

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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journals in England assume to know better what is the feeling of the parties interested, and have vigorously opposed the proposition. The *Mark Lane Express* has endeavored to strengthen itself in its position by addressing a circular letter to about 150 stock-breeders who are on the list of eligible judges, asking their opinion of the new departure, only about forty of whom have, evidently, according to its own admission, considered the question of sufficient importance to merit an answer, and of those nearly one half have signified their approval, while several of those who are listed as opposed express themselves as indifferent, and a number decline to give an opinion one way or the other. For our own part, we entirely approve the action of the Council, and pronounce it a step in advance in the line of progress. In the appointment of judges it is the rule to select honorable men, and it is a doubtful compliment to those men to endeavor to keep them in ignorance as to the ownership and the sire and dam of the animals, while the age is something all will admit they ought to know, and these are practically all the points of information contained in the catalogue. The time was when special care was taken by Fair Associations to conceal from the judges the names of exhibitors and so to treat them as objects of suspicion and as men capable of being influenced by exhibitors to show favor and to award the prizes to the owners instead of the animals. We are quite sure none will claim that better or more impartial judging was done under that system than is done in the present day where the name of the exhibitor is written on the entry ticket and published in the catalogue, the names of the judges also being published in the public papers previous to the show. The new and better way is to assume that the men selected as judges are honorable men, and to show our belief in them by trusting them fully. As a general rule, some of the judges know some of the exhibitors, their herdsmen or their cattle, and also the breeding of those cattle, while of others they know nothing; and if there is anything in this, all should be placed on the same footing before the judges, as nearly as possible. They may not choose to consult the catalogue, but if they do they have a right to know all that is in it. It is surely better that they

should know everything about the entries than that they should know only a little, and that little possibly from an interested or unreliable source. The more we study this question in the light of experience and observation the more we are convinced that the true way is to give the judge credit for honesty of purpose, to remember that he has a character to maintain, and that he is more interested in keeping a reputation free from suspicion than in helping others to honors or gains that they are not fairly entitled to. Most of the breeders who are competent to act as judges have some preferences, and even prejudices, in regard to lines of breeding, and if they were buying would no doubt be influenced by these; but they well understand and agree that in the showing the individual merit of the animals on the basis of quality and form is the standard to go by, and they cannot afford to allow themselves to be influenced by any other consideration, knowing as they do that a critical company of intelligent breeders is watching their work, that their responsibility is by no means a light one, and that they are open to adverse criticism if they make a mistake, and to contempt if it appears they have willfully done a wrong. In our opinion, there is less cause for complaint in regard to the judging done at the leading shows in Canada than in any other country in which it has been our privilege to see it done, and here the fullest and freest hand is given the judges to find out and know all they wish to know of the exhibits and the exhibitors. Let us treat the judges as gentlemen worthy of respect, and in doing so we shall more fully realize our own self-respect and advance the best interests of all concerned.

Road Work.

BY A. W. CAMPBELL, C. E., ONTARIO PROVINCIAL ROAD COMMISSIONER.

The pioneer who half a century ago hewed out for himself a home in the Ontario forest can look upon almost innumerable changes which modern inventions have brought. Notwithstanding the

erly, have to form his plans without the aid of a supervisor. These plans should be formed early, so that time will not be wasted when the men are on the ground. If, in forming these plans, it is advisable to consult with neighbors who are interested, this should not be left until everyone is waiting to be told what to do.

Statute labor cannot be better used than in drawing road metal. If broken stone is used, it will have been the duty of the council to see that this is crushed before the time of statute labor. If gravel is used, the pits should have been opened up and stripped of the strata of clay and mould that generally overlies the gravel. Too much care cannot be taken to see that only good gravel is drawn.

There is, from various causes, a tendency to draw poor gravel. The easiest way is generally chosen in doing statute labor. Few appear to know that it is only the stony portion of the gravel which is wanted, not clay, sand and turf. A common source of dirty gravel is the practice of scraping down the face of the pit, whereby the layers of turf, sand, clay and good gravel fall to the bottom, are mixed together and shovelled into the wagon. Not only is it easier to be careless with regard to the sorting of good gravel, but dirty stuff is lighter and more easily handled. The character of the pit will indicate to a practical man the best means to avoid these temptations to draw dirty gravel.

Before placing the gravel the roadway should be graded to receive it. If the township has grading machines this is a matter to which the pathmaster should not have to devote his labor. A grader should be operated by one man, with necessary assistants, who should have the grading done before the time of statute labor. Ditching and tile drainage, if gravel or road metal can be drawn, should be attended to by the council.

If, however, the grading, ditching and draining have not received the proper attention of the council, they are matters of too vital importance to the road to be neglected by the pathmaster. Drainage is the most important factor in successfully building a road. The water must be carried away as quickly as possible. If water is allowed to stand on the road or by the roadside it means that a bog will be created in spring and fall, no matter how much gravel or stone may be placed on the road.

There is in the statute labor available an enormous amount of energy. The roads are too important to every individual in this country to justify the waste of energy so commonly met with in the performance of road work. The condition of the roads speaks the intelligence of the community. The trails through the forest found by the earlier pioneer were the expressions of the intelligence of the Indian. The roads of today tell the standing, socially, commercially, intellectually, of the community through which they pass. Every day of labor, every dollar expended on the roads, should this year be honestly performed by the ratepayer, carefully directed by the pathmaster.

Experimental Farm Exhibits

A correspondent suggests the desirability of the Dominion and provincial experimental stations making an exhibit of agricultural, horticultural, and other products of the farm at the leading exhibitions in each province. This practice was followed to a considerable extent by the Dominion, Central, and the Ontario stations some years ago, and we believe is still to some extent by the Ottawa Farm at the exhibition in the Capitol City, and has always been considered an interesting and useful feature of such exhibitions, and we should be pleased to see a renewal of these displays, supplemented by the presence of competent representatives of the departments from the experimental farms who would give explanations and information to visitors upon the best varieties to produce, the manner of cultivation, and other points that would be useful and helpful to the people.

In Favor of Tree Planting.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I think the idea of encouraging and fostering the growth of timber and having a system of windbreaks on our farms well worthy of our deep consideration, for not only will it materially increase the value of our lands, but will at the same time greatly improve our landscape. What strikes an Old Country man at the very first when he comes out here is the monotonous sameness that so many farms bear to each other in certain localities. I believe that such improvements would at same time encourage a better class of emigration from the Old Land, in the shape of practical farmers who are not doing extra well at home at the present time. I have started this season a sort of landscape plan which I intend to fill in as time and means will permit.

Perth Co., Ont.

T. MURRAY BELL.



BLUCHER; EXHIBITED BY THOS. A. CROW, TORONTO; WINNER OF NUMEROUS PRIZES AT THE HORSE SHOW.

better models which he is copying in his house, his barns, his methods and means of cultivation, the present ideas of roadmaking are little better than those which prevailed a century ago. The roads, no doubt, are better and more numerous; under any system whatever, however inefficient, some improvement must be made, and while these improvements in our roads have been made, they are by no means commensurate with the money and labor placed on them.

There is very much that a good pathmaster can do. With a good pathmaster there is no fault to be found. Unless he is surrounded by neighbors of shiftless kind he can be an excellent servant of the State, enabling the people to pay their road tax loyally and entirely to their own advantage. There can be little objection to statute labor if it is honestly worked out, and is supplemented by a sufficient money grant from the general funds of the municipality. But no matter how many days of statute labor may be on the township roll, there are only certain works to which it can be economically applied, while other work should be done by day labor under the direction of a road supervisor—an officer as much needed by every township as is a clerk or treasurer. His duties should not, of course, end with the expenditure of the money appropriated by the council for bridges, culverts and road improvement, but should extend to the advice and direction of the pathmaster.

The average pathmaster will this year, as form-