

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

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EDITORIAL.

The Cheese Branding Bill.

The bill passed at the recent session of the Dominion Parliament requiring the word "Canada" or "Canadian" in letters not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch high and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch wide to be stamped upon every box or package containing cheese or butter destined for export, and in case of cheese upon the cheese itself before being taken from the factory where made, is now law, having received the assent of the Governor-General on June 29th, and, we are assured by telegram from the Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, went into force from that date. Factorymen and creamerymen should govern themselves accordingly, as the penalty for violation amounts to a fine not exceeding \$25 or less than \$5, with costs, and in default imprisonment with or without hard labor for a term not exceeding three months.

Dr. Gardiner's Letter.

Dr. J. H. Gardiner, lecturer on Sanitary Science in the Medical College of the Western University, London, Ont., addresses a letter to our readers, in another column, dealing with the amount of air space requisite for stock in stables. This subject naturally comes to the front in dealing with tuberculosis in cattle; but we are not prepared to assume, so far as Canada is concerned at all events, that this disease is on the increase, but rather the reverse, and with more rational treatment of live stock we may expect this and other troubles to become less serious, as has been the case with many ailments affecting the human family. In taking up the cudgels against overcrowding and bad ventilation, we say more power to the Doctor's elbow, for he thereby strikes at one of the chief contributory causes of the trouble. This is being gradually recognized and better provision made for a constant supply of fresh air in stables, to which the Doctor very pertinently adds fresh whitewash spring and fall. With an effective system of ventilation, whereby the air of the stable is kept pure, the question of mere cubic space is less important, however, than under the reverse condition of things. We take it as a hopeful sign when medical men of good standing are found preaching the good old doctrine that prevention is better than cure.

Live Stock Exhibition Catalogues.

The importance of a complete and reliable official catalogue of the live stock entries at the leading shows in the Dominion is not, to our mind, as fully appreciated as it should be. The manager of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition has made a very commendable effort to introduce this feature, and we are free to acknowledge that it is not his fault if it has not been the complete success which we believe it possible to make it. The co-operation of exhibitors in this matter is essential to its success, and we fail to understand why so much indifference has been manifested in regard to the subject. The work of compiling and printing the catalogue is done free of expense to exhibitors, and it is surprising that they do not recognize and avail themselves of its advantages. We believe that in the management of the leading shows in England, and at many county shows as well, it is required that the necessary information for the preparation of a catalogue must be furnished before the entry is fully accepted, and if the observance of such a rule were insisted upon here we see no good reason why it might not be enforced. In all the classes of registered horses and cattle at least the catalogue should show the name and post office address of the exhibitor of each entry, the name and record number of the animal, the date of birth, and the name and record number of the sire and dam. A plainly printed card giving the number of the entry in the catalogue should be displayed in the

stall of the animal while in the stall, and on the animal or its attendant when in the showing or on parade. The information need not be so complete in the classes of harness and saddle horses, or in classes for which there is no registry, but the ownership and age should at least be given, and the number corresponding to the catalogue displayed as in the other classes; and this applies in the case of sheep and pigs as well, though we see no reason why the fuller information may not be given, since they are required to be registered in order to compete. The convenience to visitors of a well-prepared and reliable catalogue is very great, while to reporters it is almost essential, if they would give a satisfactory review of the stock. The stock breeders' associations have it in their power to do good work in carrying out this enterprise, if they would impress upon fair managers the importance of the subject, and place their secretaries at the disposal of the fair associations to the extent of revising the entries, and furnishing the necessary information where records are kept, as is done by Mr. Hy. Wade for the Toronto Industrial Exhibition in the classes for which he is the secretary and registrar, and which are the only classes in the catalogue for that show which really fill the bill in this respect. We shall look to Mr. Hill, the energetic and wide-awake manager of the Toronto Exhibition, to take action in this matter, and would suggest that in order that this year's catalogue may be more complete than ever, that in every case where the necessary information does not accompany the application for entry the papers be returned for completion before being accepted. This is clearly in the interest of the public, of the exhibition itself, and of all honest exhibitors, for we regret to learn that it has been hinted that in some classes and by some exhibitors the neglect or refusal to comply with the requirements in this regard is due to a disposition to substitute exhibits which may not correspond with the catalogue, and thus to practice what is unfair to honest competitors and not in accordance with the high sense of honor which should characterize these competitive examinations.

Patronize the Fairs.

We bespeak for the agricultural and industrial exhibitions to be held in the next three months the hearty support of the people generally. Those who are engaged in the work of conducting these institutions are nearly all freely and generously giving their time and work and thought for the public good, and the very least the people can do consistently in acknowledgment of their services is to show their appreciation of the work done by attending the exhibitions. We presume there are no two opinions in regard to the usefulness of these competitive exhibitions of the products of the skill of our people in agriculture and the arts and sciences, and they may, if rightly heeded, impart lessons which we do well to learn. They mark the progress that is being made, and assist us to properly keep abreast of the times. The people of the cities and towns in which the fairs are held owe it to the directors of the shows to stand by them and give them all reasonable encouragement and assistance. The crowds of people brought to the cities spend sufficient money to make it well worth all it costs the cities to do their part towards upholding the fairs. By advertising the fair they advertise their city and attract business to it. Wealthy men can well afford to contribute liberally towards the prize lists to increase the interest. By so doing they not only promote the general weal, but their own business enterprises. It is only casting their bread upon the waters to be seen again in the near future.

Farmers and stockmen are especially interested in the great object lessons provided at the shows. Here they find the standard of excellence fixed,

and here they may receive inspiration to endeavor to excel in their own line of business, and the success which has attended the efforts of many who began in a humble way, and have worked their way to the front rank in the breeding and raising of improved stock or farm products, should serve as an incentive to others to go and do likewise. We have more than once remarked in these columns that we would be glad to see a larger number of exhibitors in the various classes at our shows; not necessarily a larger number of exhibits, for we think that in many classes the effect of the show is marred by the practice of exhibitors bringing nearly their whole herd—good, bad and indifferent—so as to be prepared to fill a vacancy and secure the prize money in cases where the class may not be filled, but we are persuaded that there are in not a few herds and flocks single animals of first-class merit which would rank close up to the best, which are kept at home simply for the reason that having only one that is likely to be a winner the owner concludes it will not pay to take one to the show since the prize money, if he were successful in winning, might not be sufficient to cover expenses. Visitors to the English shows will have noticed the difference in this respect. There breeders are not so anxious to make a big show as to present a select and uniform lot, and deem it an honor to get into the prize list if only for a third place, knowing that they are in select company, and the name of being a prize-winner in such contests is an advertisement for their stock far exceeding the money value of the prize. We hope to see more of our stock breeders, and especially the younger men, bring out their one or two best animals well fitted to enter the showing, and add to the interest of the competition. We believe we are correct in saying that in no country in the world is greater encouragement given to beginners in the showing than in Canada. The classification of stock is varied and full. The number of sections in a class and the number of prizes in a section are greater than in the shows of any country within our knowledge. This arrangement gives a greater number of chances to get within the charmed circle, and should be eminently satisfactory to all concerned.

To the rank and file of the intelligent and wide-awake farmers of the Dominion we need hardly say that a visit to at least one of the leading shows in their own Province, and to their own local fair, will probably be the means of their learning some lessons that will well repay the cost of the trip, which, with the excursion rates given by the railways, is not great, and the well-earned holiday will do much towards refreshing them after the toils of the harvest season.

Quelph Agricultural College Closing.

The closing exercises of the Ontario Agricultural College were held in the gymnasium of that institution on June 30th. Principal Dr. Mills presided, and had on the platform with him Hon. John Dryden, Rev. Dr. Potts, John Mutrie, M. P. P., Jas. Innis, ex-M. P., Rev. J. M. Glassford, Rev. J. G. Scott, and others. Addresses were delivered by the Minister of Agriculture and Rev. Dr. Potts. Among other things, Mr. Dryden made the following remarks in defence of the Agricultural College and its management:

"In 1896 the actual cost of the College was \$58,374. This \$58,000, too, included the travelling dairy, costing \$2,000; the special dairy school, costing \$2,100; the experimental work in connection with the dairy department, costing \$2,000; the experimental plots, costing \$6,000; the maintenance of the beautiful lawn in front of the building. Altogether \$11,700 should thus be deducted as not being spent for the College, but for the country generally, leaving the net cost of the educational work of the institution \$43,614. The constant aim kept in view in conducting the institution was efficiency. The great fundamental industry of agriculture demanded the expenditure of a portion of our Provincial money in order that it might be developed. The Opposition said that the farm was not being made to pay, but Mr. Dryden pointed