

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE DOMINION.

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In the average of years it will be found to be too early for a successful exhibition, either in respect to exhibitors or attendance of the rural population or of visitors from a distance. The holding of any two of these on the same dates is sure to split the exhibits and to weaken both. It would therefore seem to be desirable for many reasons that the circuit should in future be arranged as indicated, but the question is open to discussion, and there may be good reasons why, from certain standpoints, it should be otherwise.

Living as we do among the exhibitors who so largely make these shows, it is gratifying to find the officers and directors of the different shows vying with each other in the effort to make exhibitors welcome, to provide comfortable accommodation for them, and to show a spirit of liberality in dealing with so important an element in the make-up of a really successful event. At one or two of the shows under consideration there is yet room for improvement in this regard, and we doubt not the hints which have been thrown out at the meetings of exhibitors will be heeded and their suggestions adopted.

The wisdom of having a well-arranged programme and of adhering to it as closely as practicable in bringing the exhibits and other features forward as nearly on time as possible is recognized and generally approved, and in this connection we desire to emphasize the importance of the daily parade of horses and cattle as one of the most interesting and useful features of an exhibition, one which all classes of people can enjoy and which to most visitors is a delightful display. It is in this connection that exhibitors have it in their power to return the officials of the show the courtesy and kindness they receive from them by manifesting a cheerful willingness to comply with the rules and to assist in carrying out the programme. The reasonable excuse which is often made that exhibitors have not help enough with them to bring out all their animals on parade may be largely met by the men helping each other, and if no better means can be devised the fair boards might well make an appropriation for the payment of assistants to lead out the animals. The men in charge of other classes of stock, such as sheep and pigs, which cannot well join in the parade, might for a reasonable consideration be secured to help in this matter. We much prefer voluntary submission to reasonable rules, and hope that will in future be forthcoming; but rather than that this feature of the shows should fail we would favor a substantial increase in the amount of the prizes offered, and a strictly enforced rule that all horses and cattle entered (not only prize animals) should join in the daily parade, on pain of forfei-

ture of prizes won by the owners. This, we believe, is the English rule, and when worked as it is in the Old Country, in connection with a reliable official catalogue and displayed numbers on the animals to correspond with the catalogue, the live stock parade is made not only a source of pleasure, but an important educational influence, which will do more than anything else to meet the natural desire for entertainment which is being met by less healthy and less desirable means at these shows. Manager Hill of the Toronto Exhibition is entitled to, and we are confident receives, the hearty acknowledgements of all visitors interested in the live stock exhibits, and also of the representatives of the press, for his enterprising and up-to-date course in providing a catalogue of the entries. We shall be glad and thankful to see it made still more complete in the information given in some classes—information which should be made a condition of acceptance of the entry. We sincerely hope the time is not far distant when all the leading fair managers will see their way to furnishing the public with a catalogue of the live stock.

With regard to judges and judging we are free to repeat what we have more than once said in these columns, that we believe in no country is better or more consistent work done in judging stock at the fairs than at the leading fairs in Canada, where the judges are generally selected from the list recommended by the breeders' associations, and yet we have in a few cases this year had evidences of the need of a more careful winnowing of the list. In a few cases, very few we are glad to say, the man has been too light for the place. It is a serious matter to exhibitors who have spent good money and valuable time during a whole year, or perhaps years, to have to submit their stock to the ruling and rating of egotistic and incompetent judges. Good and capable men are liable to make an occasional mistake, and there is frequently room for honest difference of opinion, but as a rule men should work to a type, and feel sure they are right, while consistency should always prevail.

### Exhibitors Should be Considerate.

While freely admitting that the exhibitors constitute the most important element in the show, and should be given fully half the road in every case, and in some cases the right-of-way, if not the freedom of the city, we are quite sure they will not claim to be above criticism. Some exhibitors have the happy faculty of estimating their own stock at its full value, if not of overestimating it, while they are a little blind to the good qualities of that of their rivals. Their own geese are all swans, while the other fellows' are just plain geese, and if they fail to get the most desirable place in the prize list, it never occurs to them that they are fairly beaten by a better animal, but jump to the conclusion that it is the judge that has beaten them, and they commence to "kick," and that makes things unpleasant for themselves, for other exhibitors, and for the judge. If the latter is a competent man who knows his business, and knows he knows it, the course of the protesting exhibitor, as a rule, hurts himself more than anyone else. We freely admit that sometimes an incompetent and possibly sometimes an interested or a dishonest man may find his way to the position of a judge, and may do an exhibitor injustice, in which case a protest is proper; but we are glad to believe such cases are very rare in this country, and when they do occur the wronged exhibitor has the sympathy of the public, which is worth something, but as a rule the chronic kicker gets a very small modicum of sympathy from any quarter. Where a fair board exercises due care in the selection of its judges, and especially when they are chosen from the lists of the breeders' associations, exhibitors should not be hasty in imputing motives if they do not get all they think they are entitled to. We believe that in ninety-nine cases out of a hundred the men who accept this thankless position are honest and impartial and quite incapable of being unduly influenced. The exhibitor who withdraws his stock from competition because he does not get the place he expects in the first round, in our opinion makes a grave mistake and one that is hardly excusable. He should make allowance for difference of opinion, and if he had exercised patience he might have fared as well on the whole as he expected, since the difference of opinion in some other section might be in his favor, while by withdrawing and protesting against a man's judgment the exhibitor makes things unpleasant for the fair board, offends the judge, who in all probability is an honest and sensitive man, properly chosen and disposed to do right as far as he knows it; throws away his chances of securing a share of the prize money and honors, gets little or no sympathy from the public;—in short, metaphorically kicks himself out of bed.

## STOCK.

### Westward Ho! and a Glimpse at the Minnesota State Fair.

(EDITORIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

For the worn worker who would escape the heat, dust, and distraction of the city, from Sarnia, Ont., over the blue swellings of Lake Huron, the River of St. Marie, and Lake Superior to the "zenith city of the unsalted seas, enterprising, energetic, irresistible Duluth"—as the guide book puts it—is an ideal trip, doubly so on that staunch N.-W. T. Co. steamship, The Monarch, under Capt. Robertson, as popular and careful a seaman (with a staff to match) as sails the Upper Lakes. Lake traffic has been good this season, but not crowded in freight until the down-coming of the Northwest wheat began, but a deal of supplies for the mining regions have been carried west. What a change since I made this trip two years since! Then but few people talked Canada, now they talked of nothing else—gold, gold, gold, wheat, wheat, wheat, the Crow's Nest Pass, Michipicoten, Rainy River, Rossland, and the Klondyke. You see it in the papers, hear it on the street cars and from the pulpit. "Why," remarked a Duluth paper, "continued gold strikes confirm the suspicion that the whole of British America is flooded with the yellow metal." But let us not lose our heads. FARMER'S ADVOCATE readers can get gold easier—are getting it—than groping in the frozen gravel of the Yukon. It is in the soil, the atmosphere, the plant, the animal, and he who intelligently seeks for it will get it, together with a share of what the miner delves besides.

Beyond question the tide has set Canadaward. I was told that the great State of Minnesota would probably contribute 500 persons this year to the population of Canada, a large proportion going to Manitoba and Alberta as farm settlers, others as miners, etc. By the way, the Agricultural Press League here decided about the time of the State fair to make their next annual tour through Manitoba and the Northwest—the land of agricultural promise—as far as Edmonton. Minnesota crops have been good, though a trifle late in maturing, and everybody talks of dollar wheat and returning prosperity, though there is little change to be noted in St. Paul and Minneapolis compared with a couple of years ago. They have probably suffered less from the wave of dull times than some other places. Suddenly everybody seems to be realizing the truth of the old song, "The farmer is the man."

### MINNESOTA STATE FAIR.

It was my good fortune to connect with the 38th annual exhibition of the Minnesota State Agricultural Society at Hamline, midway between these splendid twin cities. In some respects it resembles the Western Fair of London, Ont., without its parklike grounds, which I have not seen equalled anywhere, and its new live stock buildings. Some of the grumblers about the equipment of the larger Canadian fairs would be cured by a trip abroad. An attendance of 30,000 on the best day of the show was styled by the local papers "a record-breaker," and will afford readers an idea of how it compares with Canadian exhibitions. The general admission is fifty cents, grand stand, of course, extra. The latter, with the horse races, trick bicycling, and ballooning, constituted a big feature, and the central portion of the grounds was a veritable Midway Plaisance, with it pandemonium of Wild West performers, side shows, and traffickers of every sort, though I was pleased to see no trace of gambling contrivances. The palace in some respects resembled an immense sale room. One very pleasing feature was the display, industrial and artistic, from the public schools; another interesting feature, the competition of State counties in agricultural products. Probably the best exhibit of its class in the main building was that from Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, in charge of Mr. T. O. Currie, and it had the advantage of his persuasive eloquence, falling, let us hope, as good seed into good ground. In the dairy building the cheese exhibit was to a Canadian disappointingly meager, not fifty all told, and these mostly Brie and other small sorts, only two or three passable Cheddars. Minnesota prides herself on butter, however, and of this there were some 200 exhibits, most creditable to the State. The main defect, so the judge informed me, was that some of the lots were deficient in flavor.

While one may miss here the perfection of equipment and detail and the general excellence of the best Canadian shows, Minnesotians must be congratulated upon the splendid array of pure-bred live stock brought together, which nearly every class would be a credit to any show or any country. Take cattle, for instance. No less than twelve pure breeds were represented, and only a couple of them indifferently, the exhibits numbering probably 600 head. In *Shorthorns* the principal exhibitors were H. F. Brown, of the Browndale Stock Farm, Minneapolis; Belleau & Son, Henderson, Iowa; T. R. Westrope & Son, Harlan, Iowa; N. P. Clark, St. Cloud, Minn.; and Geo. Harding & Son, Waukesha, Wis., the first three being the chief. Geo. Gillcum, of Winchester, Ind., had it all to himself in *Galloways*; but in the *Aberdeen-Angus* class two old-time breeders, Goodwin & Judy, of West Lebanon, Ind., and W. A. McHenry, of Dennison, Iowa, were out in strong force, their herds being greatly admired. In *Red Polls*, too, there was