

# The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine

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## EDITORIAL.

Vote "no."

Support the farmer candidate.

May the best man win regardless of party.

Don't be a silent voter. Work for the cause and the candidate you think should win.

Brighten up the pens and stables with whitewash with which is combined a good disinfectant.

Cast your ballot for a farmer and see if we cannot get better legislation than has been meted out in the past.

The old political parties are under suspicion, and a farmers' wing in Dominion and Provincial Houses may do a lot of good.

Use paint and oil freely on the implements, and thus prolong their life. The period of usefulness of all farm machinery is altogether too short.

A "yes" vote on the coming referendum would set prohibition back for a quarter century at least. Don't drop the bone for the shadow. Vote "no."

Labor is not seriously concerned about the quality or quantity of service rendered these days, and everyone is feeling the effects in increased costs.

The Board of Commerce may possibly be able to exercise some jurisdiction over the price farmers receive for their produce, but the Board lacks the power to make farmers produce any particular commodity at a loss.

The live stock will soon be coming in for the winter. Replace the broken glass in the stable windows, clean down the cobwebs, repair worn-out floors and renovate the whole stable before it is time to use it continuously. These are rainy-day jobs which should not be neglected.

Farmers are constantly dealing in futures. At present many are decreasing their live-stock holdings on account of feed prices and the shortage of grain and fodder. On the other hand it is worthy of consideration that Western Canada has undergone a heavy liquidation of live stock, from which that country will not recover for years, and all over Canada there has been a marked decrease in the number of sows farrowed and bred this fall. What of the future? It looks like a good time to hold on to all good breeding stock and keep the home fires burning brightly.

With the aid of commissions and investigations we manage to get along from month to month and year to year, but the future is a blank. Radical ones, just out of jail, suggest a Soviet Government and others, with still more raving minds, suggest no government at all, which is an improvement on the first. Some think that single tax would be a panacea for all our ills, and we hear how public ownership, land tax, direct tax, socialism, independence and what not would make everything right. Everyone seems to be sparring for position; the spirit of the times is to take all you can get and give as little as possible in return for it. The idea of giving service and just a little more than is paid for seems to be a lost virtue. The Golden Rule is forgotten and the golden calf restored. The religion of our fathers fails to govern the ways of men, and until one and all become imbued with the spirit of service and fair play there is little hope of a satisfactory adjustment of the unsettled state of affairs.

### A Few Plow Points.

The initial step in the preparation of a seed-bed for next spring's crop should now be taken. Sod should be plowed and, in order to do a thorough job, a skimmer ought to be used so as to prevent that grassiness which often characterizes plowed fields during an open fall. Many fields became quite green last season where the skimmer was not used. Instead of the sod being turned well under so it would become killed and rotted, portions of it protruded and continued to send up vegetation. In such a case decomposition is not so well advanced and in a late spring, when grass has an opportunity to grow before one can get on with cultivator or harrows, the task of preparing a good seed-bed is greater than it otherwise would be. A skimmer is a very useful attachment to the plow.

Most soils will permit of fairly deep plowing in the fall, and one more inch of soil, over the whole farm, exposed to the modifying influence of the elements is a valuable asset. There has been a tendency in some sections to turn a shallow furrow. The heavy draft on the two-furrow plow is responsible for this in some cases, and in other instances plows were so made that they would not turn a deep furrow satisfactorily. There is much plant food lying locked up in the lower portions of the surface soil, and all that is required to liberate it is exposure to frost, air and rains.

Where the subsoil lies near the surface, only a very thin layer should be lifted to the top at one time. Too large a bulk of this raw subsoil might decrease the productivity of the surface soil, but a sprinkling of it every time the field is broken up will do no harm, and the cropping depth will be gradually increased.

### Live-Stock Judges.

The time is not inopportune at the conclusion of the larger fairs to offer a few comments on the manner in which the judging is conducted. The judging ring is the supreme court where decisions are handed down, and where the comparative values of many animals are established. Its educational value is beyond estimate; it selects the standards for expert breeders and sets up ideals for the average producer of live stock. The judging ring is the most important feature of any exhibition.

Judging has been tried under three systems, namely, one judge to a breed, two judges, and a triumvirate. In all our experience in fair reporting, we have seen less dissatisfaction and fewer apparent mistakes where one judge worked alone on a breed, than where two or three worked together. Showing live stock is no easy task, and exhibitors like to see the judging carried out with despatch. Here again, one judge (if a good one, and none other should be selected) is better than two or three. He does not have to argue fine points with his colleagues; he makes up his own mind and that is sufficient. Again, if the judge's decision does not coincide with opinions entertained by an exhibitor, or anyone else entitled to "satisfaction" on the point in question, there are only two parties to the argument, and the whole thing is simplified. Good, trustworthy judges should first be selected, and then allowed to work alone on the breed they are asked to judge. The two-judge or three-judge system is evidence of the lack of confidence in any one of the two or three men selected, and therefore condemns itself.

Another matter which some fair boards should consider is the matter of selecting breed experts to judge the various breeds. A man's knowledge of Herefords, does not qualify him to judge Shorthorns, neither does an intimate acquaintance with Shorthorns qualify one to judge Aberdeen-Angus cattle. The same is true with the dairy breeds.

The exhibitors want to know wherein their animals are not right, and, to be educational, decisions must be

based on breed characteristics to some extent. Exhibitors are showing more than beef cattle or dairy cattle, they are exhibiting representatives of distinct breeds. A judge is doing the breed and its patrons an injustice when he does not take into consideration the characteristics and disqualifications of the breed itself. There are fancy points which may, and should, be overlooked, but generally speaking, the peculiarities of the distinct and established breeds ought to be recognized; otherwise all beef breeds might as well constitute one class and dairy breeds another. In order to conduct the judging more satisfactorily breed experts should be selected in every case.

### Larger Premiums Necessary.

Labor, feed and expenses of all kinds in connection with the showing of live stock at the fairs has risen by leaps and bounds, but the premiums or prizes have remained about the same. Showing never was a profitable pursuit when the immediate receipts only were taken into consideration. Exhibitors have always depended upon the advertising they would give to their herds and flocks by bringing them before the public in this way, for the expense of showing was always large, and when the competition was keen the receipts were none too bountiful. A breeder must begin months in advance to prepare his animals for the show-ring, and in that preparation expensive labor and feed are generously used. This goes on until the stock arrives home from the fairs, and if the herd or flock has not been fairly successful in winning prizes, the financial loss is considerable. Take the live stock away from a fair altogether or have a light showing, and the whole exhibition feels it severely. The live-stock exhibits should be kept up, and to do this most effectively the prizes should be increased in sympathy with the times. Fair boards, of course, can use the argument that a splendid showing was made this year in spite of the highest costs for feed, labor, etc., that we have ever had to face. However, they do not know how many were kept at home by these very circumstances. New exhibitors should be encouraged to come out by presenting the opportunity to reimburse themselves, and the older breeders cannot long be expected to show with old-time vigor in the face of diminishing rewards. The pure-bred live-stock industry finds expression at the fairs, where more numerous and increased prizes should be offered.

### A Daniel Come to Judgment.

It is to be hoped that the gentleman, commonly known as "that man O'Connor," may very soon investigate the milk situation and exercise his kingly powers in regard to what farmers of this country may be permitted to demand for the product of the dairy herd. Of course, the Federal Government is, itself, in the dairy business, but the information the Department of Agriculture could gather together from the Deputy Minister, the Dairy and Cold Storage Commissioner, and the Director of Experimental Farms, who is responsible for the herds located on the various branch farms and stations throughout Canada, would be too trivial. More than that, it would not be in accordance with the spectacular manner in which Mr. O'Connor has "hearings" where the press can report his sharp sayings and beat his drum for him. So far at these hearings the stage has been prepared in advance; the curtain rises, and lo! there sits Mr. O'Connor. This may be all very well as a means of getting publicity, but as yet it has not been a very effective way of getting facts.

We would respectfully suggest that when the Board of Commerce begins its milk investigation that it go some evening to the home of an up-to-date dairyman. It would be necessary to go the night before as the