

FARMING

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FARMING

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TOPICS FOR THE WEEK

See Our Special Fair Number Next Week.

Look out for our special Fair number next week. It will be worth preserving and will be a splendid copy to send to friends at a distance. Subscribers will confer a favor by sending us the names of any persons in their localities who would be likely to become subscribers if a copy were sent them.

This special number will be something unique in the line of agricultural journalism. It will contain, at least, forty-eight pages of good, solid reading matter, profusely illustrated, and will be distributed in large numbers at the leading Canadian exhibitions. All our advertisers should have a special advertisement in this number, and we would call their attention to the special announcement on inside of back cover of this issue.

FARMING will again have a tent at the Industrial Fair this year, which opens on August 20th. This tent will have the same location as last year, that is, opposite the Farmers' Institute tent, and in close proximity to the cattle rings and horse stables in the north eastern portion of the grounds. If you visit the Fair be sure to give us a call. We shall be glad to see you, and to give you any information at our disposal in the way of helping you to enjoy the Exhibition. Pens, ink, and paper will be at the disposal of stockmen and others who may care to use them, and we shall take it as a favor if all our friends will avail themselves of the privileges of the tent at any time during the Exhibition.

Agricultural News and Comments.

According to returns compiled by the United States Government Canada imported from that country products and goods of all kinds for the year ending June 30th, 1882, to the value of \$38,569,882, and exported to that country goods to the amount of \$31,113,475. In 1892 the total imports were valued at \$44,855,988 and the exports at \$35,334,547. In 1897 the total imports were valued at \$66,028,725 and the exports at \$40,722,798. In 1898, strange to say, the total imports had risen to (the estimates for the month of June being estimated) \$83,000,000 and the exports to \$81,000,000.

A French physician has hit upon a very novel plan of administering iron. He has noticed that hens have powerful digestive organs, and has discovered that they can digest considerable quantities of iron and send it back through the albumen of their eggs in a form which is more easily

digested by the weaker stomach of man than if taken in the other way. So he feeds his hens salt of iron, mixed with their wheat, and they lay eggs extremely rich in pre-digested iron. This certainly provides for an easy and convenient way for giving iron to patients, and we would like to see the experiment tried.

It is an excellent idea to have a number of small coops for young chickens when large enough to be taken away from the hen. These could be made not more than four or five feet high, or even less, in which they can easily be taught to stop at night, and if the floor is kept well covered with dry and clean straw the chicks will do better than they would do in the larger coops.

At an auction sale held at Glasgow, Scotland, recently American horses sold up to 100 guineas (\$500) and 200 guineas (\$1,000) each. There were seventy head catalogued, and the quality was of that high class that brought buyers from England, Ireland and Scotland. The coach and harness horses sold for from \$400 to \$600, and up to \$1,000, and the draft or van horses sold for \$125 to \$165.

During the first six months of this year there were received at the Union stock yards, Chicago, 1,225,607 head of cattle, or 51,197 more than last year for the same period; 4,269,459 hogs, or 172,277 more than last year, and 1,822,169 sheep, or 184,520 more than last year. In all there were 136,127 car loads of stock received, being 2,171 cars more than last year.

Judging at Shows.

"The men selected to judge live stock at shows ought to be scrupulously conscientious, and among the most honorable of their kind." So says *The Mark Lane Express*, and there is a large amount of truth in the assertion. Technical knowledge and a ready ability to distinguish the good and bad points of an animal are essential, but they are not the only qualifications required in order to fit one to do perfectly satisfactory work in the show ring. A judge may be perfectly capable in this respect, but if he is not "scrupulously conscientious" in making the awards a great injustice will be done someone.

At some of the leading British shows there has not been altogether smooth sailing in judging live stock, and it was in a criticism of some of the methods of judging that the above statement was made. Even at the Great Royal Show there have been some grounds for believing that prejudices existed among some of the judges, which caused them to award prizes for other than real merit. However, we are not aware that there is much of this kind of thing done at the leading Canadian fairs. We only draw attention to it in order that those concerned may be on the alert, and may exercise all their powers to deal as fairly as possible with all exhibitors. Sometimes there are complaints about the judging when the judge is in no sense to blame. Every exhibitor makes an exhibit with the expectation, or, at least, the hope, of securing a prize, and if he does not get it he is inclined to blame his misfortune upon someone, and the judge is the most convenient person for that purpose. So judges of live stock at the leading show will be consulting their own pleasure, and also the interests of everybody at the fair, by being strictly honest in their methods of awarding the prize money.

Every exhibition and especially a live stock one is a great educational factor in the country. Its greatest value in this respect is in the competition in the prize ring and in making the awards. If the judging has been done strictly according to merit both the exhibitor and the onlooker will be benefited; but, if not, both will be led astray, and the real educational value of the show in that it enabled the really best animals to be distinguished from the poorer ones lost sight of. A young man, for instance, who is on a visit to the fair for the purpose of learning something about stock will receive a very bad training if the best animal does not get the prize. The prize animal will be taken as his ideal and if it is not the best in its class his ideal will be wrong.

Judges at all fairs should remember that to a large extent they are teachers and are teaching a lesson when they pick out the best animal in the show ring just as surely as the teacher in the public school does when he explains a lesson on the blackboard to his class; with this difference, however, that, while the latter has comparatively few pupils, the former has everyone who views the live-stock exhibit as his pupil. The work of the judge, then, is not merely the awarding of the prize money but in pointing out which is the best animal in the prize ring. Better work could be done along this line if every judge would give a short talk pointing out the good animals from the bad and why one animal is superior to another, and we hope to see the day when something of this kind will be done at our leading fairs. In the meantime, however, every person who has the honor to be appointed a judge should be scrupulously conscientious and endeavor to give prizes only according to merit.

Visit the Fall Fairs.

This week the fall fair season begins by the opening of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, and during the next month thousands of people will spend their time and money visiting the larger fairs of the Dominion. The question may well be asked. What do these people visit the exhibitions for? Is it for pleasure or for profit? The answer should be for both. The person who visits an exhibition for pleasure alone is likely to be grievously disappointed. The merely amusement features of a great agricultural fair should not be the only attraction which should induce one to visit an exhibition. These are all very well in their way but should hold a secondary place in all great fairs.

The educational advantages of a great agricultural fair are many. It is there that one may see the best horses, the finest cattle, sheep and swine, and the best that the country can produce in the way of agricultural products. These features alone, if nothing else, should make it worth while for every farmer to visit some one of our great fairs every year. To reap the greatest advantages from a visit to a fair every exhibit should be examined critically in order that the visitor may be able to make comparisons between the animals exhibited and those he has at home. In this way valuable information may be secured that will be helpful to every farmer if applied toward the improvement of his own stock. Then, the exhibits of up to date farm machinery of all kinds are an education in themselves, and no tiller of the soil should miss seeing this part of the show. A glance at the exhibits in the agricultural hall and dairy building will always repay one.