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EDITORIAL.

FALL-FAIR PROGRAMMES.

As the time is approaching when directors of township and county agricultural societies will be preparing the prize-lists and programmes for their fall fairs, any helpful hints or suggestions from those having had experience in the working of such societies, or having observed the results of successfully-managed shows, will doubtless receive respectful consideration from Boards of Directors who may be presumed to have at heart the best interests of their societies and of the farming community generally. To this end, we invite discussion in our columns, and shall be pleased to receive suggestions, the publication of which may help to raise the standard of usefulness of these important organizations. It must be admitted that there is a deplorable lack of interest and enthusiasm on the part of a large percentage of farmers in the practical support and encouragement of the management of such societies, the principal point considered by too many being to get all they can out of them, while putting as little as possible into the enterprise. This lack of interest is manifest in the meagre attendance at the annual meetings and in the uncertainty of the membership list, so many deferring the payment of the membership fee until near the date of the fair, when they can decide whether they have anything they think good enough to stand a reasonable chance of winning a prize that will a little more than recoup the amount of their membership fee. Such parsimony handicaps the men in charge of the affairs of the societies, causing them to limit the extent of the prize-list, and to consider the introduction of features deemed necessary to the financial success of the show, lest the income may at the end of the year prove less than the outgo, leaving a balance on the wrong side of the account, and leaving the directorate open to censure for mismanagement. To the lack of a strong membership list is doubtless due, to a considerable extent, the idea that the introduction or admission of special attractions having no connection with agriculture, but the tendency of which is rather to distract the minds of the people from the legitimate and practical features of a farmers' and artisans' exhibition, are necessary in order to raise funds, by the gate receipts, sufficient to meet the general expenses of the society.

We have called attention to this too general failing on the part of the people to support the officers of the society, in order to show that we know from experience that the latter are often less blameable for the unsatisfactory condition than many are apt to think, and that running a show is no easy proposition. And our object in this article is, in part, to remind the community of its duty in the premises, and rather to encourage than censure fair managers, for whom, when satisfied they are honestly endeavoring to do what is best in the general interest, we have much sympathy and consideration, while we have nothing but censure for the admission to fair grounds of mountebank, gambling and other improper side-shows.

The fact that a few county shows are being successfully conducted, without horse-racing and other features foreign to the legitimate objects of an agricultural society, should encourage others to emulate the example. And where it is considered that a fair cannot be made a financial suc-

cess without the speeding of horses, it would appear to be practicable to so arrange the programme of the fair days that at certain hours educational features, such as judging competitions for young men, and the judging of certain classes of live stock other than horses, may be conducted at hours when there are no speeding or horse-showing events on the carpet, since young people are apt to be attracted by these features away from others of quite as much importance, and more instructive and helpful in the business of farming. The offering of special prizes for stock bred by the exhibitor and for produce raised or made by exhibitors resident in the county or district, should prove effective in encouraging a large number to prepare something for competition, thus enlarging the scope of the work of the society and proving an incentive to improvement.

If arrangements could be effected whereby Farmers' Institutes and Women's Institutes could be represented on the directorate of the agricultural societies, and co-operate with them in adding to the interest of the show, such affiliation should be helpful to all concerned. The idea which has become common, that the fall-fair day must be regarded as largely a holiday, set apart for amusement, is not the correct conception of the objects of the society, and should be to a considerable extent checked. There are many public holidays in the year which should sufficiently serve the purposes of amusement and entertainment without infringing upon the rightful objects of agricultural societies, and an honest effort should be made by farmers to have the one or two days in the year chosen for their annual exhibitions made useful and educative, as well as a relaxation from the ordinary work of the farm. We shall be pleased to receive for publication suggestions which may be considered helpful in arriving at so desirable a consummation.

FARMERS AND MAKERS NOT TO BLAME.

According to an editorial in the Trade Bulletin, of Montreal, the losses sustained by cheese exporters last summer through shipping the goods too green, were rather serious, owing to the deterioration in quality and heavy shrinkage, amounting, in some cases, to four pounds on the box. These losses, it is said, have given such dissatisfaction to importers and retailers on the other side that Canadian cheese has suffered in prestige so much that buyers are chary in taking hold. Attempt is made to fasten the blame on our farmers and makers, who are lectured on their shortsightedness. Against this view, "The Farmer's Advocate" desires most emphatically to protest. It is a notorious fact that the buyers last year did all they could to persuade factory-men to ship as quickly as possible, often guaranteeing a certain price for Saturday's cheese shipped on the following Monday, but not promising to pay such a price unless the cheese were promptly shipped. The truth was that buyers were in continual fear that prices would tumble, and were also trying to get the cheese each before his competitor. Yet, in spite of this fact, there are those who tell us that the factorymen should not have sold, that they should have refused to let their cheese go, on the ground that the shipping of green cheese would prejudice our national reputation. The buyers, we are complacently told, have no interest at stake, for if the cheese industry is ruined, they can turn to some other business. All kinds of excuses for the buyers, but the farmer and maker must shoulder the whole responsibility. The impossible feature of this disposition of the problem is the utter hopelessness of any effective co-operation in holding the

cheese, and what is the sense of a few men or factories denying themselves a tempting price when they know too well that their neighbors will reap the whole benefit of their self-abnegation, at the same time defeating the object of the public-spirited ones? There is no reason in this light and airy talk about the duty of the salesman to refuse to sell green cheese. The dealers, being few in number, could unite to save the situation if they would. If they cannot be persuaded to action, we may as well save our breath, unless, indeed, something might be done by legislation, which is by no means easy. The only other hope is that a season of more moderate prices than last may remove the inordinate temptation to ship cheese from the hoops. In this way, as frequently happens, the trouble will right itself.

NOTABLE EXPERIMENT IN AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

It is significant and encouraging that the dominant note in the educational propaganda of progressive countries is for the encouragement of agriculture. The Legislature of Ontario at its recent session sanctioned an appropriation of \$6,000 for the initiation of special departments in agriculture in half a dozen High Schools; and Georgia, one of the wealthiest and most aggressive of the Southern States, has, with commendable liberality, launched a policy which reflects well the liberal spirit of The New South. Eleven Congressional or Agricultural High Schools were recently established, partly by State appropriation and partly from local taxation. It is expected that they will have an income of at least \$10,000 each a year, and as between \$800,000 and \$1,000,000 has been subscribed by the different localities where the schools are located, they will be quite well equipped with buildings, land, etc. In fact, some of them will put \$10,000 in buildings and equipment to start with. This certainly may be regarded as one of the greatest experiments in agricultural education on the Continent, and the outcome will be watched with the deepest possible interest. A new agricultural college has also been located at Athens, towards which the State has appropriated \$100,000, and the citizens and alumni of the university have purchased a farm of several hundred acres, at a cost of about \$100,000 additional. The new college enjoys a considerable endowment from the Federal Fund for that purpose, and the approaching session of the State Legislature is expected to make generous provision for maintenance, the purchase of herds and flocks, the erection of barns and other equipment. To the headship of this great institution, a Canadian, Prof. Andrew M. Soule, has been chosen, and he will also be largely responsible for the management of the agricultural high-school system being established. Prof. Soule's record as Dean and Director of the Virginia College of Agriculture and Experiment Station, naturally attracted the attention of the neighboring State, and, we presume, led to his selection by the Georgia authorities to head this great movement in agricultural education. A native of Wentworth Co., Ont., near Hamilton, he came of U. E. Loyalist stock, his father being John Soule, and his mother's maiden name Margaret Shaw, sister of Prof. Thos. Shaw, and Mr. John C. Shaw, of Norwich, Ont., a farming family of Ayrshire descent. Educated at the local rural and the Niagara Falls Grammar Schools, Prof. Soule did his share of active farm work, and took a full course at the Ontario Agricultural College, which naturally views with satisfaction his advancement in the South.