

The Management of Agricultural Exhibitions.

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(Continued from February issue.)

In preparing for the exhibition it seems best to allot to each director some one branch for which he seems most suited and for which he is to be responsible during the entire period of the exhibition. Official opening, in the majority of cases, can best be dispensed with and the time and money which would be expended on them be put to some more practical and profitable use. In judging, in all departments, decided preference should be given to the system of employing single expert judges instead of the usual custom of appointing three local men, one of whom usually does the judging while he throws the responsibility of his decisions upon the other two. Judging by points, especially in the dairy, poultry and live stock departments, should, whenever possible, be established; thus, by showing young breeders wherein lie their weak as well as strong points, is accomplishing far more than by simply awarding prizes to the two or three best competing animals, and should have a wholesome tendency in checking the injurious practice of grossly over fattening breeding animals for the purpose of covering up defects, greatly, however, to the detriment of the breeding powers and general usefulness of the animals themselves. Every publicity should also be given on the entry tickets attached to all exhibits as to the name and residence of the exhibitor. This, from an educational point of view, is of great importance, and it not only shows the public the confidence the directors have in their judges, but also prevents any biased judge from shielding himself in the professed ignorance of whose exhibits are being submitted to his inspection.

In the matter of providing amusements it seems that, as in the case of all circulating libraries, by far the largest proportion of works read are fiction, so for a like reason does it seem necessary that "attractions," as they are called, must be provided each day where the keeping up of the association is dependent mainly upon the gate receipts. What remains for the directors to do is to see that the attractions are of an inoffensive nature, and to entirely prohibit all gambling, betting or games of chance, and upon no excuse whatever to allow intoxicants, no matter of how mild a nature, to be sold or even brought upon the ground. So long as horse racing, or "speeding in the ring," as it is called, seems to be unavoidable, it should be governed by the strictest rules, and any attempt at "jockeying" be severely dealt with, and among these and other attractions a goodly share of the time and money should be allotted to athletic sports, "tugs-of-war," trials of strength between teams of working oxen and draught horses, and what is of more importance, and perhaps equally attractive with the "2:40 class," is a half mile walking race between working teams of horses.

As the interests of all agricultural associations are identical, so should perfect harmony and a willingness to help one-and-others exist amongst them all. Politics should never be allowed to enter into their constitutions; courtesy towards their sister societies, their judges, exhibitors and their visitors should ever mark their acts; severe and impartial judging should be their golden rule, and although the work at times may fall heavily upon the directors, they will learn by experience that eternal vigilance is the price of success, and that an honest and impartial reputation is by far the best and most profitable advertisement that could be devised.

Garden and Orchard.

Raspberry and Blackberry Culture for Profit.

BY T. G. H. PATTISON, GRIMSBY, ONT.

The writer has often wondered that more farmers do not set apart a plot for this branch of fruit growing. Indeed, aside from the question of direct money profit, it would benefit every farmer to grow these delicious fruits for his own use; but let no one attempt to grow for profit who is not either near a good local market or close within reasonable distance from a railway station where he can ship his fruit at moderate rates to the large markets. It is also important that pickers be obtainable without difficulty in sufficient numbers and at moderate figures—one cent a quart, where the crop is good, is what we usually pay. Where these conditions are favorable, and with proper attention and cultivation, there is certainly as much profit, in comparison with the labor expended, as in any other branch of fruit growing.

Almost any soil will do for these fruits, provided it be rich and well drained. If not rich naturally it should be made so, and if not naturally well-drained it must be thoroughly underdrained before planting, for no success will be obtained if the land is poor, cold or wet.

Beginners should procure their plants from some responsible nursery—if possible in their own neighborhood—where they can be procured at reasonable rates, which, of course, vary slightly in different localities; afterwards the grower can raise his own plants by setting apart a small piece of land for that purpose. The red raspberries and the blackberries propagate from the roots, but the black raspberries from the tips, which must be laid down and covered with a little earth to ensure their taking root; from the last of August to the middle of September is the proper time to do this.

Either fall or spring will do to plant in, but it is the writer's opinion that in this climate spring is preferable. Select thrifty one-year-old plants, which should be cut back nearly to the ground at the time of setting. Plant in rows five to six feet apart, and from eighteen inches to two feet apart in the rows.

A good way is to plow out furrows at the distances apart you wish to, and set the plants, priming the earth well round the roots, then plow a couple of furrows up to them. Do not set the plants deep, they should never be set any deeper than they grew in the nursery. Give them good cultivation during the summer, and in the fall—particularly on stiffish land—plow up to the plants, finishing off with a dead furrow in the centre of each row, this should be plowed back again the following spring. Let both plowings be on the shallow side, then give good cultivation the following summer till fruiting time, when they may be left till fall plowing again. It will be found advantageous to go through the rows with a cultivator two or three times a week during the summer, it does not take very long to go through an acre or more, and the result will fully repay the labor, especially in a dry season. No grass or weeds should ever be allowed in the rows, and in places where the cultivator cannot reach the hoe and the hands should be freely used.

After fruiting time is over, the old canes should be cut out close to the ground and re-

moved, and in the spring the principal as well as the lateral canes should be well cut back to at least one-third of their original length. It is also a good plan to go through them in August or September and cut back the young bearing wood for the following year, not allowing these canes to grow more than from three to three and a-half feet in height, this plan will render much spring pruning unnecessary. Some recommend training to stakes or to a cheap trellis, but in the writer's opinion this is needless if they are kept well cut back. If too many suckers grow in the rows they should be removed, and none at all should be allowed between the rows.

By giving protection in winter a full crop can be obtained in many localities where otherwise little or no fruit could be had. The method is simple and consists of bending the canes down lengthwise of the row and covering them with earth; it requires two men, one to bend down the canes and the other to throw enough soil on them to keep them in place, then the plow should be run on each side of the row turning the soil upon them. This should be done pretty late in the fall, and in the following spring, after danger from severe frost is past, they should be released by passing a fork under them, then gently lifting and shaking off the soil.

If the soil is kept well manured a raspberry or blackberry plantation will last a long time and still bear profitable crops, indeed, under such circumstances, they have been known to last for twenty years in the older Provinces and in Europe, but the average duration under good culture is from about nine to thirteen years. As soon as the patch ceases to bear remunerative crops, plow it up and plant in a fresh spot. Compost, soap-suds, slops of all kinds, barnyard manure, or wood ashes (unleached) should be applied as a topdressing between the rows from time to time, especially to raspberries, which are gross feeders. Some cease cultivation the second year and simply keep the ground well mulched with long manure, a plan which is found to answer fairly well and to be a considerable saving in point of labor.

Raspberries and blackberries are not much subject to disease, they are sometimes troubled with leaf blight or rust, usually in old plantations where the soil is becoming exhausted and the plants are growing feeble. Applications of sulphur or sulphate of iron will be found beneficial; the affected parts should be cut off and burned. Nor are they much troubled with insects, though the Blackberry Bush Bore sometimes attacks the pith of the young canes, but is not very common. Infected canes should be pruned off in the fall and burned. The beetle, the parent of this grub, is about half an inch long, black, yellow on the breast and top of the thorax. It lays its eggs on the stems early in August.

There are a great number of varieties of these berries, and new ones are constantly being thrown on the market, some of which are good and more worthless. Beginners should select varieties that have been tested and found to do well in their neighborhood, as different varieties suit different localities and soils, so that it is impossible to give a list that will succeed everywhere. For the purposes of this paper it will be sufficient to name four leading varieties of red raspberries, black raspberries and blackberries, although there are many others that will give good satisfaction:—