

THE FARMING WORLD

Devoted to Canadian Country Life

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Always mention The Farming World when sending orders. It will usually be an advantage to do so.

eastward as far as Albany and Syracuse. This should mean a very largely increased attendance at the Canadian National this year.

While the Toronto Exhibition is undoubtedly the greatest annual fair on this continent, there are other Canadian exhibitions that should receive more generous terms from the railways than they have in the past. A little co-operation among fair boards might help to secure this. There should be no jealousy among them. They are all working for the same end, varied, of course, as to the size of the exhibition and the field to be covered. Cheaper railway rates is one of the things they should co-operate in. A statement of the annual attendance at such fairs as Toronto, London, Ottawa, Sherbrooke, Halifax, Charlottetown, Winnipeg and Brandon, presented in the proper way, would show the railways that the exhibitions of this country have a just

claim to the very best rates, both for exhibits and passengers. There has been a little too much working at cross purposes in recent years among fair managers. They gain nothing by such action and lose the benefit that co-operative effort would have in securing better terms from the railways.

Then the claims of the annual fairs to better consideration from the railways would be greatly strengthened if more attention were given to educational features. Of late there seems to be a little retrograding in this respect on the part of fair managers and the tendency to cater more to amusements and special attractions seems to be stronger than it was a few years ago. At the coming Toronto Exhibition the prizes for horse races have been increased by several thousand dollars. It is claimed by many that the educational features do not draw. But this has been entirely disproved by the Provincial Winter Fair at Guelph. It is a purely educational show, without any attempt whatever at providing amusement or entertainment for visitors, and yet the buildings erected only a few years ago for the purpose of this show are inadequate to accommodate the crowds that attend every year. Fair managers should take a lesson from this and give more attention at the fall exhibitions to features that will educate and make better citizens of those who attend. The amusement features should be of secondary consideration.

If this policy were adopted by fairs generally they would receive more generous treatment from the railways and be in a better position to enforce their claims upon them. The big men who manage and control the railways of the country are the first to recognize in an individual or institution work that helps to increase and improve the country's output, whether it be in grain crops, live stock, fruit, dairy products, etc. Such increases mean more products for the railways to carry to market and a more prosperous community.

Canada Importing Mutton

It is stated on the best authority that a contract has been made between certain importers of the West and some Australian shippers for a large quantity of frozen meat to be supplied for consumption in British Columbia and the other western provinces as far east as Winnipeg.

This is reversing the proper order of things with a vengeance; but that is not all. For some time past the supply of mutton on our own markets has been so insufficient in point of quantity that our dealers have been importing sheep from the United States. From this it would appear that instead of being exporters of live stock, as we were thirty years ago, we are now reduced to the necessity of obtaining a large portion of our meat supply from countries which we usually consider are not so favorably

situated, agriculturally speaking, as our own.

That the sheep raising industry has been neglected is only too true, and that our farmers have lost money in consequence is also true. It is urged now prices for wool prevailed sheep were not profitable. But this was never the case. The truth is, that sheep, properly managed for mutton alone, will directly and indirectly pay as well as any stock on the farm.

The fact seems to be that in our anxiety to build up a large export trade in dairy products we have overlooked other equally important branches of agriculture, with the result that we are now sending part of the money we receive for our dairy exports out of the country to purchase necessary meat supplies which we could easily and profitably produce for ourselves.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The United States as usual seem to be getting the lion's share of the trade in South Africa. A recent visitor from that country states that there is no reason why Canadian made goods should not take the place of goods from the United States in that colony.—And echo answers, why?

It is specially in the interest of the Maritime Provinces that the Government should do more for the development of trade with the West Indies. Mr. J. D. Allan has recently visited that colony as a representative of the Toronto Board of Trade and reports prospects good for the building up of a substantial trade with that portion of the empire.

In 1905 the exports from Canada to Mexico amounted to \$115,000. During 1906 they amounted to \$259,300. In the same time the imports from Mexico to Canada increased from \$61,000 to \$287,500. This is a trade that should be developed. A good market could be found in Mexico for a great deal of our pure-bred stock. The Government should look into this question.

Though a number of immigrants have come to Ontario this spring, the farm help problem is still acute. Many of those arriving are mechanics and prefer to get employment at their own calling rather than go on the farm. Wages are high and farmers are bidding against each other in order to get the help they want. The farm laborer just now is the man of the hour and can have pretty nearly what he has a mind to ask.

A German experimenter has succeeded in obtaining distant telephonic words in a tolerably natural voice with a wireless telephonic distance of two miles by using poles thirty feet high. When a person this will be to the farmer. He can erect a phone to the top of his house and talk to Neighbor Jones about the weather.

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