

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. *

VOL. XL. REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875. NO. 675.

WINNIPEG, MAN. AUGUST 9, 1905. LONDON, ONT.

Editorial.

An Improvement Necessary at Some Small Fairs.

It has, of late years, been seriously questioned whether many of the local shows are worth the money such cost and the time and energy expended on them. We have heard it time and again asseverated that the little shows are "no good," and that such might just as well be done away with—rather a radical pronouncement, and yet one to which color is given, unfortunately, by the small shows themselves. At many of the little shows—this year's as in others—well-merited cause for complaint is to be found in the provision made for showing stock, by the absence of well-constructed rings to show the animals in and keep the onlookers out, and also in the manner in which the live stock is presented to the judges; in the cattle sections, especially, is fault to be found.

Some people seem to think that "to exhibit" means letting the judge see you have an animal of the species or kind called for, and that is all.

If societies are going to permit cattle to be shown loose, why not construct strong corrals, or have the cattle show in the local stock-yards?

In several cases this season judges sent out by the Manitoba Department of Agriculture had to wait until a class was herded, or assist in the chase of an animal. Such work adds nothing to a show; in fact, tends to disgust the people.

If prizes are worth offering and showing for, the directors should at least insist that the stock be presented in a proper manner, and if an animal is too wild to be properly shown no prize should, in any case, be awarded, or injustice to others (exhibitors or spectators) will be done, because if any animal is too wild to be properly shown it is impossible to properly judge as to its merits, compared with others in the class.

In many cases, directors, being local men, do not care to be hard-and-fast in their rulings, especially at the time of the show. By some means, either by a rule or by a proviso, it should be insisted upon by the Department of Agriculture that, unless proper provision is made for showing live stock, the grant will either be reduced or cut off altogether. Western agriculture has now reached too high a plane to permit of old-time methods such as were allowed in the wild woolly days.

Speculative Investments.

Scarcely a week passes but we are thrilled by the story of some new investment or discovery that is making millions for the fortunate ones who purchase a few shares of the precious stock. One time it is a rubber plantation—undiscovered as a moneymaker heretofore, now shown to possess marvellous wealth; then some fortunate man finds an oil well, a proposition in which capitalists are tumbling over each other to invest their surplus funds, but, generous man (?), he wants to let in the public on the ground floor, and is willing to offer you—just as a personal favor—a few shares of the preferred stock, at 17 cents a share. From oil to coal mines, from coal to gold bricks, with minor variations to suit the taste of the public, the promoter works, and the public loses, and the whole nation feels the injury of money dragged from productive channels, to be squandered on unproductive work, or productive only of sore hearts and empty pocketbooks.

The "Farmer's Advocate" has sounded the word of warning before; it sounds it again, only because the necessity exists for the warning. The farmers and the great mass of the people of West-

ern Canada will find their true source of increased prosperity and happiness in the development of those industries with which their life-work has made them familiar, leaving to those who have money to burn the business of investing in such doubtful propositions as are generally peddled around the towns and country under various high-sounding but perfectly meaningless names.

Name and Post-office Addresses Omitted.

Several letters intended for publication and questions to be answered, have recently reached us without the full name and post-office addresses of the writers. Our published rules require that these must in every case accompany all communications. If for some good reason the writers do not wish their name published, a request to that effect will be granted, but no attention can be paid to anonymous communications. All concerned will kindly bear this in mind for the future, and if any have inadvertently omitted the name and address they may yet be sent in, stating what your letter was about.

The Testimony of a Critic.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—I wish to express the high appreciation awakened by reading your issue of the 19th inst. It is not all horses, or all cattle, or sheep or hogs, or any one thing, but covers the whole field of the breeder's interest, the general farmer, and the home wants. It is a remarkable paper in its comprehensiveness and fullness of interesting matter. It is always a satisfaction to read your numbers from week to week. Somebody must lie awake nights to get together so much interesting matter at such short intervals. I wish you would kindly send us an electro or such other plate as you may be able to, of the Angus bull illustrated on page 1088, with a bill for the same. Hoping you will not exhaust your capabilities by such rich issues of interesting matter, I remain,

Very truly yours,

THOS. MCFARLANE,
Sec. Aberdeen-Angus Association.

Deputy Live-stock Commissioner Needed for the West.

Press reports from Ottawa state that the present Live-stock Commissioner is going to resign on account of ill health. In the July 19th issue the new Assistant Live-stock Commissioner, J. B. Spencer, was introduced to our readers. Whether the reports of the above resignation are correct or not, this paper desires to point out how opportune is the time for the appointment of a Deputy Live-stock Commissioner who shall reside in the West. The Seed-grain Division has now two men looking after its work, Messrs. Murray and McKilligan, located at Winnipeg and Calgary, respectively. Surely the live-stock interests of Western Canada are important enough to be entitled to a man who shall give his whole time and energy to the work. The man for such an important position, and best qualified to fill it in Western Canada (and there is no need to import a man) is, we consider, George H. Greig, secretary of the Live-stock Associations for Manitoba, and chairman of the live-stock section of the Winnipeg Industrial. Mr. Greig, by training, experience and education, is far and away the best man for the work—work with which he is quite familiar, as is well known by all Western and many Eastern live-stock breeders. His appointment would be a great assistance to the live-stock interests, while his suavity and well-known straightforwardness and honesty would go far to placate the B. C. live-stock contingent, who, we have had occasion before to say, have not had justice in recent years.

An Opportunity for Canada.

However heavy Japan's losses in commercial lines and in increase of national debt have been because of the war—and, remarkable as is Japan's power of endurance, such loss cannot but be considerable—there is no doubt whatever that, when the war ceases, the development of her trade with the world will be of phenomenal rapidity. Already her prestige has been firmly established, and those nations which were before disposed to discriminate, are now inclined to sue. Of this we have an example in our own country.

In 1894 Japan concluded commercial treaties with Great Britain, Germany, Austria-Hungary and France, each of which contained a "most favored nation" clause, entitling these countries to tariff preference. Canada was given two years to decide whether she would be a party to the British treaty or not, and the time was afterwards extended a year. Her decision was to refuse. In the first place she was afraid that her commercial dealings might be hampered by such a treaty; in the second, at a time when Japanese and Chinese were alike dumped in one class as "undesirable," she wished to be free, if she chose, to restrict Japanese immigration.

As a not unnatural consequence, Canada's refusal did not pass unnoticed by the Japanese. Canadian goods met with speedy disfavor, and although their price was in some cases reduced 5 per cent to meet a 5 per cent. preferential tariff, granted by Japan to the United States, competition with American goods was found to be well-nigh impossible, and Canada lost opportunities of a considerable trade in such things as condensed milk, leather, horses, cottons, woolens, paper, rubber goods, enamelled ware, and wire of all kinds.

This year the question came up in the Canadian Parliament, and by that time Canada had learned to know that Japan was no longer a country to be discriminated against—Japan, no longer the obscure half circle of the Mikado crouched against and overshadowed by greater Asia, but Japan rising crescent-like from the far western Pacific, brilliant, progressive, the leader of constellations of trade, progress and prosperity of an awakening Orient. Accordingly there was little surprise and some satisfaction when, a few weeks later, on June 22nd, the announcement was made in the House on the Hill that discrimination against Japan was a thing of the past, and that in consequence the Japanese had given assurance of their willingness to admit Canadian products to the advantage of her minimum customs duties. In this arrangement Canada merely enters as a party to the British commercial treaty, which has still six years to run.

That similar discrimination against the Chinese will have to be abandoned is not within the realm of the impossible. China is awakening to the value of her resources, and her recent boycott of American goods shows that she will no longer turn the left cheek when the right is smitten. Once alive to the possibilities within her, it is not incomprehensible that she will make haste to develop them. Such rapid development as Japan has made is, of course, scarcely to be expected of China. Within the past ten or fifteen years Japan's foreign trade has increased in value by 230 per cent., her bank deposits by 360 per cent., savings 200 per cent., investments in various enterprises 220 per cent., railway mileage 80 per cent., and shipping 240 per cent.; and when the war is over and her fleet of transports can be turned to a carrying trade these figures will, doubtless, be advanced more rapidly still. But the fact remains that, even with a comparatively slow development, there is an enormous trade to be built up with China.

With Japan and China directly across the