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EDITORIAL

Is Canada not ready for an anti-gambling law?

Grain-growing for sale is usually a "skin-game," and many are beat at it.

There is a rich and profitable fascination in the operations of the farm, if we but study the principles of soil, tillage and plant-growth.

No other occupation makes greater demands upon the judgment and knowledge of those engaged in it than farming.

After the fairs there is no more summer, except of the Indian species. Get ready for winter, is the standing order now.

A recent estimate states that eighty per cent. of the great leaders in all foremost walks of life in America came from the rural districts.

Live-stock husbandry, dairying, horticulture, poultry-keeping—these lines make the greatest call upon our skill, but give the best and most permanent returns.

On valuable, enclosed land it never pays to keep a cow for a whole year for the sake of producing and feeding a calf, unless it be for pure-bred stock or prizewinning purposes.

The establishment of subsidized cold-storage warehouses, under the Cold-storage Act, passed in the Dominion Parliamentary session, 1906-07, is proceeding steadily. Five warehouses have already received a portion of the subsidy offered, while several others are being arranged for.

The most successful exhibitor of cheese this fall at the leading exhibitions was R. A. Thompson, of Atwood, who won sweepstakes at Toronto, with a score of 98½ points; also two firsts and the sweepstakes at Ottawa, and a prize in each of four sections at London. The factory where these cheese were made has a cool-curing room, and pasteurizes its whey.

In discussing the proper time at which to cut corn, frequent reference is made to the glazing stage and the dough stage. As a matter of fact, these terms are frequently misapplied. In the case of dent corn there is no glazing stage—the grain dents, but does not glaze; while in flint corn there is no precise dough stage. Flint corn glazes, and is flinty on the outer part of the grain while still milky at the germ end.

It begins to look as though the obstructive American sheep quarantine may work out to the distinct advantage of Canada, by inducing Canadian sheep-breeders to cultivate the home market for rams. The system of demonstration sheep flocks, established by the Ontario Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the Ontario Sheep-breeders' Association, is a capital idea. Almost every farm should have a small flock of sheep. They pay well, as everyone knows who has gone into the question. The need is for absolute figures of profits under representative farm conditions to bring this truth home to those who have been hitherto unimpressed.

Sidelights on the Fairs.

Now that the principal fall fairs in Central Canada for this year are over, a review of the main features of the live-stock exhibits, and their relative standing in the prize-lists, may prove of interest, and supply food for thought.

The first feature of these events which occurs to the critical observer, is the high average of approved type and quality noticeable in the animals shown in most classes. A high average, of course, means superexcellence at the top, and this is true of many of the classes at the fairs this year, but there have been fewer weak entries, and, therefore, more uniformity has been noticeable, both in the animals themselves and in their fitting for the show-ring, indicating that breeders are studying desirable types, and that feeders are improving their methods of feeding and fitting their stock for exhibition. Exhibitors have learned from experience that, in certain classes, animals in order to win must be shown in high condition, but that this may be overdone, and that symmetry, smoothness and quality of flesh and careful fitting and training are features that count for much in the comparison. The successful winnings of Canadian-bred animals, and their high-class quality, have been a striking feature of the leading shows of this season, particularly in cattle, sheep and swine. In the Shorthorn class at Toronto the grand champions, male and female, and the winning herds, were wholly Canadian-bred, and the animals nearly all bred by the exhibitor. With the exception of two animals, all the winners in other beef breeds were Canadian-bred, and by far the majority of the winners in the dairy-cattle classes were home bred. The same is true of the sheep sections, while the winning entries in the swine division were practically all bred in this country. And in all these departments the type and quality was of a very high order, showing that conditions in Canada are favorable for the production of the very best of all the classes of stock named; the climate, the soil and the men who breed, feed and fit them being equal to the requirements.

The single-judge system has been followed almost throughout at the leading fairs so far, and though, as is almost invariably the case, no matter what the number of judges, cases of dissatisfaction have occurred, due perhaps to honest differences of opinion, we believe exhibitors are almost unanimous in their approval of a single judge, as by this system the work is facilitated and the responsibility fixed beyond cavil. This is said with the proviso that proper selections of men competent for the post are made and appointed. For there have been, we regret to learn, grounds for complaint, that in some cases this year, as in former years, even at leading shows, men have been appointed as judges who have not been recognized as successful breeders of the classes of stock they have been appointed to adjudicate upon, and have had little if any experience in handling pure-breds of any class. This is a scandal, the repetition of which breed societies and fair boards alike should carefully avoid, as it is a serious matter to exhibitors, after a year's preparation of their stock for the show, to be placed at the mercy of incapable arbiters.

Reversals of judgment, where the same animals are in competition at succeeding shows, have perhaps been more common this year than usual, a circumstance which may have a tendency to lessen the confidence of the public in the value of prize cards as a pledge of the comparative merits of the animals. These reversals, it is fair to assume, may be generally due to a gratifying closeness of competition, in many cases to an honest

difference of opinion, in other instances to difference in the condition of animals on a later appearance; and, unfortunately, in some cases, to a less experienced or less competent and up-to-date judge at some stage of the game, allowance for all of which contingencies must be made, regrettable as the lack of uniformity may be.

In summing up the situation, it is gratifying to know that Canada is well maintaining its reputation as the breeding ground for high-class pure-bred stock, as evidenced by excellence of its showing at the fairs of the Dominion, and also in the United States, where Canadian-bred animals are making high marks at State fairs.

Proud Workers.

"The great trouble is that so many dairymen take no pride in a cow, no pride in a can of milk or in an extra hundredweight production from their herds." This bull's-eye shot was scored by a bright Canadian dairyman, of manifest enterprise and spirit, in a recent conversation with a member of our staff. It is too true. There are thousands of farmers to whom cows are but so many machines, and not even good machinery. A competent engineer takes pride in his engine. He appreciates the opportunity of caring for a superior piece of mechanism, feeling a gratification in its condition and care. Compared to an engine, how much more complex and wonderful is a cow, endowed with the breath of life, accomplishing a vastly more important transmutation than any mere machinery can do, withal a beautiful, responsive, companionable creature, whose milking is an art, whose feeding a science, whose study an education, and whose proper kindly care is a benevolent exercise in moral character! Truly a good cow is a worthy object of pride.

Why, then, is she not more commonly so regarded? Partly because there are men keeping cows who should never have to do with anything more delicate than a pick, and partly because many tolerably good dairymen that might have been, have had no adequate dairy education. They have grown up with a hard, unfeeling, mercenary conception of a cow, and have never got over it. But back of all this is the indifference and laissez faire characteristic of the great mass of humanity. Dairying, like poultry-keeping, calls loudly for more of the genius of painstaking. It needs men, women and boys imbued with the pride of accomplishment, the motive which leads one to do with his might and heart and soul whatever he undertakes; the spirit that flushes his face and sparkles his eye as he looks back over a straight, well-turned furrow, an even ditch, a deftly and thoroughly milked cow, a well-groomed horse, a thrifty sty of pigs, fed just enough and not too much—any piece of work done to the best of his knowledge and skill. We need more dairymen who take a pride in their work, determined to have nothing discreditable about their farms. A cheese-factory patron, for instance, who keeps a thrifty, uniform, well-attended herd; stables them in bright, ventilated, whitewashed quarters; milks them in a cleanly manner, with the same care as though he were kneading bread under their flanks, to be baked and eaten by himself; who cools his milk promptly and provides a covered milkstand, of the kind they are building quite generally in Hastings and Prince Edward Counties; who visits the factory occasionally, takes an interest in what is going on, and plays his part manfully, standing out for what is progressive and good—such a man is an impulse and inspiration to a community, and a subject of self-respect to himself. And while not all are born equally to excel, it is, after all, largely a case of making a start. At any rate, we can each resolve to improve, and one