

Another Live Stock Arena

The Canadian National Exhibition Association has decided to erect on the Exhibition grounds in time for the exhibition of 1905, a live stock arena with a seating capacity for 20,000 people, and to cost about \$125,000. It is the intention to have this arena bear the same relation to the live stock industry, that the new manufacturers building bears to the manufacturing industries of the Dominion. It is probable that the directors of the association will consult with the live stock breeders when the plans are far enough advanced for this purpose.

Such an arena would add immensely to the live stock equipment of the Industrial Fair. The stockmen, who provide one of the great features of the show, deserve it. It will permit of educational features being conducted and enable the judging program to be carried out no matter how inclement the weather may be. With comfortable seats for onlookers, the live stock judging can be made the important feature in the exhibition attractions that it should be. It is to be hoped that the 'promise' arena will be forthcoming next year.

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Guelph Up in Arms

Recent rumors and reports of plans to build an up-to-date live stock arena at Toronto Junction and also in Toronto, have created no little stir in the city of Guelph. What the row is all about no one seems to know definitely, not even the citizens of the Royal City. The city council met and passed resolutions censuring the Live Stock Commissioner, the Secretary of the Live Stock Associations, and the stockmen generally, for assisting any other scheme that has not Guelph as its centre. Mr. Westervelt appeared before the "Royal" tribunal, and, according to newspaper reports, explained his own and the position of the others concerned, to the satisfaction of that august body. This calmed the storm for about 24 hours. Then the Guelph Fat Stock Club loomed upon the scene. Previous explanations did not satisfy its members. The Minister of Agriculture must be seen and the government must be interviewed lest some other place, by supplying better and more up-to-date accommodation for both man and beast, should wrest from the Royal City some of its, so-called, vested rights.

To go into the ins-and-outs of the whole matter would take more space than the importance of the subject demands. Suffice it to say that when in 1900 the stockmen decided to locate the Winter Fair permanently at Guelph, and the corporation promised to provide suitable accommodation for the fair, a hard and fast agreement was entered into to hold the show at Guelph for ten years. As far as we can learn, there is no intention on the part of anyone responsible for its carrying out, to

break this agreement. But discontented claim that government auction sales were to be a permanency at Guelph for the ten years as well as the winter fair. It is, however, not so stated in the bond. Government sales were discontinued in 1903, and here is where the shoe pinches, though why this action should be complained of is hard to understand as no definite promise was made by the Live Stock Associations to make these sales a fixture at Guelph.

The whole affair is given a somewhat amusing turn by the claim that Guelph came to the rescue of the Winter Fair when it was wandering about without a home. To those of us who attended the meetings in Toronto when the decision in favor of Guelph was given, and who know how easily victory might have been turned in favor of Brantford, the other competitor for the fair, this claim seems silly. While the stockmen of this province owe a great deal to Guelph, and the initiative it took in the early days in establishing the Fat Stock Show, it must be remembered that there are others. The accommodation provided at Guelph, while adequate for the Winter Fair in its earlier stages, does not begin to be what is required for a fair of its present proportions. There is no room for growth, and an institution of this kind that has not room for steady growth will soon reach the limit of its usefulness. Besides, the hotel accommodation is only of a second rate kind and not much of it at that. Nevertheless the winter fair is a fixture there until 1909, and perhaps longer, if the people of that city measure up for the occasion and provide as good accommodation both for exhibitors and visitors as can be secured elsewhere. It would not be surprising, however, if the unseemly row Guelph is making, does not spur other places up to bid against her for the coveted winter fair, when it is open for engagement. If adequate accommodation is provided, surely other places have as good a right to the fair as the Royal City, strong though her claims may be.

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Distributing Grants to Agricultural Societies.

A question that must be faced in the near future and placed on a more satisfactory basis than it is at the present time, is that of apportioning grants to the various district and township agricultural societies in the province. Though it has come up frequently at the Canadian Fairs Association's meetings, and has provoked some warm debates, the question is no nearer a solution than it was ten years ago.

The division of the grant at the present time is made on a basis of membership. But division according to membership is not satisfactory. A society near a city or town where it is comparatively easy to work up a big membership list, often secures the largest grant, though its fair is very far from being as good as some of the smaller ones, where the membership is small and also the

Government grant. A case in point is that of Brantford, where an attempt to hold a district fair has proven an utter failure. Brantford a few miles from Brantford, but many years held a most successful local show, much superior to the one held at the latter place. And yet, owing to the apportioning of the grant on a membership basis, Brantford received about \$350 and Burford about \$150 each year. Similar comparisons could be made in other parts of the province. Of course, if all we do not plead for the township in preference to the district show. Both can be made to do effective work if properly managed. But what we do object to is that a society, whether a district or township one, may hold an exhibition that is of no value whatsoever, in promoting agriculture in the district, and yet it will receive a much larger grant than another society in the same locality that is doing much more valuable work, merely because it can run up a big membership list.

Such a division of funds set aside for a special purpose is evidently unfair. But how is it to be remedied? What basis of distribution will prove more satisfactory than the present one?

Many suggestions have been made. The one that commends itself to our judgment as being likely to work out to the best interests of all concerned, is to make the basis of division the amount of prize money paid for purely agricultural exhibits. Looked at from all standpoints a division of the Government grant made on this basis would give more general satisfaction and lead to more effective work for agriculture than can ever be hoped for from the present plan. It would induce societies to bend their energies to getting up a large prize list for live stock, poultry, fruit, grain, etc. and would tend to eliminate the horserace and the special attraction as dominant factors in the local fair.

But if the grant is apportioned on a basis of prize money only, what about the society that neither holds a fair nor gives prizes of any kind? As is shown elsewhere there are not a few in this position. However, a society that is doing effective work by buying and distributing good stock among its members, and in other ways fulfilling its mission, need not be left out. A basis of apportioning the grant to these upon the amount paid out for stock, etc., could be easily arranged for. There need be no difficulty on that score.

Where the chief difficulty arises will be to induce the societies with large membership and fake shows to agree to any new basis of division. But they should not be allowed to stand in the way of progress and advancement. The Minister of Agriculture and the new Superintendent of Fairs should use every reasonable means to bring these "laggards" into line. If they will not come willingly, then let more aggressive measures be taken. The farmers of this province and those interested in promoting what is best in agriculture will stand by them in whatever action may be taken to eliminate all inequalities in the distribution of the grant to agricultural societies, and to make these organizations more effective agents for the promotion of higher agriculture in the province.

The subject is a most important one, and we would be glad to have suggestions as to the best way of bringing about an improvement.