

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. *

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Editorial.

Winnipeg Industrial Reviewed.

Looking backward to scan the various stages in the progress of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition as it developed toward its present high standing, anyone can trace the skillful hand of an intelligent management. The good effects of its work need not be discussed at this time—they are many. It is ours rather to look forward and, being mindful of the mistakes of the past, press onward to better things.

In connection with this year's live-stock department, there are a few features that were by no means what they ought to have been, and for which no one appeared to be directly responsible. In the first place, the show has outgrown its accommodation for live stock, and the time is at hand when more and better buildings are urgently needed. In the horse barns, as they at present exist, a better system of ventilation should be installed. During the sultry days of the show, there were times when some of the animals sweltered terribly, because it was not possible to open sufficient window space to allow a free circulation of air. It would cost but little to improve this feature, and no doubt the directors of the horse department will see to it that next year no complaints can be heard in this regard.

Another matter demanding attention is the accommodation afforded the attendants upon the stock. As it is, those who must remain in charge of the animals—either horses or cattle—have not a decent, much less a comfortable, place suitable for sleeping quarters. If those upon whom rests the responsibility for this condition believe that anything is good enough for stockmen, and that because they have not raised a great kick no change is necessary, they are sadly mistaken. If the comfort of any class at the show is deserving of some consideration, it is the stockmen who have contributed so largely toward making Winnipeg Industrial what it is. The changes needed in this, as in the case previously mentioned, need not be expensive. A few thousand feet of lumber sufficient to construct a loft or upper chamber in each barn, with a few ladders leading thereto, would fill the bill very nicely, and at the same time afford the much-needed space for storing food supplies. The ideal, but, perhaps, most expensive plan of providing this needed accommodation, would be to raise still higher the present elevated portion of the roof of each horse-stable, sufficient to make the whole upper extension a sleeping and storage room.

As an educational factor, the live-stock department was not all this year that it could have been. Catalogues announcing the entries in each class, and giving the name of each exhibitor, and the name and breeding of his entry, were well gotten out, and offered to the public at cost, but there were no numbers on the stalls to correspond with the catalogue numbers, and, hence, visitors were not encouraged to become interested, and those who were determined to learn something of each animal had to be content with enquiring for their information. It is regrettable that a small matter like this, but so full of significance from an educational standpoint, should be overlooked. In the ring a rather better state of affairs existed, for cards bearing the

number of each animal were provided, and when the exhibitors were compelled to wear them, which, however, was not always, those who stood by the ring-side had some means of knowing who owned the animal, and to what class it belonged. A great improvement in this connection could still be made by announcing upon a large bulletin board the number of the winners in each section.

To the credit of the superintendent of the horse-ring, it must be said that the different classes were run off pretty well on time; the ring, however, is too far from the barns, and the facilities for calling the classes were not altogether satisfactory, hence exhibitors who had many entries were kept hustling, and in a few instances the animals did not appear until the ribbons had been placed.

The steam threshing machines, being close to the horse and cattle rings, proved to be quite a disturbing element. No one would care to see them absent, but hereafter some other quarter should be provided where their noise will not be so distinctly heard in the live-stock quarters of Exhibition Park.

The "Farmer's Advocate" believes it would be decidedly in the interest of the live-stock department, and, incidentally, of the exhibition in general, to have a superintendent who would have full control of all live stock at the show, and who would be responsible for successfully carrying out every detail, both in regard to the stabling and exhibiting of the stock. At present no one appears to feel responsible, and, consequently, much is left undone.

In regard to the midway, and the numerous criticisms which may be offered regarding it, one thing is certain, it occupied far too prominent a position on the grounds. If we are to have it hereafter, let it be in a less conspicuous quarter, where only those who so desire will be obliged to submit to its hilarious sounds. A full report of Winnipeg fair commences on page 811.

Siftings.

Now that the leading shows are over for another year, turn all highly-fitted cattle on the grass, and let them rustle for awhile; it will do them a wonderful amount of good, provided the pasture is fair.

Do not put off for even a day any necessary repairs which your threshing outfit may require. The threshing season will soon be here, and at such a time delays are costly. Save as much as possible by a stitch in time.

Do not neglect the growing pigs during harvest. Often there is a tendency to overlook them during that busy period, and the hurried farmer says: "When my crop is safely harvested I will give them some extra feed and make it all up." Such can never be done, so be on the outlook. A word to the wise is sufficient.

How about your granaries; are they cleaned out and repaired, if such be needed? See to it, for the time is coming, and that soon, when they will be required.

That portion of your summer-fallow which you have had occasion to neglect, should, if possible, be run over before harvest. Make a raid upon it; you still have a few days before cutting commences, and if you skip these there will not likely be another opportunity this season.

The Boys' Claim.

There is not a more persistent nor perplexing question in the minds of intelligent young men than the question of choosing a vocation in life. It enters the minds of all thinking boys, and starts them upon a course of solid, original investigation, to determine the relative advantages and disadvantages of different lines of work, and to analyze their own capabilities and inclinations in the matter of a life's calling.

If left to himself at this stage, it is more than probable that the boy will decide on some profession as far removed from farming as possible, and by sheer determination and honest work become a successful man and useful citizen, but the farm is the loser by just that much. If, on the other hand, the boy is given a chance to see something of life, to mingle with men, to know the life of the great world around him, a different course might be followed. To accomplish this end at a small and judicious outlay, farm boys should be given a chance to attend a good agricultural college. At such a place the influences surrounding him will all tend to implant in him a love for the farm, for stock, and for outdoor life. The teachings of the college will bear so logically upon his knowledge of farming operations that he is at once interested, and the longer he studies the more interested he becomes, until any preconceived inclination for other professions are entirely obliterated, and there is formed the nucleus of the successful farmer of the future.

These remarks should bear particularly upon the well-to-do classes, for it is among them that some of the most unfortunate conditions relative to farming exists. Because of the good circumstances of some families, some of its individuals receive the benefits of a liberal education, and follow professional careers, and for the same reason others in the same family are started upon farms, but without any special educational training for their business. The result in many cases is obvious. The former have received not only special training, but in receiving it have been surrounded by influences that direct in the proper use of success. The latter, having missed the special training, are also devoid of the broadening and elevating influences of liberal education. A higher standard of living, or a better appreciation of life, is one of the most crying needs of the country to-day, in order to retain the young people on the farm. Give the farmers of the future their dues. No time should be lost in establishing the promised Manitoba agricultural college, for there is infinitely more in making a life than in making a living.

American versus Canadian Milling.

Representative Bede, of Duluth, Minn., states that in course of time, owing to the rapid decline of Minnesota wheat-growing, the great mills of Minneapolis and Duluth will have to shut down, unless under some reciprocal arrangement they can get the wheat of Western Canada to grind. Why not get in on the ground-floor by moving the milling outfits into Manitoba and the Territories, where the world's best wheat is being produced? That would be easier than looking to Canada for reciprocal favors, and is the sensible plan adopted by the great International Harvester Company and other American manufacturers. If our magnificent No. 1 hard goes into U. S. mills it goes out on to the market as "American Flour," and its reputation to Canada is lost and our milling industry is not built up. Furthermore, the offal (shorts and bran) should be kept in Canada for feeding purposes, thus aiding our live-stock industry and sustaining the fertility of our soil.