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The Ideal Modern Exhibition.

The history of exhibitions on this continent and in Europe has shown them to be powerful factors in the education of the people and the development of the country's industrial arts. The beneficial influence which they have exerted in encouraging the production of high-class live stock and agricultural products, and the invention and manufacture of labor-saving machinery, can never be fully estimated. Year by year the leading shows of this country have been gradually improving in attendance, extent of exhibits, and financial receipts. While this has been true, some, however, have retrograded to some extent in general quality of exhibits and in influence for good, by pandering to a certain class who revel only in exciting attractions and circus performances. A policy that caters very largely to the sentimental element in humanity may be successful for a time, but inevitably it must come to ruin. As an example, the Pan-American emphasized attractions, fireworks and the midway, and was a failure, while Glasgow emphasized the industrial arts and was a success.

What Western Canada needs at the present time is real industrial exhibitions; shows that will exemplify and encourage the chief industries of the country, and serve as an advertisement of what the land can produce. The assertion is frequently made that without the horse race, the side-show and similar features it is impossible to get the crowd, and it is noticeable that in several cases this year these are being more largely advertised than other departments of the fair. This is a great mistake. Exhibitions, when established upon a sound basis and with a proper ideal, have more than paid their way when properly managed. All that is required is the confidence of the people, including exhibitors, and they have always shown a disposition to support shows calculated to promote the best interests of the country in developing its resources.

The real function of the ideal modern exhibition is to educate and enlighten, rather than merely entertain or afford enjoyment, which can have no lasting effect upon the country's progress. Such an exhibition is one in which the managers and directors are imbued with motives true and lofty, and calls for the highest exertion of their constructive energies. The financing must be liberal, and the moneys judiciously expended. It must also have a properly classified prize-list, one in which the greatest financial encouragement is given to the industry or production deserving of the most support, and which will result in the most good to the country. A criticism has been offered that in several instances this year more money was being given for the horse-racing than for any other department. Where an exhibition assumes the name of industrial, or purports to be industrial in the character of its exhibits, a classification admitting of such comparison would be not only inconsistent but an evidence that the management were not aiming at the realization of the highest and best ideal. Horse-racing has its place, but that should not be the most prominent one at a show designated as industrial, nor should it be carried on at a time when attention is likely to be drawn from the judging of live-stock or agricultural products. In some cases, where it has been found expedient to have racing events in connection

with agricultural shows, the last day has been set apart for that purpose alone. This system has proved most satisfactory, and is undoubtedly the only proper method, but it must be remembered, nevertheless, that the ideal exhibition has no speeding events, and in towns where there is a demand for them a separate time should be set apart when nothing else is claiming public attention. A good substitute, and one that is deserving of support, are competitions among hunters or hurdle jumpers, and the various carriage classes, shown before the grand stand.

In a well-managed show the rules as laid down in the prize-list will be enforced. Too often this is not the case and results in dissatisfaction to those who aim to come near the mark. The judges, too, will be chosen because of their ability to give satisfaction. Many local shows in the past have perished upon this rock. In too many cases the selection of men to grant the awards has been regarded as a comparatively unimportant matter, and persons have been chosen to fill these important positions more because of their popularity as citizens than otherwise. As a consequence, the best has not always received the highest honors, and its producers learned to stay away, the show being the final and principal loser. If an exhibition board feel that they cannot pay the expense of having competent and conscientious men to occupy the capacity of a judge, it is time for them to consider what duty they owe to the community, and why such an institution as the exhibition of which they are in charge should exist.

Every effort should be made to have exhibits placed in the best position for inspection. They are there to be seen, and the people who come to learn should have a chance to gratify their desire. In live stock, the numbering of the stalls, with a corresponding number in a neatly-printed catalogue, giving the age and breeding of each animal, is a most useful and instructive system of assisting the visitor to gain information. In the show-ring, too, the method which is being adopted this year at Winnipeg, of having each attendant carry on his breast and back a card bearing the catalogue number, age and weight of the animal under his charge, is worthy of commendation. This plan will enable the onlooker to form an intelligent idea of what is going on in the ring, and will at least tend toward eliciting the interest of the uninitiated in live-stock lore. A covered judging barn or pavilion is another feature of the ideal show, but it entails an expenditure that is not justifiable unless where the available finances are strong, or when ample accommodation has been provided in the way of stock barns and floor-room for the exhibition of manufactures. A good substitute for this, however, is ample seating capacity provided by the use of the open ring.

Among the principal features of the ideal show, practical demonstrations in live-stock judging should occupy a prominent place. Contests in judging live-stock, and in butter-making and various industrial processes, are also interesting and attractive, and when properly conducted do much to create a desire for information that is useful and overcome the demand for light or frivolous attractions.

There are about 650 creameries in Norway, and their daily consumption of milk is about 220,000 gallons. Their total product in 1901 amounted to 7,716,170 pounds of butter, and 9,122,718 pounds of cheese.

Theory and Practice of Live-stock Judging.

The best education and preparation for the office or function of a judge of live stock of any class, is prolonged practical experience in breeding, feeding and handling high-class animals of the breed upon which one undertakes to pass judgment. Not all, however, who are fortunate enough to have this advantage become discriminating judges. Close observation and comparison of animals and a careful study of their peculiarities and of the particular use to which they are to be put in life is essential, as well as thoughtful consideration, in the case of meat-producing animals, of their comparative value for that purpose. A man may spend the most of his life in the care of cattle or other stock, and if he has not an innate liking for animals, an eye for symmetry of form and of the proper balance of proportions, he will probably fail to become a critical and reliable judge. While the art of judging, in the best sense of the term, and in its best application, is in large measure a natural intuition, it is freely conceded that by careful study and comparison of animals of differing types, one not naturally gifted with this special faculty, but having a fair knowledge of the accepted standard of excellence and of the approved type, may become a good and safe judge. Some of the most successful breeders and most reliable judges in the business are men who had not the advantage of youthful training in the care of pure-bred stock, or of early association with experienced stockmen. Whether their success has been mainly due to a natural faculty for discriminating between faulty and correct conformation in animals, or to close observation and persistent study, by which they have acquired the accomplishment is not easily determined, but the fact of their success favors the reasonable contention that judging is a science which may be acquired in spite of the lack of favorable associations and environment, though these are, of course, exceedingly helpful.

Standards of excellence, giving the relative value of the various points or parts of animals, have been prepared by acknowledged authorities in some of the breeds, and these serve a useful purpose in the class-room of agricultural schools as a partial guide and help, but the use of the score-card in the work of judging in the show-ring has been found impracticable, and it has, after a fair trial, been discarded. A knowledge of what is known as breed character, and a discernment of what is generally accepted as the type best suited to the purpose for which the animals are intended, and for the requirements of the legitimate trade of the times, and of the best available markets, is of first importance in one accepting the position of a judge. This knowledge is acquired by observation, and by reading, and, best of all, by practical experience in breeding, buying and selling superior stock.

Among the principal and most important points to receive careful attention in judging any class of stock, are the indications of strength of constitution. These consist of good width of chest, or width between the fore legs, thickness through the body behind the shoulders, with long and deep foreribs, giving ample capacity for the free action of the heart and lungs, so essential to health, strength and robustness, and without