

their pockets the coveted dime or possibly more.

Now, my idea of an agricultural exhibition is that it should be a place where the farmer, mechanic, stockman, poultry man, horticulturist or the dairyman can come and see and learn something and go home and profit by that knowledge. To do this would require a good deal more than the mere display of the various lines of goods or stock, as is now usually done at our fairs. Some special effort should be made to make each department as interesting and instructive as possible, and introduce some new features that would both be instructive, interesting and entertaining. To do this would require at least one thoroughly competent man at the head of each department, and he in turn would have to be ably and strongly assisted by others drawn from some of the other committees or boards, or by live, active, young farmers or otherwise, as the case might be.

Just what these attractions or "interesting and entertaining attractions" are to be or should be, is a question not so easily answered or discussed, but to my mind there should be more attention paid to instructing the audience or attendance, instead of—as is now done—exciting and cultivating some of the low, rowdy amusements and tastes. I think it is very bad taste on the part of any agricultural board to allow inside their gates the side shows, fakirs, games of chance, or anything that has a tendency to lower the taste or morals of a community or audience. These should not be allowed inside the gates of any exhibition grounds upon any conditions. Let all those who have a taste for these go outside.

Instead of these and many other objectionable attractions, I should endeavor to have a grand display on each day in some one of the departments. For instance, we might take the stock. Now, why could there not be a grand parade and march past of all the prize stock in their regular order, 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prize animals in each class, and for this occasion give a special prize for the best herd, to be tastefully decorated and made attractive in some way, and let there be the penalty that all prize animals not in the procession shall forfeit their prize money. This could be preceded or followed by a procession of the horses in the same way. This would give the visitors an opportunity of seeing all the different breeds both of cattle and horses, and would be an occasion that I am sure many would take advantage of. In fact I believe that if well managed, we would find the ring and grand stand quite as full as it usually is on the occasion of a sword contest, for instance, and no doubt would be very much fuller. An earnest effort on the part of the stock committee, together with the hearty co-operation of the owners of the stock and horses, could accomplish this. In fact, I would look upon this as one of the best means of displaying and advertising their stock. Then there should be more thorough, competent judging of the stock, and this should be so arranged as to be got through with not later than Wednesday noon.

There is another feature or attraction that would be most interesting and instructive. There should be a plot, say $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ acre of ground, well and carefully laid out as a vegetable, small fruit and flower garden, with all the vegetables, fruits and flowers growing and named. This would be a most interesting feature, and would be visited by thousands.

I might say here, in passing, that these new

features should be very prominently brought out in the catalogues and also in the bills and posters.

There should also be a plot laid out with all the trees suitable to our climate, and these all carefully grouped and named.

Another very interesting and instructive feature of such an exhibition would be a collection of all the noxious weeds and grasses, either green or dry, all grouped and correctly named. How many farmers or farmers' sons can give you the name of the trees and shrubs or foul weeds that grow on their own farms?

Another very interesting and instructive feature that could be added to such an exhibition, would be a complete collection of all the vegetables, seeds, seed grains, etc., tastefully arranged and correctly named. For instance, say 12 or 15 kinds of cabbage (a head of each), 9 or 10 varieties of beets (one each), 8 or 10 heads of cauliflower, 10 or 12 roots of carrots (one each), same of celery, corn, onions, peas, etc., etc. Then add to this all the varieties of seed grains, corns, field roots, etc., and as many flowers as would be in season, and who would not pay 25c. to see such a collection? I know there are hundreds that would. Such a collection or exhibition might necessitate an extra building for that purpose, but I am confident it would pay and be well patronized.

Then, in the dairy department there should be some special effort and arrangement made for the display, in working order, of all the appliances. In fact, there should be a model cheese and butter factory at work on the grounds, with a competent man at the head to put in motion and explain the several apparatuses as they are being used. In this department a lecture, with experiments and illustrations of the treatment of milk, testing its quality as to fats and watering and skimming, etc., would be of great advantage to many a farmer and dairyman, to say nothing of the hundreds of cheese makers who are perfect novices in the handling, testing and treating of milk, to find out its real value either for butter or cheese.

I might go on and enlarge on these points almost indefinitely, but I think that these few crude ideas will give your readers some ideas to think and talk over among themselves. The matter lies with the farmers of the country as to whether such an exhibition can be made successful, and if they, as a class, set their faces against our agricultural exhibitions being turned into circuses, with the stock, horses, etc., as side shows, the managers of these exhibitions will soon drop out the circus part and take up the more important parts.

There is no getting round the fact that farmers do not take the interest in these exhibitions that they should. The majority of farmers who need the stimulating effect of these exhibitions do not take the interest in them that they should do. There are very few farmers who fail to see the great advantages and benefits which may be derived from agricultural exhibitions, if properly managed, and yet these very men will take no part in them because they are not conducted just as they think, and in accordance with their views, and will give as a reason for not taking part, "because there are so few members and the prizes are so small that they are not worth competing for." And, right here, I would like to say that a large class of exhibitors lay too much stress or value on the money prizes. I think this is a mistake. The honor should, to my mind, be of much more value to an exhibitor than the money. Another bad feature that is cropping out at many exhibitions is the practice

of a set of farmers who make a business of following up all the shows with a stock of sundry articles that have already figured at several exhibitions, and some of the articles have been purchased for the purpose at some of the large exhibitions and made to do duty at perhaps 5 or 6 county and township shows. This is not right and should be stopped.

The want of interest on the part of so many of our farmers is the greatest hinderance to the success of our exhibitions. Farmers should take more interest in all these exhibitions, and other matters as well. They should come to the front and make their voice heard. The great want among farmers is organization, as was pointed out in a previous essay of mine on "How can public expenditures for agricultural purposes be turned to the best interest of the farmers?" Farmers should organize, and only by so doing can they make their voice and wants heard. Let every farmer take an active interest in some exhibition, either a township, county or larger one, and he will be doing both himself and his fellow farmers good. Let each one put his shoulder to the wheel and help along this most important work. Fairs and exhibitions have been and are one of the best educators, and they should go on and continue to do so; there is plenty to do and plenty of room to still improve them and make them doubly attractive and instructive. They should be well and honestly supported by every farmer in the country of any intelligence and enterprise.

In breaking in colts, it is an excellent practice to hitch them in a wagon with fast walkers. Fast walking horses are profitable and are getting popular, and they can be taught more easily when trained young.

To find the contents of a barrel or cask, multiply the square of the mean diameter (in inches) by the number of inches in height, and divide the product by 29.5. The result is the number of wine gallons.

Hoard's Dairyman states that on account of the drought of the last season, twelve good cows, of which four were fresh fall milkers, were bought at the end of August by a farmer near Charles City, for \$100, being \$8.33 per head.

To find the contents of a wagon-box or a bin, multiply together the three dimensions in inches (length, height, and width), and divide the product by 2,150.42 (the number of cubic inches in a bushel), and the quotient will be the number of bushels.

FERTILIZERS REQUIRED FOR ORCHARDS.—The Rural World says that a hundred barrels of apples will take as much phosphoric acid out of the soil as will a hundred bushels of wheat, and as much potash as fifty bushels of wheat; and it is, therefore, obvious why an orchard becomes exhausted when no food is given, and that the failure to bear good crops is simply to be ascribed to starvation.

WATERING SHEEP.—An English paper says: The necessity, or the advisability, of giving sheep and lambs water every day will depend on what they have to eat, or where they spend their time. Wherever there is green provender, and the chance of catching the dew upon the blade, neither sheep nor lambs require water. But if the pasture is burned up a supply of water is absolutely necessary. Lambs do not require it more than sheep, except so far as, being weaker, they cannot bear privation so long. It may be said that it is better to err on the safe side, and, if there be a pond or brook accessible, the flock had better be taken to it at least once a day. They will soon show whether they be thirsty or not.