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And Canadian Farm and Home

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Plowing Matches

A WELL managed, carefully conducted plowing match is of value to every agricultural district. It is an incentive to more accurate and careful work not only by the old but by the young men on the farm. Its effect reaches beyond the mere mechanical effort of plowing and inculcates the habit of doing all farm work better. The skilful plowman will be skilful in other branches. If he plows well; he will harrow well, and better crops will be the result. The plowing match, therefore, is an institution that makes for better farming and consequently better returns from the farm.

November is the month for these matches, and quite a number are already announced. We would like to see more of them held, say one in every township. As suggested by a correspondent in this issue, the Farmers' Institutes and Agricultural societies might well take the matter up. A small appropriation for prizes from these organizations would be sufficient to secure ten plowing matches where one is held today. The money could not be better spent, and we would like to see some society or institute set the ball rolling. It is not too late to do something this fall. At any rate, the question might be considered and plans laid for next season. Good plowing means good farming, and anything that will aid in bringing it about should be encouraged and pushed.

Why the Highest Skill is Needed on the Farm

The expression that the highest skill and intelligence are required on the farm is not the statement of a mere flatterer. It is a vital and living truth. In no other calling are these qualities more necessary to success than on the twentieth century farm.

There are several reasons why this is so. In the first place, the farmer has to deal with nature at first hand. He must know the soil, what it requires in the way of fertilizing material to enable it to produce maximum crops of first quality. The preparation of a proper seed bed and the selection of the kind of seed to sow is no ignoramus's job. To know when to sow and when to reap requires powers of observation and knowledge of a high order.

But there are stronger reasons than these. Look for a moment at what the farmer produces. They are products of the highest order, products that, by skill and intelligence, can be greatly improved in quality and increased in value. Then there is the cost of production. With the farmer it costs as much to produce a poor article as a good one. This holds good in every-

thing which he has to sell. It costs as much to feed a scrub as a well-bred steer and so on down the list. Skill and intelligence are required to produce this fine quality.

Not so with the manufacturer. Take the manufacturer of woollen goods for example. He wants to make an article that will sell at a low price. He does not put into it the same material that he puts into a higher priced article, but buys raw material more in keeping with the price he is to get for the finished product. In other words, he makes as much profit from the cheaper line as from the more expensive article.

Contrast this with the farmer's position. It costs him as much to produce an inferior product as a first-class one. The latter may sell for 100 per cent. more than the former, and while the

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fine quality will give him some profit, the inferior product will lose him money, time and labor, simply because the very nature of the commodity he produces prevents him from getting the cost down to suit the selling price. This will hold true in live stock, dairy products, grain, fruit, and in short every article the farmer produces. Hence the need for putting the very highest skill and intelligence into the business of farming in order that every product put upon the market may be of first quality. This is the key-note to successful and profitable agriculture.

Keep Them in Canada

A subject that has been widely commented upon throughout this country, the United States and the British Isles as well, is the superior quality of recent shipments of Clydesdales to Canada. Certainly no such importations have been attempted

before, and very few, if any, individuals that could be classed, in any sense of the word, as inferior have been imported this year, while the showings at the recent exhibitions have brought out classes that ought to prove a solution of the old quarrel of size vs. quality. It is only in the combination of both that the ideal draft horse is to be obtained. There is little doubt of the ready sale such horses will meet, the only unsatisfactory condition being the possibility that outsiders will outbid Canadians for their possession.

By far the larger number of inquiries after the champions of the late exhibitions so far made has been from American breeders, who do not see the Clydesdales win championships year after year at the International in vain, and are coming more and more to favor the Scotchman's draft horse. The late importations are just the kind we need to keep at home. After the importations of Clydesdale fillies that have been made and are being made at the present time, their presence will be more valuable than ever. Horse breeding districts throughout Canada should make every effort to obtain some of these good ones. They are worth all the extra money asked for them in any locality, but where good big drafty mares of good breeding are owned they will prove doubly so. No horse can be too good for Canada and Canadians should make every effort to keep such as these at home.

The World's Fair, St. Louis

A visitor to St. Louis is at once impressed with the magnitude of this great exposition. Covering, as it does, an area of 1,240 acres, and with buildings in proportion, the Louisiana Purchase Exposition will rank as one of the world's great enterprises. And yet one cannot but feel that if the exposition throughout were reduced by say twenty-five per cent, it would be in a better position financially and prove as great an attraction to visitors. On construction and equipment there was expended no less a sum than \$33,000,000, a figure so large that it is inclined to ask whether it all went into the building of even this great exposition. A reduction of twenty-five per cent. in the size would mean a saving of nearly \$9,000,000 on the cost, and the gate receipts would have been no less than they are today. In fact, the average attendance so far at St. Louis has not been in keeping with the magnitude and scope of the exposition and very little larger than one would expect to see on a big day at the Toronto Fair. Though undoubtedly a great exposition, the St. Louis Fair has so far failed to attract visitors in large numbers from any great distance. Especially is this true of the Atlantic