

# The Farmer's Advocate

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### EDITORIAL.

#### Who Best Enjoys the Fair?

We often ask ourselves, when note-taking at the large exhibitions, who gets the most real, solid satisfaction out of the fair, particularly the live-stock end of it? The city visitors walk through the barns, looking without seeing, wondering sometimes at the size or fatness of an animal and admiring its sleek condition, but failing to understand the utility of the various breeds, and knowing little or nothing of the points which to the judge and breeder constitute excellence. The urban visitor's idea is a superficial one; his examination teaches him scarcely anything worth carrying away.

The rural observer is somewhat more fortunate. He has, in the majority of cases, nowadays, a tolerable conception of what such and such a breed is kept for, and what points go to make up merit. He has enough knowledge to enable him to learn. To him the prize cards carry lessons. But at a large exhibition, where there is much to see in a short space of time, even the farm boy, who is most interested in stock, seldom pauses long enough to properly size up the individuals and take in the full significance of the facts which the prize ribbons proclaim. Usually, too, the disposition to hurry on is assisted by a pressing crowd behind.

The large fall shows are indisputably educators, but by no means so effective ones as the Winter Fairs, and as for the satisfaction of attendance, while we would not discourage our readers from going to the fall shows, watching the judging rings, and appropriating all the benefit possible, still we sometimes think that the amateur eye must become surfeited with the superfluity of perplexing excellence. On the whole, we do not believe even country visitors obtain the greatest amount of satisfaction from the fair, the disposition to attempt doing the whole show in one day being a grave mistake; better see less and learn more, or take more time and do the seeing well.

Is it the writer? The men who watch the rings to review the classes for the agricultural press look as though they had a snap. They wear unsoiled clothes; do not, as a rule, rise before the sun; board usually in good hotels, and their company is courted on general principles. But some liquids which appear limpid at the surface, have a heavy sediment on the bottom of the glass. It is so with the journalist's cup. Reviewing exhibitions is the most taxing work he has to do. He must carry in his head the run of the whole show, possess himself of accurate information about the animals judged, how each was placed and why, and then, when the judge has completed his labors and the competitors have retired from the ring, the reviewer retires to his room, sits down, collects his thoughts, gathers up the threads and weaves them into a story which must be at once reliable, critical and fair. Then, indeed, is his no bed of roses. Add to this many miscellaneous appointments and odds and ends of business, and recollect that when he gets back to his office he has to hustle to finish his report and also provide other grist for the insatiable maw of the printing office. This kind of thing he does year after year, till exhibitions become wearisome in their monotony. Verily his avocation is not what it looks to be to the uninitiated. He attends the fairs, not for the fun there is in it, but because duty calls him there.

Having eliminated the above classes, the only remaining one is the exhibitors. Casual observation might leave the impression that these were the ones who derived least pleasure of all. They

wear working clothes, and are obliged to stay by their charges faithfully early and late; their fund of spending money is more or less limited, and their opportunities for enjoyment seem few. Nor do the above-mentioned constitute the chief disadvantages they endure. They are used to the clothes, and are by no means anxious to change them for more excellent garb; their hours and their duties are such as they are accustomed to, and the daily routine is not more irksome than that of those on whom Fortune seems to smile her sweetest. Clothes, gilded parlors and beautiful drawing-rooms are a small part of life, after all. Still, the herdsman's lot is not a flowery bed of ease. On him, as on the reporter, the monotony of exhibitions tells heavily. But there is this compensation about his job, his principal strain and the heaviest of his labor comes towards the fore part of the show, and when the exhibition is over he is through with it for that year. The thing winds up with a hurrah for home. But his greatest source of pleasure is the fact that he has something tangible to show for his time. His effort is not a gathering of superficial impressions, to be forgotten before they are cold, nor is it a preparation of reading matter which will be stale in a week. He is fashioning types with judgment and skill, investing his money with hope of a return. He is producing something, accomplishing something, and the judicial decorations indicate a usually competent arbitration of his progress towards an ideal. His sons, and even his hired hands, feel a proprietary interest in the enterprise, and share the satisfaction of the laurels. The work they do is a labor of pride and love, for the fit and the handling often determine the position in anything like close competition. Besides, there is the substantial reward in prize money, and while this may often barely cover the expense of exhibiting, there is at least an advertisement to the good. On the whole, then, the result of our soliloquy is always a conclusion that the successful live-stock exhibitor and his assistants, while they may have to put up with a good deal, obtain the greatest degree of net pleasure of all who go to constitute the show. They are the only class we ever feel inclined to envy.

#### "Bob, Son of Battle."

In our "Home Magazine" of this number appears a detailed announcement of the new serial of which we have secured the publication rights for Canada. Alfred Ollivant's "Bob, Son of Battle," is one of those North Country stories of men and sheep and dogs that stir the blood and touch the heart at its innermost core. The first instalment of the story will appear in our next issue, October 11th. Its incidents and characters, though located in the Old Land, are invested with such universality of interest as to proclaim their kinship with our readers in this and every other land. They will do well to be on the lookout for it, and also to preserve the numbers of the paper containing the initial chapters, as we cannot undertake to supply back copies for new subscribers or those who may overlook the early reading agent the Gray Dogs of Kenmuir.

The Canadian Manufacturers' Association, at their annual convocation, in Winnipeg, the buoyant capital of the mighty West, laid it down as a cardinal principal that this country must impose still higher protective duties; and, about the same time, a great labor organization, in convention assembled, was warning the Dominion Government against the immigration of skilled labor into Canada. Two aspects of protection, and both wrong.

#### Dairy Conventions and Shows.

The history of Ontario dairying for the past thirty years has been one of steady and remarkable progress. This has been due to a variety of causes. In the first place, the soil and climate of the Province very naturally combined to furnish the requisite foods for dairy stock, and the supply of water is abundant and good. The temperature is generally favorable for the production of butter and cheese of first-rate quality. Intelligence, industry and enterprise have been, from the first, the characteristics of our dairymen. Chief among the agencies which have brought about the present flourishing condition of the industry were the early adoption of the factory system, followed by the inauguration of the Dairymen's Associations, wisely aided by the Provincial Government; the system of travelling instruction and inspection, the establishment of schools for the special education of dairymen, the attention given to cold storage, the transportation of dairy products and other phases of the industry by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, the enterprise of breeders of dairy cattle, dairy demonstrations at the fairs, promotion of dairying by the agricultural press, and the favorable reception of our products in Great Britain. The seasons of 1905 and 1906 have been phenomenal in this respect, and the industry is booming. There is every probability that the next annual conventions, Eastern Ontario at Ottawa, Jan. 9-11, and the Western, at London, Jan. 16-18, will be record-breakers. Among other matters of business, these gatherings will doubtless decide upon the suggested Provincial Dairy Show, now under consideration. At the conference held in Toronto on the subject, it was pointed out that the dairy hall on the National Exhibition grounds, while splendid for the autumn display, owing to the difficulty of heating in winter and long distance from the heart of the city, would not be so suitable for a winter event, hence the request for another structure, located down town, where it might be used for other similar purposes. Toronto will desire to be assured that the proposed show would be permanent and a success before committing itself, and the Provincial Government as to whether the results, over and above what can be attained by the present exhibition machinery, would be commensurate with the necessary subsidy, whether held in Toronto or elsewhere. Our own impression is that the dairy stock features, particularly of the winter fairs, might certainly, with advantage, be strengthened to very good purpose, for these successful shows, combining so many other instructive events, attract a very large attendance of the very class of people it is desired to reach. The new National Dairy Show and Congress, at Chicago, last winter, was not encouraging for events of that sort, but a committee has been called to consider the question of undertaking another in 1907. A show of that kind alone does not attract a large attendance. The most successful combination of show and educational gatherings has been our Canadian Winter Fairs, and if the Provincial Dairy Show idea could not be made permanently successful, unless at too great a deficit, the present plan of dairy exhibits in connection with the Eastern and Western Dairy Associations might be further developed. These gatherings are such useful agencies, easily accessible to dairymen, that they should rather be strengthened and improved. Wherever held they engender intelligence and local enthusiasm. A few years ago the old Ontario Creamery Association was merged in the Eastern and Western Associations, which had previously devoted themselves mainly to the cheese industry. A further proposition was once mooted to centralize the