

# The Farmer's Advocate

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### EDITORIAL.

#### Showing and Judging.

The benefits derived by breeders and manufacturers from exhibiting their products, the result of their enterprise and skill, at agricultural and industrial exhibitions, were in part set forth in an article in our last issue. We purpose now to pursue the subject a little further, and to advance some ideas that from experience and observation have occurred to us as being of interest to exhibitors and judges. Success in exhibiting live stock depends primarily on the production or selection of superior animals, and, secondarily, on their proper feeding and preparation for the show-ring, in order that they may show for all they are worth and make the best possible impression on the eye and mind of the judge. To make the best showing, the special feeding and fitting should not be limited to a short period, but had better be a gradual process, so that there may be no forcing, which is always liable to produce indigestion or other ailment, and thus defeat its purpose. An overfed or excessively fat animal, especially if from lack of sufficient exercise its legs have become stocked or crooked and its action clumsy and awkward, almost invariably makes an unfavorable impression on a competent judge, and leads him to seek for something more useful looking in the competing list. Heavy feeding with heating, concentrated foods is liable to put on rolls of hard-feeling fat instead of an even distribution of springy flesh and the quality of hide and hair that is pliable and pleasant to handle and is the result of the feeding of properly-balanced rations of mixed grains and oil cake. This, together with plenty of exercise, blanketing and hand-rubbing, and the polishing of horns, where there are such, the trimming of inequalities, and the training to walk gracefully and stand in the best positions, are parts of the needed preparation that may prove to be essentials in a close competition. But, back of all this, there must be the proper type of animal in conformation and quality to catch the trained eye of the expert judge, for no matter how large nor how smooth and well fitted the animal may be, if it be not of the approved type that meets the demands of present-day markets, and if a male lack the quality known as character, which indicates probable prepotency as a sire, or if a female fail to show a proper degree of femininity in head and neck and in general appearance, its chances to win are at once discounted. Size with quality and approved type is all right, but without these latter qualities it may be regarded as a disadvantage; indeed, abnormal size is not desirable in either breeding or show animals, while the happy medium in this regard, in either meat- or milk-producing animals or horse stock, is more likely to please the taste of an up-to-date judge.

When it is considered, as we believe is generally admitted, that the judges by their decisions, to a very considerable extent, set the standard of desirable type in the various breeds and classes of live stock, the need for care in their selection becomes clearly apparent, as their position is one of great responsibility, requiring a cool, clear head, careful consideration and discriminating judgment. It is not the purpose of this article to discuss the perennial question of the advantage of employing one judge or more than one for a class, though we do not hesitate to proclaim our preference for the single-judge system as the one most

likely to impress a man with a due sense of the seriousness of his responsibility and the one most likely to bring about uniformity of type in the various breeds, a consummation, it seems to us, very desirable, if it means a uniformity of usefulness and excellence combined with attractiveness. Without presuming to lecture judges, we may be permitted to suggest that, from watching the work of those officiating, it has appeared to us that the work is simplified and made more satisfactory to both judges and spectators if the animals in classes shown on the halter are passed around the ring in procession, and a few of the best drawn out, from which the final selection of the winners is made, these being placed in the order of the judge's rating; and the educative value of his work to the onlookers is enhanced by his placing the whole class in order of merit, according to his judgment. By this means the distinctive type he aims to mark with his approval may be seen in so far as it can be shown with the material at hand and the consistency of his work be made manifest.

#### A Forecast of the West.

The Toronto Globe has put its readers in Ontario and Eastern Canada generally under renewed obligations, and rendered the West good service by the extended series of letters written by a capable staff correspondent, who made a personal visit, recently, to the leading centers of the country. In the main, the deductions which he draws from his observations coincide very closely with the condition, progress and prospects of Manitoba and the Northwest as portrayed with pen and camera in the recent Immigration number of the "Farmer's Advocate." In summing up his impressions, the writer in the Globe truthfully says:

"After one sees the new farmhouses that in hundreds dot what were but two years ago uninhabited wastes, examines the records in the Government land offices, and watches the tide of European immigration that flows through Winnipeg, and the still greater volume on the Soo line from the United States, there is no longer room for scepticism, and even the most doubting Thomas must be satisfied that Western Canada has at last aroused the world's attention."

Mr. J. Obed Smith, Commissioner of Immigration, estimates the number of immigrants during the present calendar year at from 70,000 to 75,000, and he believes the number will increase from year to year till it may reach a maximum of 250,000. The view is confidently entertained that the census of 1911 will show from 1,250,000 to 1,500,000 people in the West and the close of the century 50,000,000 people, all told, in Canada. With regard to the development of the West from a moral and intellectual standpoint, the Globe's correspondent takes a most hopeful view. He notes the three following new elements of progress in the rapid settlement of the country:

1. American capitalists seeking an outlet for surplus funds formerly used in land operations at home have invested very largely in Canadian lands, and will advertise them all over the Union.
2. The American pioneers and frontiersmen, who have led the movement of settlement in their own country, from Iowa to Minnesota, and from Minnesota to the Dakotas, have reached the limit of the good land in their own territory, and are coming to Canada in thousands. The reports they are sending back will for many years to come result in increasing immigration from the United States, for the land they are settling upon is admittedly better than that of any of the States west of Iowa.

3. The rush of European immigration into the United States, which was begun when there were vast tracts of free land there, still continues, and cannot be stopped speedily. Many years must elapse before it becomes generally known to European agriculturists emigrating to America that there is no longer room in the Western States. A large part of these belated land-seekers will cross the border into Canada and find homes with us.

The great irrigation project upon which the chiefs of the Canadian Pacific Railway are engaged in the irrigable belt of over 2,000,000 acres awakes the enthusiasm of the correspondent. He refers to the 116 miles of canal, the storage of billions of gallons of water in reservoirs formed out of natural depressions, and the diversion of the waters of the Bow River, whereby a great stretch of territory, nearly 200 miles easterly from Calgary, can be irrigated. He predicts that out of that southern Alberta area, and including the Lethbridge and other ditches, 25,000,000 bushels of wheat and 500,000 cattle annually can be taken; and quotes C. P. R. reports as indicating that 250,000 cattle can be pastured under irrigation where 50,000 are now kept. The market for the increased cereal production of the eastern slope of the Rockies, he foresees in the newly-awakened China and Japan.

From what has been written, it is evident that some large irrigation projects are looming up in the future. While there are millions of acres that need no irrigation, but only await cultivation to blossom into abundant crops, the irrigation question will not become so sharply defined in the public mind; nor while irrigation projects continue to be developed strictly as railway or private enterprises, and not made a general charge against the taxpayers of the country. This phase of the subject certainly deserves consideration in view of the alleged exactions of irrigation monopolists in California and elsewhere in the irrigated U. S. areas, and the bitter opposition awakened in the eastern States against being required to share in the outlay for irrigation exploits that develop vast areas in the West as fresh competitors with the eastern landowner.

Another question to be considered is the control that governments should retain of the water supply upon which the productiveness of the irrigable areas depend and which in the future will be required for settlement.

#### Pointers.

The worst menace of the sheep industry in Canada is the wandering dog. About one-half the dogs in every county are not only useless, but an unmitigated nuisance. Yet, within recent years, they have destroyed or damaged thousands of the best friends of the farmer that ever stepped upon his fields. Why are legislators so slow and chary in dealing with this pest? An esteemed correspondent, in Hants, N. S., suggests two remedies in this issue; and Mr. Gilman, of York Co., N. B., writing of the way in which Governments may properly help the farmer, says: "If the Government will only tie up the dog, we will do the rest." Abate the pest!

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Hundreds of acres of corn in one Ontario county alone was destroyed by wet, while on adjacent farms, no better naturally, but well drained, the crop is growing luxuriantly. From all parts of Eastern Canada comes the same tale of crops damaged by excessive water that drains would have safely removed. Put down drains!