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EDITORIAL.

Exhibition Echoes.

The more brazen the faker, the keener the fools.

How people do like to be humbugged, and how well the fakers know it!

One good new feature is worth more as a turn-stile clicker than half a dozen old ones.

People who pay five cents to ride a few rods on the street car, will carry a free pine yardstick about the grounds all day to take home to the children at night.

Something for nothing, is the motto of the average exhibition visitor. If he can't get something for nothing he'll give something for nothing. Level-headed common sense is the rarest attribute of a crowd.

The process building, where various mechanical arts and processes of manufacture were going on, was run this year at Toronto for the third season. It and the butter-making competitions there and at London were scenes of lively interest. People like to be where something is doing. It is a gratifying tribute to the spirit of the age that the modern sight-seer wants information.

"It's astonishing," observed a cattle judge lately, "how deficient in knowledge many people still are regarding the characteristics of the leading breeds of live stock. Thousands passing up and down the stables will enquire the names of the most distinctive breeds. An uninformed person might be excused for mistaking Galloways for Aberdeen-Angus, or Brown Swiss for Jerseys, but when men cannot recognize a Hereford or a Holstein, it emphasizes the need for live-stock judging classes to equip the everyday farmer with a working knowledge of breeds."

Automobile fiends were the only dangerous animals allowed at large on the Canadian fair grounds this year. They were a strong class, numerically, and drove impartially over the crowded as well as the less-frequented highways. By what principle of ethics a party of four in a motor car should be entitled to as much license in the way of space and privileges as two dozen pedestrians—to say nothing of the public danger from machines in crowded places—we are at a loss to determine. The auto is a bad enough nuisance on streets and highways without tolerating its obtrusion in fair-ground crowds. By the way, about the most extraordinary thing we saw this year was an Ottawa chauffeur running his machine at a sauntering pace, and actually taking in the sights.

Is it not about time that exhibitions of the scale and pretensions of the Central Canada, at Ottawa, and the Western, at London, get a hustle on and prepare catalogues for their live-stock exhibits? Without catalogues the visitor has no means of identifying the animals, and is hence deprived of a good share of the pleasure and information of watching the judging-ring, while the reporter is often obliged to depend for information upon unlettered herdsmen, with the option of spending two or three days after the judging chasing up exhibitors, which is not only annoying, but renders it extremely difficult to avoid inaccuracies. Since a good review of the classes is

a benefit, not only to stockmen, but to the exhibition which it advertises, it is right and expedient to accord the press every facility, and a catalogue is a thing that would be greatly appreciated all round. Failure to provide it was explained to us by Secretary Mahon, of Ottawa, as being due to their taking entries up to the opening, which precludes its publication. We presume the object is to leave the classes open for any Toronto exhibitors who may at the last minute decide to go to Ottawa, which this year was held on the same date as London. For various reasons it is customary for stockmen to choose one or the other of these fairs. London, presumably, is influenced by similar considerations. The consequence is that many exhibitors defer entering for either of these shows until they get to Toronto and see how the prospects are for the subsequent fairs, when they play their cards accordingly. That any greater number of animals are shown, on the whole, than would be the case under the early-entry and catalogue system, is quite improbable, the main result being that in some cases breeders show at Ottawa who would more properly come within the pale of London, and vice versa. We believe neither show would lose in entries if both adopted catalogues, but doubtless each hesitates to make the move for fear its rival will get the bulge. But why not get together and both agree to publish a catalogue for 1906? It is time for a change.

Ten cents was about a quarter too much for the average side-show on the Toronto Exhibition Midway this year. A "Farmer's Advocate" man made a point of going through a number of these shows to find out what they were like. With one exception, there was nothing obscene, but nearly all were cheap and stale. One consisted of a half-minute dark promenade between narrow partitions, floored with swinging platforms that made footing uncertain. One was a cheap and vulgar calcium effect, showing the "resurrection" of Cleopatra. One consisted principally of a few stunts by a rubber-necked, double-jointed, leering contortionist, followed by a few incongruous poses, the first being of "Adam and Eve," and the next a theatrical posture of a very similar-looking pair in Modern New York. One couldn't help noticing in this connection, how little the styles had changed. The best thing, perhaps, was a series of moving pictures, showing a negro chase which ended in a lynching. And this is the kind of thing that is dished up regularly on the Midway at Toronto and leading Provincial fairs! Surely it is time for a little more discrimination. If we must have side-shows, let them be wholesome, and let us debar these ineffable humbugs at which a gullible public persists in squandering its hard-earned cash. It is true that at Toronto a couple of shows were expelled during the fair because the "spielers" (men who stand outside to solicit patronage) were obscene in their remarks. For his prompt action in this matter Manager Orr deserves credit, but care should be taken not to admit shows which make hardly a pretense of giving value for the money they take. Ofttimes the visitor has no idea until he gets inside what a miserable give-away he is entering. Sensible people should know enough to shun the cheap-John midway entertainment (?), but the multitude doesn't, as is shown by the repeatedly crowded tents. At the best, a good deal of money goes out of the country to be squandered by a lot of dissolute foreign rowdies. People who can be taken in by fool-catchers should be regarded as wards of the exhibition and protected accordingly for their own good and that of the public.

The Tariff Commission Bows to Public Opinion.

It is now commonly known that the trio of Cabinet Ministers, Messrs. Fielding, Patterson and Brodeur, at the eleventh hour postponed their Manitoba sittings so that the farmers might have an opportunity to present their side of the case. What were the causes of such postponement? Before endeavoring to answer, we submit the following editorial comment on the subject from the Montreal Witness:

"The Tariff Commission has suspended its meetings in Manitoba. It was petitioned not to hold its sittings in the Prairie Province until after the harvest. Its refusal was ungracious and bad policy, as is now shown by its own action. After coming into contact with public opinion in Winnipeg, the Commission found it stronger than it had expected, and rather late in the day decided that discretion was the better part of valor. It is pleasing to find that there is a public opinion in the matter of the tariff so vigorous as to make the interests of the farmers felt. The Commissioners go on to British Columbia, and will return to Manitoba, and the new Provinces in November, as they were originally requested to do. That is well. It will give the farmers time to get in the harvest and also to prepare a good case to present to the Commission."

Even at the outset the chairman, Mr. Fielding, plainly intimated that they—the members of the Tariff Commission—were busy men, and that other parts of Canada were also busy, which attitude showed two things—he forgot for the moment that he was a sworn and paid servant of all the people to look after their interests, and that he was entirely unacquainted with Western conditions. The change of date has given the ministers a chance to see what strenuous times are the months of August, September and October to the farmers of Manitoba, Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Postponement is until some time in November, and it is now in order for the Grain-growers' and other farmers' organizations to be on deck ready, if not to demand alteration in the tariff, to see at least that the manufacturers do not present arguments for increases, to go uncontroverted. If the farmers fail to make a strong fight in November, and tariff increases follow, it will be their own fault.

Such public questions as increase of duties on lumber, twine, fence wire, coal oil, and implements, will require to be pronounced upon with vigor by the farmers' representatives, and while a feeling of opulence, the result of garnering a good crop, or the throes of Provincial elections may tend to abate the farmer's interest in the tariff question temporarily, it will be a vital mistake if he neglects to put forward an able presentation of his case.

The Stock-growers' and other live-stock associations should be on hand to present their case and put themselves on record in an unmistakable manner on a question, not of politics, but of economics, in which they are as producers and consumers profoundly interested. It is important not to forget that had the Western farmer trusted entirely to his representatives, no opportunity would have been afforded him to present his case to the Commission, and while the Witness points out that the Tariff Commission did not postpone on first request, the real blame lies on those Western Members of Parliament who failed to look after their clients' interests by protesting against arranging a series of meetings for a time when, they knew full well, the farmers would be too busy to attend. Fortunately, others