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The Selection of Judges at Fairs.

NEXT to the exhibits themselves the judging and the awarding of the prizes is the most important feature of any great show. In many respects a fair would have very little educational value were it not for the fact that experts select the meritorious exhibits and single them out for the visitor to examine and study. A fair does not exist alone for the purpose of dividing a certain amount of prize money among a certain number of exhibitors. It has an educational value that should not for a moment be lost sight of.

The educational value of any show can be made or marred by the class of judges appointed to make the awards and we are afraid that the managements of our larger fairs lose sight of this fact in making selections of suitable men. There is a tendency to cater more to the likes and dislikes of the exhibitor, in selecting judges, than to the effect their judgment will have upon the educational side of the show. Especially is this true of the selection of judges in many of the live stock departments and very often a competent and experienced judge is set aside because of the whim, or otherwise of some exhibitor. There was more than one instance of this kind which came under our notice at the recent Industrial Fair.

While we believe that the wishes of the exhibitors should be consulted in a large degree as far as practicable in the selecting of judges, there is great danger in catering too much to their wishes. When this is done the educational side of the show is very often sacrificed and the visitor receives a wrong impression as to the type of animal best suited to the purposes for which it is intended. The effect of such erroneous impressions are very far reaching indeed, and an observant visitor often returns home with entirely wrong ideals as to the type best adapted for commercial or other purposes.

We are not reflecting at all upon the ability or honesty of any of the judges at our large fairs, when we state that the time has come when the selecting of such judges, should be placed upon a much higher plane than heretofore. Exhibition Associations should look more to the onlookers' side than to the exhibitor's side, and select

judges whom they know are competent, reliable and above reproach. If they are not acceptable to the whim of some exhibitor let the selection stand so long as the authorities have faith in the judge's ability to give a thoroughly unbiased and just judgment. It sometimes happens that a position as a judge is given to some friend of the Fair, who has only a meagre knowledge of the classes he is judging and whose judgment must work lasting injury to the community, in creating false ideals in the minds of persons who have come to the show to learn something about stock. In no case should anything like this be done. Merit and the ability to give an honest and fair judgment should be the only qualifications looked for, whether there be one, two or three judges selected. Other things being equal, we believe that a thoroughly competent and reliable single judge will give better allround satisfaction than two or more judges.

Looking at this question from the exhibitor's point of view, we believe he will be better satisfied if the educational side is considered in the selection of judges than otherwise. No reputable breeder or exhibitor will hesitate to submit his stock of whatever kind, to the decision of a thoroughly reliable and trustworthy judge. It is the fellow who has some inferior stock, that he knows, will not be in the prize list unless he has some hold on the judge, that will raise the kick. And it would be better to let him "kick," rather than sacrifice the first object of a show to his whim. Where a thoroughly competent judge is selected, who will do the right thing without favors to any, his judgment should be of as great educational value to the exhibitor as to the onlooker; in that it will show him wherein his animal is lacking and the winner excels.

The selection of judges then, looked at from both the exhibitor and the onlooker's standpoint, is a most important problem, that should receive more attention than it gets at the hands of the Exhibition Associations. There should be no catering to any special interest whatsoever, but an upright and above-board selection, looking to the effect the awards will have on the bearing or best working of the industry represented. We do not say that the selections made for this season's fairs have not all been of the kind we have indicated, but we have

good reasons to know that some of them have not. Let there be then an effort made to have every judge selected on the higher plane that we have pointed out, that of looking altogether to the educational value of the show.

A Sure Market for Canadian Farm Products.

In commenting upon the article in our annual autumn number, dealing with, "The Census and the Farmer," the Globe of Sept. 10th, says:—

"Without any exaggeration it does seem as if a farm on the North American continent is going to be a splendid asset. The development of manufactures in the United States is creating consumers of food at a rapid rate, and, as we tried to show recently, the time seems not very far off when the United States will consume all its own wheat. There is no danger of the surplus food supply of Canada going begging for customers. The only danger is the development of a landlord class, with tenant farmers and "peasants" under them. The richest land will not stand the burden of maintaining a class of idlers in extravagance."

Some weeks ago, in discussing some new conditions affecting the American corn market, we pointed out that the consumption of corn is being gradually directed into new channels such as for the manufacture of glucose and starch, and for other commercial uses. We tried to show that the day is not far distant when large quantities of cheap corn for cattle feeding will be no longer forthcoming. Our reasoning was based upon the fact that there is little possibility of the total acreage devoted to the corn crop in the United States, being increased to any appreciable extent; that during the past five years there has been a tremendous increase, amounting to nearly 400,000,000 bushels in the foreign and domestic demand for corn, and that this new demand for corn is increasing at a very rapid rate. When the day of cheap American corn is past the western farmer and feeder will not be the formidable competitor of the Canadian cattle feeder in the English market, that he is at the present time, and has been for years past.

If therefore, in addition to this, there be good grounds for believing that, the Globe's contention that the time is not far distant when the United States will consume all