

The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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More Room Needed.

CO say that the eighteenth Provincial Winter Fair, held at Guelph last week, was a success, is to put it very mildly, indeed. It was a great success and ranks as the greatest show of its kind ever held on this continent. At the International Show at Chicago the week previous there was a much larger display of stock and a show of horses, cattle, sheep and swine that has never been excelled in America. But there were none of the educational features that mark the Ontario show as distinct and pre-eminently superior as a medium for conveying practical information to the farmer on the selection, breeding, feeding and caring for the animals kept on the farms. And the rush of visitors to obtain admission to the lectures is an evidence that this educational work is appreciated.

That the Winter Fair is growing in popularity throughout the country is shown by the immense crowds that visited it this year. The gate receipts show an increase of fully two-thirds over the previous year. Farmers were in attendance from all parts of Ontario, while nearly all the Provinces of the Dominion were represented by someone. People came for information and not for amusement, and they got it. A number of institute workers were present at all the meetings, preparing to carry some of the good things said to the farmers into the outlying parts of the Province.

But how this fair has grown. Who would have thought a year or two ago that the splendid building erected by the city of Guelph, would so soon become too small to accommodate all departments of the show. But such is the case, and the cry now is for larger accommodation. Before another year something must be done towards supplying better facilities for the lectures if this feature of the work is to continue to be successful. The lecture room this year did not begin to accommodate the people who desired to gain admittance, and besides was very badly ventilated. What is required, is one or two large auditoriums with facilities for bringing in live animals to lecture upon. It may take some money to provide these, but the work accomplished is so valuable that those responsible for it cannot afford to see it hampered because of insufficient accommodation. Then in the main building there was not sufficient room to do the judging properly. Nearly all the judges, especially in the

sheep and swine classes complained of this, and of the difficulty of inspecting animals in such cramped quarters. Some provision should be made for this another year. The poultrymen also were crowded, so that the question of more room is not confined to one feature of the show. If the building were raised another story and the upper part made the same size as the lower floor it would relieve matters considerably. The sheep could very well be shown on the second floor and the poultry put up a story higher.

But any enlargement of the present building in the way of increasing its height will not meet the needs of the lecture department. The proposition made at the public meeting that there should be two auditoriums erected seems like a very good one. In this connection the Hon. Mr. Ross proposed that if the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa would erect one his Government would erect another, and we would advise the management to see that these semi-promises are made good before another year. If the two Governments can be induced to provide the extra room required we think it would be only a fair proposition for the city or the citizens of Guelph to provide better hotel accommodation for visitors. The citizens are deserving of greatest praise for their efforts to entertain the visitors this year. But where is this kind of thing going to end. If the show continues to grow as it has done during the past year or two, the increase of visitors each year may be such that the good people of Guelph may get tired of throwing open their homes for a week to strangers. If the city would see that a good first-class hotel is provided before another year, or the present ones greatly enlarged and improved, they will be doing all that should be expected of them in regard to this show.

That something along this line is urgently needed every visitor to the show last week will admit. Every hotel was over crowded and scant accommodation in the way of meals and beds was very noticeable. Not only that the leading hotel in the place and the rendezvous of the stockmen for years increased its rates to \$2.00 per day instead of \$1.50 and gave slim fare in the way of meals, etc., at that. There is no class of our citizens more willing and able to pay for good accommodation than the stockmen when they can get it. But when they pay the rates of a first-class hotel they expect to get first-class accommodation, which they did not get in the case

referred to. We suppose, however, there will always be some drawbacks of this kind where large crowds are concerned. And yet, why let these things pass.

We will refer to some of these matters again. The show itself passed off without a hitch and both exhibitors and visitors went home well pleased. Exhibitors were particularly well pleased with the judging and we heard of no complaint on this score, a rather unique state of affairs. Elsewhere will be found full reports of the various departments of the show. A few reports are held over till next week.

Freight Rates.

OUR REPLY TO "VIATOR" HELD OVER.

Owing to so much space in this issue being given up to a report of the Provincial Winter Fair our promised reply to "Viator" on the freight rates question has been held over for another week. The reply will, however, not lose anything by the keeping and we can promise our readers some new and important data on this subject, which will show that we had good grounds for the statements made a few weeks ago and to which "Viator" took such strong exception.

Enforce the Act.

As shown elsewhere, the discussion at the closing sessions of the Fruit Growers' Convention turned largely on whether the Fruit Marks Act recently passed by the Dominion Government should be enforced or not. We say emphatically that it should be enforced where fraud is shown and with all the power of Government authority at its back. Prof. Robertson, who has had immediate charge of the administering of the Act, has no doubt acted wisely in having the inspectors do some educational work in order that growers, packers and shippers of fruit might become acquainted with it. But now that these parties have had the opportunity of familiarizing themselves with the work and duties of the inspectors, there is no reason whatever for not bringing the Act into force, wherever fraud is detected. And we are pleased to note that such a course has been decided upon. While there are parties who may be influenced by educational work along the lines of honesty, there are many others upon whom nothing will have effect but the strict enforcement of the law. Dishonesty in fruit packing must be stopped and our export fruit trade placed on a more stable basis.