

gardener should know the variety he wants—or perhaps he is not particular about which one of two or three he grows. In any event he should not accept a nondescript sort. Buy early and if your local man does not keep the kind you want write to a reliable seed house for it.

Managing Fairs and Institutes

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Allow me to take exception to what you stated in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, February 23, with reference to management of fairs. If I understand you rightly you argued in favor of management by the principal of the Manitoba Agricultural College. My opinion is that the principal of such an institution would have to be more than human to be able to do justice to both of these extensive charges. Principal Black's report goes to prove this, when he acknowledges that the institute department has not been the success it should have been. He says that an assistant, if appointed, would remedy the case, but it does not seem to me that it would. You state in your issue of March 2, in effect, that punishment meted out to the weaker societies, as is suggested in the proposed amendment to the Societies' Act, is not what is wanted to arouse interest and new life. I agree with you.

What is wanted is a good man to take charge of the fairs and institutes—a man educated in the right school, one who understands Western conditions, and a worker. Such a man cannot be got to take the position subordinate to any but the department of agriculture.

With reference to dead institutes I would say that farmers will generally turn out to hear a good man, but the pompous kind, who hector about questions they do not understand, kill all interest.

Man.

J. BOUSFIELD.

[Note—All will agree that a change in the management of agricultural societies is essential to the best interests of agriculture. Perhaps the details of what would be the most desirable arrangement for supervision of the work are difficult to arrive at. The members of the staff of the Agricultural College are needed in many instances for educational work in all parts of the province. As Mr. Bousfield suggests, the principal of an institution such as the Manitoba Agricultural College has little time to devote to the superintendency of agricultural societies. No doubt he is also correct in his assertion that the most capable man can be secured to work only as subordinate to the department of agriculture. However, the real solution of the problem lies with the department. With a strong and capable deputy minister of agriculture most of the defects now so much in evidence would soon be remedied. Whether he left the superintendent of fairs and institutes responsible to the principal of the Agricultural College or directly to himself would matter little. No doubt he would prefer the latter arrangement. In the meantime almost any change will be for the better.—EDITOR.]

White Wild Oats

EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

The editorial "What Oats are Wild?" appearing in your issue of February 23rd, again brings into discussion that knotty problem. Your article, as I read it, bases its stand for the judges of seed fairs disqualifying white oats with sucker mouths, upon "the sucker mouth" as being a characteristic of the wild oat. You also seem to consider (although you do not exactly say so) that there are white wild oats. I agree with you here, Mr. Editor. I certainly think there are white wild oats. But whether these are *albinos* of the black wild oat, or a species that is separate in itself, I am not prepared to say. At the same

time I am also of the opinion that there are sucker-mouthed oats that are not wild. You want positive proof. This I cannot give. But I think when you get to the end of my letter, you will agree with me that I have very good grounds for my belief. I have had the pleasure of assisting as judge at seed fairs, and I found a considerable number of these white sucker-mouthed oats, and these samples were obliged to be thrown out, because we considered it absolutely impossible to determine whether the seed was an albino of the black wild oat, white wild oats, or the case of atavism. Our experts and leading judges always throw them out—whether it is for these reasons I cannot say; and as a common or garden judge I certainly must follow the ideas and directions of our leading professors and agricultural scientists.

However, this does not say I may not have an opinion; which is, that samples containing white oats with sucker mouths should not be cut out *entirely* as wild oats. Because, there is in my opinion a reasonable doubt that all these oats are not wild; and also, that even if the oat is wild, it does not appear to have those awful characteristics of the black wild oat. In growth, propagation, early ripening and shedding and polluting of the fields, I have never seen or heard of any ground in this vicinity that has shown in any way a crop of these white wild oats, so-called. At the same time I believe I can find such an oat in very limited quantities in over ninety per cent. of the oat bins in the country. I have good grounds for stating this, for I have examined oat bins and crops standing in considerable number during the past three years, and the case was very rare where I did not come across the seed or plant of the white sucker-mouthed oat. These oats were chiefly Banner, Newmarket, Abundance, White Bavarian and Tartar King. Speaking of this latter, I have found plants exactly resembling the side oat Tartar King, only with awns showing more prominently, in projecting from the chaff to a greater length. For an example on which I base my opinion that all sucker-mouthed white oats are not wild, and which I think is sufficient proof that there is a very reasonable doubt, I have selected heads of a certain type of oats and carefully hand-picked the seeds from these heads, turning each grain on its back (the only sure way that you cannot miss), making it possible that I had pure samples of seed. These have been sown for three years in different places and on clean ground. This last season I had two sowings, one being from the seedman's stock, but of same variety. Every care has been taken and I would swear that not one of the oats sown possessed a sucker mouth, or was a pin oat, nor had the oats extended bases. On each occasion I found from one to three of these sucker-mouthed oat plants. One plant threw two shoots, while all the rest were single stemmed plants. It might be, possible that there were other plants of the same description, but my searches were long and close and these were all I discovered. Neither did I note any such seeds after the grain was threshed. If this had occurred only once I would admit that there was a possibility of these seeds having been introduced from other sources, but when it is continuous and one dribbles positively pure seed into a special piece of garden, that is clean and fenced and the plant comes up in line, ripened evenly with the rest, and is in no way different to its fellow plants, excepting the showing of a more prominent awn, has a large plump berry with the bosom oat free from the sucker mouth, and is exactly like the other grains (were it not for this sucker) both in size, shape and thickness of hull. I think there is reason for doubt that all white sucker-mouthed oats are not wild. A test trial, as to what these special sucker-mouthed oats would reproduce was made last summer, but unfortunately the plants which grew were destroyed by squirrels and gophers, and not one plant formed sufficiently to allow me any idea on the subject. However, I expect to have better luck this summer, and trust that I may gather more light on this subject, which, even then, would be only a test on the particular strain of oat tested—not general.

DRAG HARROW.

HORSE

London Shire Horse Show

OUR ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE

The 31st annual show of the Shire Horse Society had wild, stormy weather for its accompaniment. In spite of the ever-growing motor wagon competition there seems to be no falling away in the demand for good, heavy draught horses. The entries numbered 651, an increase of 5 over last year. While mares were fewer than usual, stallions entered showed an increase from 325 to 377. The quality of the exhibits was usually good, especially amongst the younger classes.

There were 39 competitors forward in the yearling stallion class, after a preliminary selection, 25 went before the judges. First place fell to Sir W. Greenwell's bay, Marden Forest King, and second to Intake Coronation, shown by the executors of Mr. Bryar. The two-year-old stallions were the largest class in the last four years, there being 107 entries of high, general quality. A compact, powerful bay, Lord Winterstoke's Rickford Coming King, was first in a close contest with Sir A. Nicholson's Leek Forest King.

The three-year-old class was rather smaller—80 entries—but fully equal in merit to the previous class. The winner of the two-year-old class last year, Sir B. Sheffield's bay Slipton King, was without question first. For second honors a referee was called in for decision, which was in favor of Messrs. Ainscough's Tatton Herald, over the Duke of Devonshire's well known Holker Mars. Of four-year-olds there were 58, nine more than last year, and a good class on the whole. Sir W. Greenwell's Marden James took first honors, with Mr. Muntz's General of Hothfield second.

Stallions, from four to ten years old, and not over 16.2 hands, numbered 29, and were excellent quality. A seven-year-old, Royalist Count, won first honors for Messrs. Forshaw. Messrs. Jackson and Thompson's Polville Dray Lad was second. In the corresponding class for stallions over 16.2 hands there were 44 competitors. Last year's winning four-year-old, A. Grandage's powerful brown, Gaer Conqueror, was first, and Lord Rothschild's Childwick Champion, a close second. Two well known winners at many shows, Lord Rothschild's Birdsall Menestral and Messrs. Forshaw's Ring o' Bells, were first and second amongst stallions over ten years of age.

The class of yearling fillies was a good one of fairly level merit. Lord Rothschild's Lorna Doone took first place, and second fell to Mr. McKenna's Carrie Nation. Two-year-old mares were a big class this year and of capital quality. A fine, short-legged, powerful chestnut, T. Ewart's Dunsmore Chessie headed the class with comparative ease, followed by E. Potter's Childwick Champion. Another large class was the one for three-year-old mares, and the first four took exactly the same order they did in competition last year as two-year-olds. J. G. Williams' Bardon Forest Princess was first, and E. E. Pearson's Leonora second.

The four-year-old mare class brought out some grand representatives of the breed. A beautiful bay mare with capital shoulders, and fine legs and feet, Sir W. Greenwell's Eureka, was deservedly first, though the second, J. G. Williams' Barnfield's Forest Queen, ran her closely. A small class only of five years old and upwards, mares under 16 hands, came before the judges. First place went to Dorothy of Waresley, owned by J. G. Williams, and second to H. S. Leon's Blue Bonnet. The corresponding class for mares, 16 to 16.2 hands, was much larger in numbers. The first, Sir A. Nicholson's Mollington Manners, and the second, Sir B. Sheffield's Lawford Diamond, were very close competitors and of nearly even merit. For mares over 16.2 hands the numbers of entries was good, and M. Michaelis' Pailton Lorais took first place. The barren mare class and the three

classes for animals.

A good adjudicator deal of it speculatively merits of honors c society's the best achieved The char his sire Jewel. Rothschi for stall Conquer reserve. took the classes, ing King For tl 50 guine Sir W. M. Mich the £20 filly we Princess more Cl For tl and the brisk in £116 7s two two The i ciety re The inc 108, an to the i increase granted Prince current sound s a resol council ter, the of the it was parlian travel tificate was lo