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EDITORIAL.

Etiquette of the Show-yard.

"Social observance required by good breeding," one of the dictionary definitions of the initial word in the above caption, would appear to suggest its apt application to the conduct of all those concerned in show-yard intercourse, whether as manager, exhibitor, judge, superintendent, ring master, privileged visitor or spectator at large. In these periodical gatherings considerable importance is attached to good breeding in the improved classes of live stock, and if it "tells," as is generally conceded it does, in the behavior of individuals of that realm, may we not reasonably expect to find it exemplified in greater degree in the higher order or "the brotherhood of man." These annual meetings of farmers, exhibitors and fair managers are, speaking generally, pleasant reunions of persons laboring for a common cause, and as the years go by we meet, with pleasure, or miss, with sadness, faces, forms and voices familiar to some of us for "lang syne," and it is well for us all to reflect that some day we too shall be missed, and, let us hope, remembered for our courteous observance of the etiquette of the show-yard. To contend manfully for one's rights, when denied or infringed upon, is the duty, and should be the privilege of all, but none should forget that others have rights which demand recognition and respect, and some allowance should be made for a possibly honest difference of opinion, and for the different standpoints from which things may be seen. The exhibitor should be a sportsman, in the sense of accepting gracefully the disappointments he is liable to meet from an adverse decision of the judge, remembering that even competent arbiters sometimes honestly differ in judgment and taste where competition is close, and that for this reason a showman sometimes receives more honors than he deems himself entitled to, and that in the long run his successes may average satisfactorily. This, we have reason to believe, is the experience of the majority of plucky exhibitors.

Judges are generally carefully chosen, for known competency, integrity, and acquaintance with the correct type of the class assigned them, and are supposed to adjudicate honestly and conscientiously, according to the best of their knowledge and discretion, as we believe they generally do. But if from any cause a mistake is made, or, in the opinion of an exhibitor, a wrong decision is given, he will gain nothing by exhibiting temper or indulging in offensive language in the hearing of the judge, who, if reasonably capable, is entitled to courteous consideration and respect. The judge should realize the serious responsibility of his position, remembering that, as a rule, much labor and expense has been devoted to the production and preparation of the exhibits before him, and that a faulty decision may do a man grave injustice, and also present an improper object lesson on type and quality to onlookers, some of whom may be equally as well qualified to judge as himself; while others, who look to him by his decisions to set the standard of excellence, in so far as the material before him admits, may be misled. Officers and superintendents of departments, it is conceded, have many difficulties to contend with in the effort to satisfy exhibitors and others whose demands are not always reasonable. But respectful attention to requests or complaints is due, and the soft answer or pleasant rejoinder costs no more than the snappish reply or the boorish rebuff, and leaves both parties in a happier mood and with more agreeable recollections. It will not in the least lower the sense of dignity of

a sensible official to regard himself as a servant of the people for the time being, since the highest examples of human kindness teach that it is nobler to minister to others than to be ministered to, and officials need to practice patience in their capacity, and to reflect that those who ask for information or make request for privilege have not the same facilities for securing information or ascertaining just what are their rights as have those in authority. Firmness in denying an unreasonable request may rightly be observed without giving offense, provided the denial be courteously given.

Ideal Types in Live Stock.

The state of perfection to which modern photography and photogravure has been brought, rendering possible the reproduction on the printed page of true likenesses of animals or other subjects, has added greatly to the interest of periodical literature, as well as to that of books, in the estimation of readers, both old and young. The present may be said to be in a marked degree an age of illustration in the realm of literature, and for the purposes of giving instruction and conveying information to the mind through the medium of the eye, photography, and its twin sister, photoengraving, have proved themselves peculiarly valuable. Pictures have in all ages been an attractive accompaniment of literature, but their adaptation to use on the printing press, except in the expensive form of steel or wood engravings, was comparatively impracticable before the discovery of photography, and their representations were at best but imperfect likenesses of the subject, as they were generally open to the charges of flattery or exaggeration, though in many instances fine productions of the art of drawing or delineation. In other cases they were, properly speaking, caricatures rather than correct portraits.

For this reason the pictures found in old books and papers, by way of illustration, especially those intended to represent animal life, convey by no means a correct idea of the types of the various breeds of live stock as they appeared in their day, leaving a good deal to be guessed at. This disability will not apply in respect to the character of the animal portraiture of the present by means of the camera, and the reproduction of its work in photoengraving as found in the pages of the agricultural papers and books of our day; and those who come after us will find in these productions fairly correct portraiture of the approved types of farm stock in the early years of the twentieth century and the latter part of the nineteenth, with which to make comparison, provided the contrast is confined to cuts made from productions of the camera.

"The Farmer's Advocate" has in recent years made a specialty of presenting to its readers high-class cuts, made from photographs, of the best types of pure-bred live stock as found in our own country and in the Old Land, the native home of most of the improved breeds, and we believe we are not open to the charge of undue egotism in saying that in this respect our pages compare favorably with those of the best journals of its class in any country. The present issue is liberally illustrated with first-class portraits of representative prizewinning animals of many of the leading breeds in Great Britain, which may serve to convey a good idea of the prevailing type of the best of those breeds, and may safely be taken as a guide by breeders in the selection and production of the class of stock approved by experienced breeders, by expert judges in the showing, by dealers in the markets, and by consumers who are connoisseurs in the final analysis.

Crop Estimates.

The business of estimating the world's crops is coming to be regarded as something of a colossal "bluff." The difficulty of making a reliable calculation of, say, the world's wheat harvest and the price per bushel six months hence, is prodigious, and the best attempts are hardly more than guesses. Experience has repeatedly been that official forecasts have been woefully astray, yet notwithstanding accumulated evidence of the almost impossible nature of the task, Departments of Agriculture, crop "experts," and financial publications are continually trying their hand at it. Market manipulators encourage the craft, with a view to furthering their own ends, and the easy-prey newspaper readers swallow the reports, estimates and forecasts as if they were really valuable information, and regard with admiration the enterprising journalists who, by some occult means, possess themselves of so much authentic (?) information. It would be in the interest of a credulous public to have the wool gently lifted from its eyes that it might see how superficially such reports are commonly compiled, how little besides "guff" there is in the figures, and how even the most expert crop reporters miss their guesses sadly. "The Farmer's Advocate," preferring to remain silent rather than set forth misleading half-truths, never has much to say about crop prospects and prices. If we really had reliable means of presaging yields and prices, as some papers purport to have, we would use the knowledge in making fortunes for ourselves, and so would the publishers and editors of the other papers. The latter, however, know full well that there is more money in serving up this "information" to the public than in speculating on the strength of it.

It is not denied that an accurate idea of the world's crops and crop prospects would be a boon to the farmer, enabling him to reap a higher average return for his produce, and govern his farm operations accordingly, thus tending to avoid over or under production, as the case might be. It is possible that when the King of Italy gets his International Agricultural Institute in running order he may develop a useful bureau of world-wide agricultural statistics. Meanwhile, it is all right enough for the press to post its readers so far as possible concerning yield and price prospects in its own and foreign countries, but the readers should be warned against jumping to conclusions that, because there is insurrection in Russia, or rust in the Northwest, therefore wheat prices will soar. The world is a big place, and one pollywog doesn't make a fish-pond. Substitution of one food product for another, unsuspected supplies in certain quarters, inaccurate reports, and a dozen other factors, must enter into consideration in all calculations. Then, too, information carefully compiled may be distorted in publication. For example, on the financial page of a usually reliable American magazine we noticed lately a paragraph summarizing the United States Government's crop report, and the article concluded with the remark, "Canada's wheat harvest is now (Aug. 16th) at its height. Last year's yield was 83,000,000 bushels. This year's will be about 100,000,000." In the first place, the figures, 83,000,000 bushels, applied merely to the spring-wheat production of our Northwest. The Dominion's total wheat crop must have been well over 160,000,000 bushels. In the second place, late reports do not indicate any such increase in the Western crop as the figures indicate. No doubt, however, they are about as near the mark as crop estimates usually are—which goes to substantiate our contention.