

BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION.

Victoria, Oct. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6.

This year's show of the British Columbia Agricultural Association is now a thing of the past so far as its actual work is concerned. "Better than last year," was the general verdict and it probably may be relied upon as being correct. Surely there was ample evidence of improvement in many departments, a fact which was appreciated by all who attended the exhibition. In an address made by the Hon. Mr. Turner, Minister of Finance and Agriculture on the opening day attention was called to the fact that such a show should be called an Industrial Exhibition. The Directors evidently bore their hint in mind for at their annual meeting the name was changed to BRITISH COLUMBIA AGRICULTURAL AND INDUSTRIAL ASSOCIATION. Cattle, sheep and pigs were present in much smaller numbers than last year, but the high grade of excellence was fully maintained. The horse class was full and many fine animals of all grades were shown. The main building was taxed to its utmost capacity with a varied assortment of exhibits and a person who could not find something there to interest him must indeed have been hard to please. The first three days were anything but desirable so far as weather was concerned, but Thursday, Friday and Saturday were all right and caused the faces of the various officials to beam with delight as they gazed upon the steady flow of visitors and heard the merry clink of the silver shakels falling into the money box. Probably the management have learned some new lessons that will be of value to them and assist in making the nineteenth annual a greater success than any of its predecessors. At the annual meeting of the society, the constitution was amended so to make the directorate composed of president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and thirty members, ten are to be elected by the city and twenty by the association. The membership fee was lowered from \$3. to \$2. and the following officers were elected.—President, Dr. G. L. Milne; First Vice President, W. H. Ladner, Ladners; Second Vice-President, McL. Deans, Saanich; Treasurer, R. Seabrook; Secretary, C. E. Renouf; Directors, Major M. Mutter Somenos; J. T. McIlmoyl, Saanich; J. T. Wilkinson, Chilliwack; George Deans,

Victoria District; E. Hutcherson, Ladners; Prof. Sharp, Agassiz; J. Heatherbell, Hornby Island; A. Haslam, M. P., Nanaimo; T. Cunningham, Westminster; A. H. B. Macgowan, Vancouver; Dr. Tolmie, D. R. Ker, J. H. Falconer, J. Lamberton, W. Templeman, T. J. Parridge, S. M. Okell, M. Baker, N. Shakespeare and W. J. Pendray. Trustees, N. Shakespeare, D. R. Kerr, R. Seabrook, C. E. Renouf and J. H. Todd. Naturally our readers are more interested in the Poultry exhibit than any other part of the show, and it is of that feature that we shall speak more particularly. The raising of fine poultry in British Columbia has been making rapid strides the last few years and today we have in our Province, stock from the very best yards in the east and even from the Old Country. This being true one would naturally expect to see high class birds at any poultry show held here, but if one attended this exhibition with such an object in view they were doomed to swift and bitter disappointment, for such an array of poultry it was never the lot of the Fancier man to gaze upon either here or in the east.

There were ninety-seven birds present and divided as follows:

- 19 Bantams.
- 11 Light Brahmas.
- 10 Brown Leghorns.
- 8 Buff Cochins.
- 8 Black Minorcas.
- 4 Indian Games.
- 4 Silver Wyandottes.
- 3 White Leghorns.
- 2 Houdans.
- 2 Black Spanish.
- 2 Black Langshans.
- 1 Barred Plymouth Rock.
- 2 Unknown.
- 11 Ducks.
- 4 Geese.
- 2 Turkeys.

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There is not the slightest use in giving a list of the forty-six prizes awarded to the above birds for it could hardly be used as a guide in making purchases or deciding who had the best birds in British Columbia. Following the only authority used by our poultry societies in this country, the American Standard of Perfection, most of the birds would have been obliged to gracefully step down and out. A three pound Asiatic, a Leghorn with bright red ear lobes and a Lt. Brahma Cockerel masquerading as a pullet were unpleasant things for a fancier's eye to rest upon.

On general principles it is not considered wise for an exhibitor to act as judge

at a show where his own birds appear. For although he may be far above suspicion the effect produced is not of the best, and outsiders, or defeated competitors may be inclined to feel as though it would have been better had the awards been placed by someone else. Of course if there are no other birds in the class the task is not so delicate. We feel sure that the management will find a change in this matter of considerable importance to them, if they wish for the co-operation of leading fanciers.

Said one well known Victoria fancier, "If a man was to accept cash as a first prize here, he might be liable to arrest for obtaining money under false pretenses." It is presumed he was slightly sarcastic but there is a certain good thought in his statement that one may well ponder over. Possibly he had in mind that sole representative of the Barred Plymouth Rock class that had a top knot, rose comb, feathers on her legs and brassy plumage besides a few other minor defects.

That there were a few good birds will of course be admitted, but they were few, very few. Mr. Hodgson's Brahmas, Mr. Bowker's Houdans, and an Indian Game or two of Dr. Milne's going to make up the number. There were a few more that may be fairly good when they get new feathers and a few other necessary qualities but it is difficult to hazard a guess.

Lastly what was the cause of this most undesirable state of things? In the first place it was not because there were no good birds in or around Victoria. The Fancier would agree to go to Victoria and suburbs today and pick up several hundred birds that would stand well in any show on the Pacific coast, and if they were not present at this show there was some good reason for it.

As far as can be judged there were two serious mistakes made. In all the other divisions containing live stock liberal cash prizes were given, but when it came to poultry a diploma was given for first prize and a certificate for second. The Victoria fanciers who have spent a lot of money importing fancy stock and eggs could not see why a first prize bull should receive twenty-five dollars and a high scoring Brown Leghorn winning a first get nothing, or a Southdown ram get eight dollars and a Barred Plymouth