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their hogs, the farmers of Ontario could and should be getting an average of nearly \$10 per cwt. That balance that they do not get goes, partly to pay commissions that are necessary only under the present conditions, partly to pay for the "risks" of packers who over-capitalize and put up more plant than they can keep running, and partly to pay large profits—at the expense of the unorganized farmers. If the farmers want the rest of their money they can get it—by co-operating. They will never get it any other way.

Of course, the farmers who are getting the average prices for the poorest hogs would not care to see a change. But without a change, all the farmers will soon be raising the poorest kind of hogs, and that will bring the average price down to the value of the poorest hogs, which would not suit anyone. It is, therefore, safe to say that at least sixty per cent. of all the hog-raisers of Ontario would be glad to adopt a plan of selling their hogs that would pay them a discriminating scale of prices, based on type and quality grading. There is no reason why these farmers should not at once solve their problem in the way suggested—by forming a partnership for the sale of their hogs.

The first step in the matter is for the farmers of a locality to form their association with the general object of selling their hogs on the best terms obtainable. In order to make sure of the best results, it would be necessary to have regulations compelling the members to secure the best type of hog as soon as possible, if they are not up to standard already; and guaranteeing that proper methods of feeding will be practised, in order to make the quality of all hogs sold by the association for its members as good as possible. The members should, of course, be bound by the regulations to sell their hogs only through the association, under penalty of a substantial fine; except in case of breeding animals, etc. By insisting on such regulations as these only those farmers who are in earnest will join, and the objects of the association will be most easily carried out.

The association can thus begin at once to carry on its work, and by inserting in its rules all such clauses as may be thought advisable for future use, its powers will keep pace with its development, and it will develop as opportunity permits. Of course, such an association cannot hope to accomplish all its objects at once or alone; but as other associations are formed, the power of the co-operators will increase, and they will gain their objects one by one. The main point is, one such association can at once save the ten per cent. commission which otherwise would go to the ordinary buyer, a gain in itself sufficient to justify co-operation.

The Provincial statute relating to the organization of co-operative associations, which would repay the trouble of reading, defines the procedure which must be followed in such cases, though, of course, does not interfere with the special rules of the particular association. By the statute, at least seven original members are necessary; they must register the association, and its rules as adopted on organization, at the office of the County Registrar; the basis of organization is an allotment of shares, the number of which is unlimited, and the liability of members is limited by the number of these shares held; shares are to be paid for by instalments, and may be of any value, but no member may hold more than \$1,000 worth of such shares; the association may not do a "credit business," but may buy real estate for business purposes and give a mortgage to any amount as security for payment on same; and so on.

A little consideration of the statute will show that everything depends on the rules adopted by the association, and on the nominal value placed on the shares, and the rules as to payment for the same. Space permits only an enumeration of the main points, which should be covered by the rules of an association such as advocated:

(1) The purposes of the association should be clearly defined; being the sale of hogs for and on behalf of the members.

(2) A consultative board, or directorate, should be provided for, to be elected as decided by the members, and who should be left to choose their own officers; the latter being the executive of the association.

(3) The shares of the association should be of a nominal value, sufficient to provide a large guarantee, as security for possible future operations of the association; and the payment on the shares might well be so arranged that the annual instalments would be very small or large, as the needs of the association might require in different years, and still leave the members liable for further calls, so as to maintain their interest in the association.

(4) Members should be held bound by the regulations to obey, in choice of stock and in feeding, such rules as the association might establish in order to make animals sold of the best possible value.

(5) Members should also be held bound to sell their hogs, with such reasonable exceptions as might be specified, to the association alone, such bond being enforceable by a fine of, say, \$5 per hog so sold to any outsider.

(6) The directors, as representing the members of the association, should be empowered to carry on the business of selling the hogs raised by the members in whatever way they should find most to the interests of the members.

(7) And it should be stated in the registered rules that the association might, if desirable, engage in the manufacture of the hogs of the members.

Such an association, working alone, would be able to make very satisfactory terms with any firm of pri-

vate packers, with regard at least to payment of commissions to the association, and doubtless it could secure a discriminating rate also, though this would be more easy to secure for a larger number of animals than one association might be able to supply. With a federation of such associations, controlling a large proportion of the best hogs of the Province, the packers could be brought to their knees, terms could be dictated to them that they would be compelled to accept, and, in short, the farmers who produce the best type and quality of bacon hogs would by such a simple system of co-operation absolutely control the whole situation, from the farm to the British grocer's counter. The advantage of such a plan is the fact that it requires as capital only a small yearly payment by the members, instead of a large capitalization. The risks are practically none, and there is a certainty of good return from the beginning. All that is necessary to establish such an association is seven dissatisfied farmers, ten dollars, and a notary public. It is simply a partnership, whether it is one small association or a federation of all the farmers of Ontario, as it will be within a few years.

Remember, it is not proposed to repeat the colossal failures of the Brantford, Harriston and Palmerston "co-operative" packing ventures. They, as I have repeatedly pointed out, were not instances of farmers' co-operation, but of concerns precisely similar to the other and older packing-houses, except that some farmers owned some shares in them.

Remember, if you want your association to succeed, if you want it to be co-operative at all, that it must be formed only to market the hogs of its members, NOT to engage in the selling or manufacture of hogs as a business speculation. Therefore, make it impossible for anyone not a raiser of hogs to be a member, and make every member sell his hogs only through the association, no matter what the temptation offered to do otherwise.

Remember, this is the farmers' affair, and if the farmers are willing to put up with present conditions, no one else, least of all the private packers, will object. But if the farmers want a change they can have it just a few days after they get together and commence work as a united force.

AUSTIN L. MCCREDIE.

Overhaul the Prize Lists.

Agricultural societies throughout Canada are now forwarding their arrangements for the exhibitions to be held during the next show season. It is important that their real purpose be kept closely in mind. Upon the conception of the promoters will the character of the shows depend. The object of these annual events is educational, in order to the advancement of the methods and interests of agriculture. Until the sober sense of thinking people began to assert itself through the press, the drift was steadily in the direction of so called "attractions." People imagined that shows could not be made to pay without, but there is evidence in plenty to show that such is not the case. It all depends on how the tastes of the people are cultivated. If crooks, sports and fakers are allowed control, it is not difficult to discern where our shows will soon land. In Ontario a movement is under way for a thorough revision of the old Agriculture and Arts Act, and the Provincial Superintendent of Agricultural Societies, Mr. H. B. Cowan, has been energetically developing a plan for the distribution of the Government grants, which will afford some tangible recognition of the distribution of prize money for the educational purposes which the shows are primarily designed to promote. We have seen no announcement of such a bill being introduced at the present session of the Legislature, but trust it will not be lost sight of, and that the Superintendent of Agricultural Societies will have the backing of those who have at heart the future weal of the exhibitions. In the preparation of prize-lists ample provision should be made for the encouragement of agricultural features and the introduction of new educational work, by cutting out objectionable features and otherwise. In the poultry department care should be taken to lop off a wasteful expenditure of prize money for a lot of ornamental breeds that are simply useless as far as the farmer is concerned. This was very clearly and fully pointed out in the "Farmer's Advocate" for April 20th. Every agricultural society should have a Prize-list Revision and Improvement Committee at work, the results of which should bear tangible fruit in the material improvement of the shows next summer and autumn.

In Every Respect.

I beg to acknowledge with thanks the receipt of your premium knife, which is really a "Farmer's Advocate" knife—up-to-date in every respect. MILTON ROSE. Vancamp.

HORSES.

The Hackney in Canada.

The first volume of the Canadian Hackney Studbook, edited by Mr. Henry Wade, secretary of the Canadian Hackney Horse Society, has been received at this office. It is a handsome and creditable publication, containing 132 pages, the pedigrees of 245 stallions and 300 mares, besides 49 mares of inspected foundation stock, the constitution and rules of the Society, and a well-written historical sketch of the breed, from which we quote the following:

The Hackney of to-day is distinctively the horse in his own class, wherein no others can compete with him, except some of his cousins, the too heavy and slow for sporting purposes, coming back to the class to which they belong, and thereby acknowledging the Hackney blood asserting itself in spite of all training, and history.

When old Messenger galloped down the gang-plank, full of fire and life after his six weeks' sea voyage, enthusiastic writers have estimated his arrival as worth just as many millions to the continent as their exuberance permitted them to suggest. We acknowledge his worth, but at the same time we would suggest that there was another horse equally worth mention, viz., Bellfounder. He was not only worthy of mention alongside of Messenger. But point out to me to-day what Messenger has done in the field for which he was imported, viz., as a race-horse. Does he take any great place as a producer of race-horses? If not, upon what does his prestige, his memory, his millions of dollars' value to the country, rest? Simply his alliance with a Bellfounder mare. Thence sprang the American trotter, and from that old, despised Bellfounder mare comes the trotting-bred gelding, now putting up for recognition at all the heavy-harness shows of America. We recognize his appearance and welcome him as one of ourselves. It is only old Bellfounder asserting his claims after many years. Bring your trotting-bred heavy harness horses along. We require no better evidence than to the Norfolk trotter, as represented in Bellfounder, the trotting horse, the fast two-minute horse, must ever ascribe that trotting instinct. We will admit that determined "Never say die," "Fight while I can breathe," comes from old Messenger, but his reputation will ever be associated with his successful alliance with mares by the Norfolk trotter. No gallop, the natural gait of Messenger, was developed. The grit and stamina, the bulldog hang-on-to-it-ness remains with Messenger; the trot, and all trot, one, two, three, four, from the Norfolk trotter, and that combination did make the American trotter, alas! now nearly obsolete. The stronger infusion of Messenger blood has started a mixed gait—the pacer—and to get back to the trotting gait, an infusion of trotting blood must be obtained from foundation sources, namely, the Norfolk trotter. We may be wrong, but the name "Hackney" is a misnomer. When we were young, we well remember our grandfather's and his goodwife our grandmother's saddle and pillion. They would average near 450 pounds, and this cob would carry them as easily as a race-horse carries 110 pounds. It was the cob or Norfolk trotter that did that; he could plow by day and carry the family away visiting, and if a sport came along he could have a match for a mile. It was that spirit of sport pervading the various districts of England, especially Norfolk, Yorkshire and eastern part of Lincolnshire, that made this breed of value. No matter where one introduces a good stallion here, what value, unless his neighbors respond? Messenger might have been brought into any part of Canada, and because he was a grey in color, he would probably have been passed by.

We take our memory back over fifty years, and the first stallion whose impress remains is a blue roan, "Prickwillow," a Norfolk trotter. Knee and hock responded. What a picture! The natural gait and fire was there, no better now. This gait is not artificial, it is inherited. We believe we know of what we write, for we saw it over fifty years ago, without the glamor or fascination of the show-ring to develop extra gait. It is in the breed, and has been for many, many years, and so inherited that it is bound to assert itself, no matter how the mare may be bred.

Size in Hackney over 15.3 puts him in the coach class, and the men wanting that size should be told so, and not let us spoil the best breed of horses for their own particular purpose, by catering to this plea for more size. Breed big mares with quality to these knee-and-hock actors, and surely you will get high-class carriage teams.

A word as to breeding. There was a horse called Fireaway imported into the Northwest by the Hudson's Bay Company over fifty years ago, and Dr. Rutherford, of the Dominion Board of Agriculture, assures us that even to-day the impress of old Fireaway may be noted in the districts in which he stood. Sensation has proved himself one of the most noted sires of the day. He is not 15.2, but so remarkable is his success