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TORONTO JUNCTION THE PLACE FOR THE WINTER FAIR

The Ontario Government, before placing a sum in the estimates for an addition to the Winter Fair building at Guelph, should have investigated the proposition to locate the fair at Toronto Junction. Recent developments have shown that many breeders, and others interested in the welfare of the show, are strongly in favor of making the change. The cattle sales at the Union Stock Yards the past two weeks, have demonstrated that the Junction will draw a crowd. Representative men were there from all parts of Ontario, and were outspoken in their desire to see a great national live stock show established at that point.

Toronto Junction possesses exceptional facilities for carrying on a show of this kind. Both the C. P. R. and the G. T. R. have direct connection

with the yards. The accommodation for loading and unloading stock is of the very best. There is ample room for stabling horses, cattle, sheep and swine in large numbers, and it is the very best of the kind to be found anywhere. In addition to this, the Union Stock Yards Company is prepared to meet the breeders more than half way in the erection of a suitable arena for show purposes. The plans for this arena provide for the expenditure of \$100,000, of which the breeders and others interested, are asked to contribute \$40,000. In these plans are included lecture rooms, committee rooms, offices, and everything that goes to make up a successful educational and live stock exposition. The Union Stock Yards are within half an hour's ride from the centre of Toronto, electric cars running to within a block of the yards. Every visitor to the show is, therefore, assured of the best of hotel accommodation.

Contrast this accommodation for visitors, exhibitors and exhibits, with that provided at Guelph. It will not compare with it for a moment. The Winter Fair building at the Royal City, is nothing more, nor less, than a burlesque on what the accommodation for a great national show should be. It is badly lighted, exhibits cannot be seen to advantage, the facilities for judging are poor, and visitors desiring to see the animals in the stalls, or pens, frequently have to tramp through filth and litter that would not be tolerated in any well-regulated breeder's stable. The educational facilities are below par. The lecture hall is noisy, hard to get at, and poorly ventilated, and the less said about the hotel accommodation the better.

And what does the Government propose? Merely to expend \$20,000 in enlarging this inadequate building. It would require several times that amount to make the facilities at Guelph what they ought to be. What is required is an entirely new structure, built upon up-to-date lines, and with a view to future expansion and growth. But no Government would be justified in expending so large a sum at Guelph, with the Union Stock Yards proposition before it. In our opinion, and it is the expressed opinion of a great many of our leading breeders and show men, the Government is not justified in expending even \$20,000 in patching up the accommodation at Guelph, without first giving due consideration to the facilities which Toronto Junction affords. The future of the Winter Fair is at stake. A mistake made at the present time would be fatal. What this country wants, and what our breeders desire, is a great national show, that would place our live stock industry in the front rank, advertise it abroad, and bring it into the limelight at home. In all sincerity, we claim that this cannot be done under the conditions now existing in the city of Guelph.

The strong argument for retaining the Winter Fair at Guelph, is its proximity to the Agricultural College. But is the argument sufficient to justify

parlance for all time to come the future of this great national show? No one appreciates more than we do the splendid work the college is doing, and the advantage of having the staff closely identified with the Winter Fair. But the fair does not need to be located at the college door to obtain the full benefit of its services. It is only a short run from Guelph to Toronto Junction, and a slight expenditure of time and money would enable the staff to give the show the full benefit of their services at that point. As for the benefit the students receive from being able to attend the show, it would be greatly increased by having the fair located at a live stock centre, where market conditions, and all features of the trade, could be studied.

The offer of the Union Stock Yards Company, is a most generous one. What has Guelph done for the Winter Fair? A paltry \$15,000 was contributed by the city to the building fund when the show was permanently located there, some eight or nine years ago, and it was hard work to get that. Contrast this with the offer of the Union Stock Yards Company to contribute \$60,000 towards the erection of a \$100,000 arena, and to give the use of their yards and stable accommodation, for show purposes. This offer is worthy of the mature consideration of any government. Before expending any more money in patching up the admittedly poor accommodation at Guelph, the Toronto Junction proposition should, at least, be carefully looked into. The breeders and stockmen expect this of the members of the government and will hold them to strict account for any mistake made at this juncture in the Winter Fair's history.

THE CLOVER SEED PROBLEM

In a season like the present one, when clover seed is scarce, and the price almost prohibitive, considerable land that otherwise would and should be seeded to clover will be neglected in this regard. This is a great mistake. If the practice is followed long the result will be poorer crops, and finally the land will become so run down that it will be almost impossible to raise profitable crops.

The question of seeding to clover is of greater importance than ever this spring. Owing to the high price of all kinds of grain, together with the great demand for hay and straw, large quantities of these feeding stuffs, formerly fed, have this past season, been sold off the farm. Particularly has this been true of straw. Farmers, who never before sold a load of straw from their farms, have been induced by the prevailing high prices to sell all the straw they could possibly spare. In line with this policy the amount of live stock kept has been cut down wherever practicable. It is apparent, therefore, that farmers will have less manure to apply to their fields this spring than formerly. This can have but one effect. With a reduced supply of manure will follow a reduction in the yield of our crops.

We must take action then, to counterbalance this reduced supply of manure. In no way can we do it more effectively than by seeding a good portion of our farms to clover. Clover is the greatest of soil renovators. It loosens up the soil and places it in a good mechanical condition. It seems to add something to the soil that nothing else can do. It not only adds to the supply of nitrogen in the soil but greatly increases the amount of humus as well. Do not let the high price of clover seed, therefore, prevent you from seeding any of your land that should be seeded. The money thus expended will be returned many times over by the better crops that will ultimately be raised.

IS THE DRAFT HORSE DOOMED?

The statement made in the annual report of the officers of the Harness, Hunter and Saddle Horse Society, that the heavy horse is doomed to be replaced by electricity or other power need not be taken seriously. In so far, at least, as Canada is concerned, the possibility of such a condition of affairs, is far distant. There is already planned in Canada and under construction enough railway building to provide a market for heavy working horses for years to come. And this is merely the beginning. As the West develops and the "hinter land" of Ontario and Quebec is opened up, railway construction will increase and with it demand for horses of the draft type, not the military or pleasure horse, valuable though he may be.

It will be some time also before the heavy draft horses will be out of the running in other lines of activity. For farm work and for heavy teaming in towns and cities he will be wanted for some time to come. With the kind of winter we have had this season it is questionable if electric or other motive power will ever come into general use. Where snow piles up several feet high on the country roads and in the city streets as well, the horse is the only motor power that can be utilized to advantage. Motor power is not of much account in a snow bank. Even the powerful Mogul engines of our railways are powerless against it. But, the intelligent horse, with proper guidance, will get through some good sized banks of snow, and haul our sleighs with decent loads on them after him.

More maple sugar and maple syrup are produced in Ontario than most people suppose. The maple areas are so scattered there is no means of determining their extent. In the State of Vermont, the sugar makers have a strong association which has done excellent work. This association holds an annual convention and occasional local meetings. There is an exhibition of maple products and of supplies used in maple sugar making. The association has helped the makers by securing laws that protect them from the competition of adulterated products. We would like to hear what those of our readers who are interested in this matter think of this suggestion. Why do our On-