

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the first and fifteenth of each month. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
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Camera Competition.

Last year the "Farmer's Advocate" conducted a camera competition which proved decidedly popular. The large number of amateur photographers who sent in samples of their work and the artistic excellence of the photographs indicated in a surprising degree the progress that has been made in that direction. Many of the photos were quite equal in artistic excellence and execution to the work of professionals, the subjects selected showing great variety and interest. So encouraging were the results, that we have decided to announce another competition open to amateurs, and to offer much larger prizes than we did in the competition of 1901. We now offer eight prizes, as follows: 1st, \$10; 2nd, \$7; 3rd, \$5; 4th, \$3; 5th, \$2; 6th, \$1; 7th, \$1; and 8th, \$1; for the best photographs of country homes, individual animals or groups, ranch, field or garden scenes, bits of scenery, tree plantations or individual trees grown under cultivation, or anything of that nature, subject to the subjoined rules:

All photographs must be not less than 4 x 5 inches in size, mounted or unmounted, and be the work of amateurs.

All photographs must be clear and distinct in detail and well finished.

They must reach the "Farmer's Advocate" office, London, Ont., not later than October 1st, 1902.

The name of the competing photographer and post-office address, and the name and location of the scene, must be marked on the back of each photo.

Any person competing is at liberty to send more than one photograph if desired, but only one prize will be awarded to the same individual.

All the prizewinning photographs will become the property of the "Farmer's Advocate" for the purpose of illustration. We reserve the right to purchase, at 25 cents or 35 cents each, according to size, any photographs that do not win a prize.

No photograph is eligible to competition from which an engraving has previously been made, and photographs must be the work of competitors.

The Need of Feeding Experiments.

As time goes on the true value of experiment station work is being more fully appreciated by those in whose interest it is carried on. These institutions long ago proved themselves useful factors in the solution of problems with which no private individual could afford to deal. Through the investigations which have been conducted, new methods of feeding and management have been introduced to the stockman, and the advisability of their adoption made clear. In like manner, practices involving unnecessary labor have been shown to be fallacious, and their general discontinuance has been the result. As a prominent example in this connection, the once prevalent, but now practically discarded, custom of cooking roots for stock might be mentioned.

There are yet, however, experiments that could be easily undertaken by experiment stations which might result in a saving of labor to feeders of live stock. The question as to whether cattle will give as good returns from roots when fed whole as when pulped is a significant one, deserving careful investigation. Pulping roots for a number of animals means a large expenditure of energy, and where it must be performed by hand is no inconsiderable matter. For feeding hogs and calves, or where the cattle ration is mixed a few hours before feeding, it is of course essential that the roots be pulped or sliced, but in many instances, such as fattening steers, where the roots are thus prepared the cost of so doing is believed



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by many to far exceed the profits to be had therefrom. Some stockmen claim to get quite as good returns by feeding whole. If this be true, in any case it is time reliable data were forthcoming. Another problem is whether or not to cut straw and hay for mixing with such concentrates as are being fed. This, it is said, has been tested at certain stations, but we believe the result are by no means conclusive. If equally good returns may be had by feeding straw, hay, roots and grain separately, a great saving in labor would result. A knowledge as to what extent it is desirable to so prepare these fodders would be gladly received by feeders on every farm. Many claim to have satisfied themselves on this point, but too often the conclusions reached have been from comparisons which were made in different years, and hence under diversified conditions. These are not questions which farmers can accurately and satisfactorily work out. To the experiment station belongs this function of impartially and carefully making such investigations. In both Canada and the United States these stations are now carrying on tests of various kinds relating to feeding. Professors of animal husbandry and directors of agricultural colleges have shown themselves ever ready to accept suggestions having in view the advancement of agriculture. Our Government should see that the money necessary to finance such experiments is forthcoming, for the sooner reliable information can be obtained the better for Canadian stockmen who read, think, and act.

The Stock Judging Pavilion.

The "Farmer's Advocate" has for a number of years pressed forward the claims of the live-stock exhibitors for more recognition at our large fairs. It is not enough that a good prize list be provided, judges supplied, and then the live-stock department allowed to take care of itself. This portion of the exhibition must be made one of the great features of every show that derives revenue from the public treasury on the plea that it is an agricultural exhibition.

While it is true that at the present time a very large percentage of the total revenue of our large exhibitions is derived from what are called the "attractions" (and with good clean attractions we have no quarrel), it must be remembered, however, that the attractions have been advertised as the main feature of the fairs; they have received most attention from the management, and have been most prominently kept before the public by the daily press. Until lately there never has been any attempt to make the live-stock judging a feature, no comfort has ever been provided for the spectator at the ringside, the exhibitor, nor for his beast.

As already referred to in our account of the Winnipeg Industrial, a forward movement was made at Winnipeg this year, from which it will never be possible to recede. The judging pavilion where were judged the beef breeds of cattle was much appreciated by the visitors as well as by the exhibitors and the exhibited. Once the farming public find out that it is possible to intelligently view the judging of the various classes of stock in comfortable, sheltered, well-lighted buildings, they will patronize the live-stock fairs as they have never done in this country. Not only will these features become popular with farmers, but city people, too, will learn to take an interest in these great displays of pure-bred stock. Even now the interest taken in all matters pertaining to improved stock breeding and agricultural advancement is rapidly taking a deeper hold upon all classes of the community. Referring to the stock-judging pavilion at Winnipeg Industrial, the St. Paul Farmer has the following favorable comment in a recent issue:

"Where the cattle were judged at the Winnipeg Industrial, the work could be done with comfort to the judge, the exhibitor, and also to the cattle. The onlookers could also view the judging without sweltering with the heat, and indeed without any discomfort in ordinary summer weather. The judging was done in a building with a roof of moderate height. It was floored, and the floor was covered with sawdust. Three tiers of seats were along the walls for the visitors who wanted to see the judging. These were raised just enough and not too much. Above these seats for several feet there was no siding on the walls. This allowed the wind to blow through from side to side, hence the heat never became oppressive, as it is sometimes where animals are being judged.

"It is not good to judge live stock in the hot sun on a hot day. It is not good for the judge. He ought to be reasonably comfortable when he does his work. It is not good for the cattle. They do not look well nor do they stand when sweltering with the heat. It is not good for the herdsmen, whose work at the best is trying. Nor is it good for those who want to see the judging. Hence when a place has been provided it is well. The day is approaching when a good place will be provided for doing this work at every important fair, so important is the work in itself.

"The building at the Winnipeg Industrial may not be the best that can be devised, but the plan was good of the kind. The idea embraced in it was excellent, since it provided protection from the sun and rain in case of rain. And it also provided such excellent ventilation. Of course, a large amphitheatre would have to be differently constructed, but even in these, every care should be given to the preservation of proper ventilation. When such places come to be established for judging live stock, much more interest will be taken in this work by the visitors at the fairs."

Representatives Required.

We want a good representative—farmer or farmer's son—at every fall fair in Canada this season to secure new subscriptions for the "Farmer's Advocate," the great agricultural paper of the Dominion. Write us for terms, outfit and sample copies. State at what fair or fairs you can represent us, and the dates. It is easy to canvass for a popular paper.