buy bran with the proceeds. Bran is a bone builder, and keeps the blood cool and prevents constipation. No stockman can do without bran.

The fall and winter sales will give one an opportunity to pick up a good brood mare, some store pigs or needed implement. Cattle seem to be in demand at sales, and pigs will doubtless be clamored for next spring.

A friend of mine who owns and exhibits good stock waxed enthusiastic to me the other day over the probable results of the establishment of a Provincial Agricultural College. Said he: "Judges' work will tend to become uniform and breeders will know where they are at. Instead of, as now, new ideals and types being called for from year to year at the shows."

In view of the many fatalities from threshing machines this season (as chronicled in the papers) and the slow work done by lots of machines, I would suggest that if we do have an Agricultural College, that good practical instruction be given in the running of engine and separator. Ignorance in the business of threshing to day. First-class threshers are too few, greenhorns are plentiful.

It is among the ideal come of the old fellows here in the Old Country, of horse breeding, and how we could conduct it in Canada. I have in mind several Thoroughbreds who travelled in districts not far from where I live, whose progeny are about as miserable as one could find anywhere. Too small for wear and tear, and too much of a mix of blood to be of any use. Why not have some of your own medicine, Old Country style, and breed a few more of the kind? INTER PRIMOS.