

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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Camera Competition.

Last year the "Farmer's Advocate" conducted a camera competition, which proved decidedly popular. The large number of amateur photographers who sent in samples of their work and the artistic excellence of the photographs indicated in a surprising degree the progress that has been made in that direction. Many of the photos were quite equal in artistic excellence and execution to the work of professionals, the subjects selected showing great variety and interest. So encouraging were the results, that we have decided to announce another competition open to amateurs, and to offer much larger prizes than we did in the competition of 1901. We now offer eight prizes, as follows: 1st, \$10; 2nd, \$7; 3rd, \$5; 4th, \$3; 5th, \$2; 6th, \$1; 7th, \$1; and 8th, \$1; for the best photographs of country homes, individual animals or groups, gardens, field scenes, orchards or fruit trees, bits of scenery or anything of that nature, subject to the subjoined rules:

All photographs must be not less than 4 x 5 inches in size, mounted, and be the work of amateurs.

All photographs must be clear and distinct in detail and well finished.

They must reach the "Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont., not later than October 1st, 1902.

The name of the competing photographer and post-office address, and the name and location of the scene, must be marked on the back of each photo.

Any person competing is at liberty to send more than one photograph if desired, but only one prize will be awarded to the same individual.

All the prizewinning photographs will become the property of the "Farmer's Advocate" for the purpose of illustration. We reserve the right to purchase, at 25 cents or 35 cents each, according to size, any photographs that do not win a prize.

No photograph is eligible to competition from which an engraving has previously been made, and photographs must be the work of competitors.

Judging Competitions.

With the improvement in the live-stock industry of this country during the last decade, has come a longing desire on the part of many men, both old and young, to become better acquainted with the formation and distinctive characteristics of the different breeds of stock. A more hopeful sign than this could, probably, not exist. The future success of our industry in beef and dairy products must depend very largely upon the interest which the young men of to-day take in educating themselves in this direction. The faculties of agricultural colleges and the managers of live-stock shows have not, as a rule, been slow to recognize this growth, with the result that during the last two years we find substantial prizes being offered at leading exhibitions to students or farmers' sons for proficiency in placing animals in the show-ring. In the Province of Ontario, the Massey-Harris Co. have offered liberal encouragement for this work at the Toronto, London and Ottawa shows. To a somewhat greater extent has this same feature been carried on at the Chicago International Show. There, however, only regularly enrolled students of agricultural colleges have been allowed to compete. Last year, eight institutions entered teams, and in 1900 a similar number took part. By reports coming from the different States or Provinces taking part, we believe that through these competitions a great stimulus has been given to the interest in stock-judging, not only in the institutions concerned, but also in the country which they represent.

At Canadian shows the contests have always been under the supervision of the exhibition executive, while at Chicago it has been directed entirely by the executive of the Student Judging Association, whose members were officers of agricultural colleges. At the last meeting of this body, held at Lansing, Mich., a few months ago, the question of discontinuing this feature of the International Show was taken up and urged by a majority of those present. In fact, one agricultural college had already issued a manifesto stating that in future their students would not take part. It now seems probable that other colleges will follow their example. These institutions do not object to competition between their own students, but they come out boldly in opposition to the same work when carried on between different agricultural colleges. They give as their principal objection that it tends to cultivate a spirit of rivalry such as should not exist between seats of learning whose aim it is to educate young men to higher usefulness in the agricultural world.

This we consider a serious step on the part of men who share in directing the destinies of our live-stock industry. If competition among young men of the same college be a desirable thing, and we know it is, why should it not be such between students of different institutions at the International? If it be possible that one college has had an unfair advantage in the past, why can better management by those having the contest in charge not overcome this or any other objectionable feature in future? We are pleased to notice that the International executive at their last meeting showed that they were alive to the full importance of this feature of their great show by arranging to carry on student judging-competitions, whether the professors who now have the matter in charge care to do so or not. This will give institutions that are not afraid to place their young men in competition against the world an opportunity to continue in a work which cannot fail to leave an impress of incalculable worth upon the future of our trade in beef products and upon the live-stock industry in general.

In conclusion, we trust that farmers' sons who are deeply interested in pure-bred stock will prepare themselves to take part in one of the judging competitions to be held in a few weeks at Toronto, London and Ottawa exhibitions. Good prizes are being offered, and although all cannot hope to gain a share of the money, to compete will in itself be an educator. Should one feel that his present knowledge does not fit him for entering the ring, he can take the shortest route to gaining a foundation in this line of instruction visit the principal shows, interest himself specially in the stock, go carefully over the prize winners, do not be afraid to ask the exhibitors

questions as to the breeding and relative merits of individuals being shown, and when winter comes be ready to join the short course in judging, which will doubtless be held again next winter at the Ontario Agricultural College.

The American Association of Farmers' Institute Workers.

(Special correspondence.)

The superintendents and directors of Farmers' Institutes, at their annual meeting held last year at Buffalo, decided to meet this year at Washington, D. C. The dates finally arranged were the 24th, 25th and 26th of June. Canada was represented by Mr. George C. Creelman, Supt. of F. I. for Ontario, and the writer of these notes. Mr. Creelman has for three years been the secretary of the International Association, and to him and the president, Mr. W. L. Amoss, Supt. of F. I. for Maryland, fell the task of arranging the programme. The meeting went without a hitch, the time was fully occupied, and the delegates were well pleased with the results. You can leave Toronto at 5.20 p. m. one day and be in Washington at 8.30 the next morning—an early tea in Toronto and a late breakfast in Washington. Here we have a good example of modern development, though population is extending, the means of communication are becoming more improved—the world is enlarging and contracting at the same time.

We left as the hay harvest was in progress here. When we awoke in Southern Pennsylvania we found the green fields had changed to golden yellow and the wheat harvest was on. We had lost a month of the year during the night, to be regained, however, on our return four days later. The trees were changing also; here and there the southern varieties, strangers to our own Province, were attracting our attention. The oaks of the South were most noticeable, for as we approached Baltimore and Washington we saw them festooned with brown and yellow branches, a strange effect, the cause of which we could not understand till we were on foot in the parks of the city. Here and there we found the ground under the trees perforated with holes, beside which were the discarded cases or coverings of the Cicada. We were now in the region of one of the important and extensive broods of seventeen-year locusts. After their long sleep the Cicadas have awakened in the ground, sloughed off their coverings and laid their eggs in the tender young twigs of the oaks. The destruction of the oak branches at the tips was now explained.

AGRICULTURE AT WASHINGTON.

We were in Washington, the magnificent city, the capital of the nation, the head of the greatest agricultural department of the world, and one of the finest residential cities of the continent. We were an hour too late to see the President, but in lieu thereof paid our respects to the different branches of the great department that annually spends \$5,000,000 in behalf of American agriculture, a work in the benefits of which we of Canada also have a large share. We saw the plans of the new Agricultural building, to replace the old one, at a cost of \$2,500,000. Not having space to refer at length to this work, we might mention that here we had the pleasure of seeing the work in hand to fight the San Jose scale. It may not be known to all your readers that Prof. Marlatt was sent to China and Japan to seek the natural enemies of the scale. The result of his investigation was, that a month or so ago the Entomological Branch of the Department was the proud possessor of two living lady beetles, small black insects with red spots, lady beetles that could be distinguished from a California variety only by the greatest difficulty. Some experts thought they were not a new species, but in the larval form these new beetles have a few microscopic hairs and humps that are lacking in the others. The point, however, and the excuse for spending a couple of thousand dollars apiece for these little beetles, is that they voraciously destroy the scale in Asia. They are breeding rapidly and soon the two will have become a million, and distribution to infected orchards will be undertaken. Is the fate of the scale settled? We shall see ere long.

INSTITUTE WORKERS IN SESSION.

But let us return to our Association. Forty delegates came from as many sections. Here were representatives from California and Washington, on the far Pacific; well-known men from Louisiana, Florida, Mississippi, and the Carolinas. Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan and Ontario sent "Men of the North." It was a pleasure to meet with veterans in the field of agricultural extension and research. Among the many that might be mentioned were: McKerrow, of Wisconsin; Latta, of Indiana; Smith, of Michigan; Hamilton, of Pennsylvania; Voorhees, of New Jersey; Amoss, of Maryland; and Stockbridge, of Florida. Dr. A. C. True and Prof. Spillman, of the Department, also contributed to the interest of the meeting. The object of the Association is to compare methods, to give and to get help, and to