

The Farming World

And Canadian Farm and Home

Vol. XXIII

TORONTO, 15 SEPTEMBER, 1904

No. 18

The Drawing Card at the Big Fair

THIS year's fair has demonstrated that the Canadian National Exhibition is national in reality as well as in name. In fact, in several respects, it is international in character. Every year the number of visitors from the United States grows larger. This year one of the finest Shorthorn herds in the United States was represented in the show ring, and its owners carried off a liberal share of the best prizes.

But what is it that gives the exhibition its national and international character, and draws thousands of people every year from the north, the south, the east and the west? Is it the fine display of manufactured goods or the splendid collection of paintings in the art exhibit? We think not. Neither is it the attractions before the grand stand, nor the side shows in the Midway. The one thing, more than all others, that draws people from all parts of Canada and from many of the states of the Union, and would draw more if made more prominent in the show bill, is the magnificent display of the products of the farm, and more particularly the live stock. The Canadian National is essentially a great agricultural show. Its annual display of live stock is second to none on this continent, and it is doubtful, even in Great Britain, the best breeding ground in the world, if an all round better collection of breeding animals could be got together than was to be seen in Toronto last week. This is the feature that draws. It is the one that brings the visitor from a distance and makes him feel that he has got his money's worth and is fully repaid for his time and trouble.

It is a question, however, whether this fact has been made sufficiently prominent in making known the drawing features of the exhibition. The management of the Canadian National, as well as that of other large fairs err in not emphasizing more than they do the agricultural and live stock features, especially when endeavoring to reach people at a distance. Too often it is the special attraction before the grand stand, the art exhibit, etc., which are made prominent in exhibition advertising literature. These are all well enough in their place, and help to bring out the local crowd, but they rarely influence the person a hundred miles or two from the show ground. It is the live stock and agricultural features that appeal more to the fellow at a distance, and they should be made more prominent than they are when advertising a great national fair, in a country where, at least, two-thirds of the population are directly interested in the farm and its products. The large attendance from a distance at the Winter Fair and at the

Chicago International, where only live stock is to be seen, is proof of this. Exhibition managements will, therefore, advance their country's good and add largely to their gate receipts by emphasizing more than has been done in the past the live stock and agricultural features of coming shows.

Packers Must Pay More for Bacon Hogs

That the pork packers are not doing their share in maintaining the quality of the bacon products of this country is clearly shown by Mr. J. E. Brethour elsewhere in this issue. During the past year or two little if any distinction has been made in the prices paid at country points for select bacon hogs and lights and fats. On Toronto market a premium of only twenty-five cents per cwt. is made as between first quality and

reason to believe that the packer would make it worth his while to produce the quality desired. But the packer has not lived up to his promises, and the farmer is becoming indifferent as to quality, as he finds that all kinds sell for practically the same price. And who could blame him? It is dollars and cents that count in this business and not sentiment. The packer must do something and that very quickly if he desires the farmer to produce hogs that will make the finest quality of bacon. The difference in price paid on Toronto market does not begin to equal the difference in price as between first-class Wiltshire and the other qualities of bacon in the British market. It is, therefore, neither fair nor just to expect the farmer to do his share in maintaining quality when he does not get an adequate return for so doing. There should at least be a difference of 75 cents per cwt. as between the price the farmer gets for select bacon hogs and lights and fats.

Mr. Brethour's letter is most timely and to the point, and we would be pleased to have the views of farmers and others upon this important matter.

The Needs of the Canadian National

In the Canadian National Exhibition the city of Toronto has one of its most valuable assets. No other institution within its limits brings to the city itself and to its citizens a larger return both directly and indirectly, in cash receipts. An imperative duty, therefore, devolves upon the city council to provide adequate and up-to-date accommodation for all classes of exhibits and for visitors as well. The last year or two have brought considerable improvement in this direction, but much more is required before the growing needs of the exhibition will be met.

The first need in our opinion is a live stock judging arena. There should be no delay in securing this. It would add greatly to the educational value of the live stock display if the awards could be placed under cover and where there was seating accommodation sufficient for the large numbers who would gather to see the "battles" of the show ring. Such an arena could be utilized for other purposes and would prove a valuable city asset.

Next in order of importance is the replacing of the antiquated fruit, flower and agricultural halls by one combined, up-to-date building large enough for all three. A structure erected in the form of a cross would have a wing each for fruit, flowers and agricultural products, and a fourth one for the honey and apiculture exhibit. The centre could be utilized for the more decorative flowers and plants, and made most attractive.

Nothing Stereotyped About It

TORONTO, Sept. 3rd, 1904.

THE FARMING WORLD,
TORONTO, ONT.

Dear Sirs,—Special numbers of farm papers usually mean one thing so far as appearance is concerned, and that is the old stereotype form and order of articles contained in the paper. We want to congratulate you upon your Toronto Exhibition Number. We consider it about the neatest issue we have seen.

Yours truly,

THE DE LAVAL SEPARATOR CO'Y.

what are classed as seconds. This is not sufficient and unless packers are prepared to pay a higher premium for selects we can assure them that the present high standard of our bacon products cannot be maintained. In fact, as Mr. Brethour states, the average quality of the hogs in the country at the present time is not as high as it was a couple of years ago. In other words, we are retrograding, a fact that must work serious injury to this growing and important trade.

It is now up to the packer to do a great deal more than he has been doing to maintain the high standard of the Canadian bacon hog. The farmer has done his share. With characteristic vigor and energy he followed the instruction as given out at the Provincial Winter Fair and other exhibitions, and disseminated largely through the Farmers' Institutes, and so improved the breeding and feeding of hogs in this country that a year or two ago fully seventy-five per cent. of the hogs marketed were classed as select bacon hogs. In doing so, he was told, and had good