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## EDITORIAL

### The Price of Wheat

The price situation in wheat rests now chiefly upon the outturn of the European crop. The drought in America had its influence on the market and has ceased for the time being as a price-making factor. The Argentine has not yet been figured on; for the moment European conditions are making the price of wheat, and European conditions, when summed up generally, are favorable. Last year Europe produced in round numbers two billion bushels of wheat. The world's crop was approximately three billion bushels in 1909. The continent therefore is the heaviest producer, the largest consumer and usually the most influential price-making factor in the world of wheat. While we are exciting ourselves about a crop of 150 million bushels Europe is quietly harvesting two-thirds of the wheat of the world.

Reports, official and unofficial, indicate a rather better than average harvest in the old world. Large sections have suffered from one form of devastation or another, but on the whole, the crop will be up to what it was in 1909. This is having an important bearing on prices at the moment and will tend to hold values lower. Generally speaking, wheat prices at this date and in the face of conditions known to exist are pretty well up. There will probably be some depreciation before much of this year's crop is moved, but in the end wheat seems likely to sell higher.

### Roads the Nation's Care

On another page of this issue a contributor, L. S. Little, dealing with the problem of Canadian highways, suggests that since roads are the nation's property they should be the nation's care. It is further hinted that in Canada the Dominion government should provide a new department under a minister of highways.

Road making and road maintenance in

Canada have come to be recognized as big problems. As agriculturists have learned to assert their rights from a commercial standpoint; they also have realized that they might as well have some of the "sweets" of life. Gradually it is dawning on them that with extra expenditure of money properly graded roads can be made and that these roads can be kept smooth and passable for a greater number of days every year. They have found out that there is no reason why they and their rigs should be shaken to pieces every spring and for a great part of the summer.

Different means may be adopted for providing satisfactory roads and maintaining them in proper condition. In Canada the plan has been to allow the provinces to attend to their own road problems. Whether or not it would improve matters to have a Dominion department of highways is a question on which there will be difference of opinion. It is quite likely that it will be many years before road problems will be taken from the jurisdiction of the provinces.

### Should Judges Give Reasons?

Why do judges not give reasons for their placings in the ring? asks a reader, who claims he has been attending horse shows, fat stock shows, fairs and exhibitions for the past thirty-five years and has never yet heard a judge offer any explanation of the why or wherefore of the way the prizes were awarded in the ring. There are two reasons, probably, why judges do not point out the merits and demerits of the animals they award ribbons to: Firstly, they do not care to do so; secondly, the exhibition association does not desire them to do so. Both reasons, perhaps, show short-sightedness, but they have proven strong enough to the present to prevent the practice of giving reasons in the ring from becoming general or even occasional.

It is doubtful, too, if exhibitors desire to have the defects of their animals uncovered by an expert judge, and the ringside enlightened, however valuable such enlightenment should be from an educational standpoint. Men, as a rule, like to be "next" to any weaknesses or deficiencies that an expert judge believes exists in their neighbor's stud or herd, but the neighbor isn't quite so willing that such demerits should be paraded before the world, and as he usually has more to do with fair associations and the appointment of judges than have the curious crowd, it is not to be wondered at that judges either decline to or are instructed not to give reasons for their placings when the awards are made.

Giving reasons, also, might sometimes do a judge's reputation little good. Judging live stock is not governed by any hard or fast rules; it is a matter of personal opinion only, and ex-

pert judges may differ as widely on the question of what animal comes nearest the ideal of the breed or type it represents as they do on questions of religion or politics. For one judge to give reasons for his decision in a ring of horses, and another judge his a few days later for reversing that decision, would have the public rather worse muddled than they are at present where no reasons are given.

The advantages of giving reasons, however, far offset any disadvantages that arise therefrom, and after breeders become accustomed to having their exhibits criticized adversely, as well as favorably, and the judge gives a demonstration in judging on every class he worked over, only occasional objections to the practice would be expected. We are inclined to think, however, that fairs and exhibitions cannot be developed into stock-judging schools, and that more genuine educational work in stock judging can be carried on through farmers' institutes and such organizations, or by demonstration trains going about from place to place with a corps of instructors and classes of stock, or by short courses in stock judging at the agricultural colleges, than could be accomplished by judges at fairs briefly pointing out what they consider desirable or undesirable characteristics in the animals brought before them in the ring. The function of the fair is educative, but there are better and more thorough ways of giving the instruction which the offering of reasons by judges aims at.

### Two Great Needs

In discussing what Lord Richard Cavendish has to say on the economic development of the country our English correspondent says: "There are in the country two great needs. The first is that from a scientific point of view we know little of the habits and nature of agricultural produce; and the second, farmers do not place their goods on the market to the best advantage."

We have not outgrown Old Country weaknesses by coming to this new and hustling agricultural country. Perhaps growers of wheat who have had thousands of bushels every year for two or three decades, think they can learn nothing about the production of this cereal. But there is much to learn. There are many factors that contribute toward giving the maximum yield. In every branch of farming it is the same. There is much to learn.

As regards marketing, too, soil tillers of Western Canada have learned only during the past decade or so that they lost money because of the fact that little or no precaution was taken to prevent middlemen from getting too much from the real price.

Conditions are changing. Agricultural colleges are teaching the younger farmers, and