

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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dairy department are also of special interest, and, while there is room for expansion of this feature of the show, much beyond what it has yet attained, yet there is much of interest to farmers in this section of the show, as it is on the improvement of our milking stock very largely that the profit of the dairy business depends.

The importance of good seed and of pure seed is becoming more and more generally acknowledged and appreciated, and a seed section has been inaugurated in connection with the winter fairs which should prove of interest to all farmers.

In addition to all these features, a live-stock judging competition for young men under 25 years of age is instituted, in connection with which liberal cash premiums are offered, which will doubtless prove an attractive and interesting feature.

The Maritime Winter Fair, at Amherst, Nova Scotia, to be held this year December 3rd to 6th, though only in its four-year-old form, has proved a decided success, and is now regarded as the most instructive and useful, as well as interesting, exhibition in the Provinces by the Sea. This fair was in its first year so favorably regarded by the town of Amherst that they offered to equip a building for its purposes at a cost of about \$20,000, under agreement with the Maritime Stock-breeders' Association, to hold the Winter Fair there for a period of ten years. Last year the prize-money offered was about \$6,000, which will be increased this year. This show has adopted practically all the features of the Guelph event, and the indications are that this year's exhibition will be the best in the history of the institution.

The Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, at Guelph, slated for the dates Dec. 10th to 14th, gives promise of being better in every respect than any of its predecessors, the prize-list being unusually attractive, while it is believed that more first-class stock than ever is being prepared for this show this year.

The Eastern Ontario Live-stock and Poultry Show Association, having its headquarters at Ottawa, has hitherto held its exhibitions in March, and has not yet published its dates for this year, but we are assured that no effort will be spared to make the next show better than those of the past. Their new exhibition building for the purposes of their Winter Fair has had an unfortunate experience, but has at last been securely constructed, and will be ready for the accommodation of the next show, and will be admirably adapted for the purpose. We commend, without reservation, the winter Fairs to the support and patronage of farmers willing to profit by the example and experience of successful breeders and feeders, as evidenced by the exhibits at these events, to learn from the lectures and discussions by practical farmers at the meetings during the days of the show, and to catch the spirit of enthusiasm that counts for much in the prosecution of intelligently-conducted farming and stock-raising.

Over Two Thousand.

Over two thousand questions a year are answered in our "Questions and Answers" columns. These columns contain volumes of the most timely and practical information, boiled down to a concentrated extract. A year's files of "The Farmer's Advocate," provided with indexes (supplied semi-annually on request), are an invaluable encyclopedia. Wear old clothes, eat plain food, work an extra day—if necessary—but never, never, never allow yourself to be one year without "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." It will help you to greater prosperity, better clothes, better board, and a happier life, if anything can. There is no other paper for the farm home just as good, nor half so good. No Canadian farmer who consults his own and his family's best interests will ever do without the farmer's champion, friend and adviser, "The Farmer's Advocate." It is the first necessity of all.

Our Maritime Letter.

The exhibition at Charlottetown effected a great concourse of people, mostly Islanders. Those who came over the Straits were badly tossed-up by the high winds and surging waves, and even in the summer season they would, we opine, elect some other system of transportation besides navigation. A fine week preceded and a fine week followed the exhibition period, which was windy at best, if bright and clear for the most part. Indeed, such a pleasant fall as we have had all through September and October, it would be hard to excel anywhere.

The people came out then in great crowds—they always come out to the exhibition—and seemed to take a keener interest than usual in the educational phases of the fair. Of course, when the bell rang for racing, there was a general stampede in the direction of the track; but even with such racing as is had here, with such horses as usually enter, the educational, as we have said at the National Stock-breeders' Association at Ottawa, is never very seriously eliminated. Dr. Hugo Reed, of Guelph, who presides, sees that pure racing is indulged in, and nothing else. The people seem to enjoy it, too, and we have come over to the belief that rural populations want all the unobjectionable amusements possible. Extremists on either side of this question are dangerous.

Judging the pure-breds and Thoroughbreds at the fair was an exciting hour, as was, indeed, the time spent in the ring in all the horse classes. There was a large exhibit, and it, unlike the other animal classes, was almost entirely of Island stock. Some said that our horses, on the whole, were not up to other years; others thought they never looked better. With such

sires as are now available, it would be in the highest sense discreditable if we deteriorated in horses. We do not think that we have; but the big prices, the persistent solicitations of the buyers, have picked off about everything for sale at all. Good young mares should never be sacrificed, even at fabulous prices; they are the hope of the land in horseflesh. The question of sires will look after itself.

The sheep, swine and cattle classes were well filled, and highly praiseworthy. The poultry was never better. There was much from without, and this department is extending yearly. There is nothing the Island is making more money out of than poultry; and, whilst the market in eggs or meat is not half discriminating enough, there is evidence of a desire on the part of farmers generally to breed purely and profitably. Fancy stock may not be found, as in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, but utility birds render excellent service on almost every steading. Mr. Landry, who judges here, knows his business. Indeed, the judges all round are a careful, capable, creditable bunch. It is, however, placing almost too much upon the public servants to discriminate against the animals of prominent men who are daily in contact with the departments, and where pique or whim may affect their positions at Ottawa. "Hell hath no fury like a woman's scorn," the poet says; next to that, then, may be the disappointed ambition of professional exhibitors of the politician class. It's dangerous to cross their path.

In the Main Building, the fruit and dairy show was the chief feature. In both industries are we deeply interested, as the Island's future is bound up in them principally. The dairy show was never equalled here—never excelled in Maritime Canada. The long rows of cheese-boxes, with their rich contents—some rounds, some squares—give one the idea at once that the Island is a great dairy country. The butter business was also excellently represented. "I have never seen a better exhibit anywhere," said Judge Daigle to us. We hope to see it bettered every year here. If we continue to hold exhibitions, we must show up the great dairy branch of our work appropriately.

And the fruit! "I am more convinced than ever of the excellence of your apples," said the veteran pomologist judge, R. W. Starr, of Nova Scotia. This was an off year here; very much so, indeed, and such a peculiar season; even in October all winter fruits were immature and undeveloped. Still, the whole range of apples were on exhibition, and we competed with the Annapolis Valley, much more advanced as to season and methods of orcharding. Our takings were highly satisfactory to our exhibitors. We have much to do here yet, it is true, but we have made the start, and the commercial side of the business will do the rest. Island Gravensteins were, to our mind, superb, but the colored varieties were redder and more beautiful than anything to be seen anywhere.

In field roots we were not so prominent as in other years, and the Island alone competed. Garden truck filled the whole section devoted to that sort of thing. Our potato crop is very inferior and late, and the turnip crop is short, too. Still, there were many wonderful specimens of all kinds of roots and vegetables to be seen, abundantly manifesting our supremacy here. The grains and seeds were out in array, and in seeds we should, with our comparatively clean fields, excel. There were beautiful samples in all the classes, and the judges expressed their appreciation of Island grains in no uncertain sound.

It would take a day to go into the arts and manufactures, with any kind of satisfaction. This feature was enhanced by a big display of textiles from Ontario. The handwork of the weaver in linen and wool, in all their combinations, was much admired, and undoubtedly will be imitated by our clever farm women. The dainty work in silk and fine fabrics, and the attempts at fine arts display, were not so encouraging. Still, this is hardly the sort of place to produce high-class artists.

The exhibition was under the management—President Hazard and Secretary Smallwood. They both did their best. Whilst there is always room for improvement, it is long to say that