

have learned some valuable lessons by these shows, and one of these is that the most money is not in matured monstrosities of flesh and suet. The fat cattle did not sell as well at Guelph as they did in Toronto a year ago, and this was mainly because the butchers had found this extremely fat beef unprofitable. As we pointed out in a previous article, these prize-winners at fat stock shows are valuable rather as exaggerated types, and practical values are reached by those who walk in the direction to which they point; but at the same time these shows are teaching valuable practical lessons even in the feeding of prize winners. Early maturity, for instance, is gaining ground with feeders everywhere. In referring to the London Fat Stock Show the *London Live Stock Journal* says:—

"It has been remarked that fat stock shows are now made up of mere 'infants,' as compared to the huge four and five year-old animals which formed the rank and file of the cattle classes some years ago. In former times a considerable proportion of the collection of cattle consisted of ponderous over-fed unshapely-looking brutes, whose ungainly proportions excited curiosity and amazement rather than admiration and healthy interest. For such monstrosities, visitors to fat stock shows, we are happy to say, now look in vain. A very decided change has taken place in this as in many other matters connected with agriculture, and it cannot be gainsaid that the change has been entirely for the better.

"These shows are now more largely distinguished by the elements of practical utility than they have ever been hitherto. The fat stock shows ought to be a truthful reflex of the feeding house. The animal which best suits the latter should have the chief distinction in the former. The object of the cattle feeder is not to bring his animals to the greatest possible size or weight, but rather to produce the largest possible amount of meat of the finest quality in the shortest time, and at the lowest possible cost. To suit these purposes, an animal of peculiar type and characteristics is required, and the chief end and aim of fat stock shows should be to encourage the breeding and rearing of animals possessing those essential attributes. It is satisfactory to be able to say that in recent years these important objects have been kept pretty clearly in view in connection with the management of our leading shows. Although there is no doubt still room for improvement, the proper lines are being pursued, and the results can hardly fail to be beneficial. The most that can be said for this year's show—and it is a good deal—is that it perhaps comes more nearly to the ideal which we have indicated than any former meeting of the kind which it has been our privilege to attend."

Akin to this are the remarks of the *Chicago Drivers' Journal* regarding the recent Fat Stock Show in that city:—

"A great deal might be said of the practical results of the Fat Stock Show, but just now the mention of one item will suffice. When

the show was inaugurated the practice of the best feeders in the United States, if not in the world, was to feed cattle until they were four and five years old. But the practical demonstrations of the live stock and meat contests proved that early maturity had been neglected by feeders and breeders. A change commenced. The tests proved that the ratio of profit in feeding a bullock began to diminish with age. It was established as a fact that a beef animal is practically at his best between the ages of two and three years. This set men to thinking. It caused a revolution. It has already caused a shortening in the age of the best beef animal of more than 25 per cent., and the reform can be carried still further without danger of letting the pendulum swing too far."

In referring to the growth of the Chicago Fat Stock Show as an institution, the same paper says:—

"When the first American Fat Stock Show was inaugurated at Chicago in 1878, it was an experiment which to many seemed quite a venture. The attendance was not large, the interest was not general, the management was inexperienced, and there was a good deal of dissatisfaction with judgments, occasioned by the fierce battles of the breeds. For a time the annual exhibitions were regarded as being experimental, but after the third or fourth year the great American Fat Stock Show was beyond all peradventure an institution, and more—a success.

"The show is conducted by the Illinois State Board of Agriculture, and is not a money-making enterprise. But for the liberality and public-spiritedness of citizens of Chicago the show could not have been continued. On its own merits it has been a financial failure. But the public-spiritedness of Chicago may always be relied upon. Leading citizens realize that the American Fat Stock Show is one of the most worthy of the many great institutions to which we point with pardonable pride.

"Consumers are beginning to realize more than ever that by patronizing such institutions and giving encouragement they are directly stimulating the tendency to make better and cheaper meat.

"This annual institution, as has been well said, is a kind of normal training school for the breeder, the feeder, and in a less degree the consumer. It is a combination of theory and practice. There is no limit to the room for theorizing, but with and above that comes the final practical test of the butcher's knife and scales. Opinions as to the quality of a live animal may vary, but there is no going back of the tests which the butcher's block afford.

"The students see the animals alive; know how much they gained per day; have an idea of the kind of treatment they received, and can form their opinions of the merits and demerits of the contestants. They may speculate as much as they please on the qualities of the favorites or non favorites. This is opinion. When the animals are slaughtered the opinions are verified or proven false. The sand papered horns and carefully groomed hides of the ani-

mals are not factors now. Every part and parcel of the animal is weighed. The distribution of fat, the proportion of offal, the amount of tallow, etc., are all accurately noted. This is fact. So we have a happy combination of fact and opinion, of theory and practice."

ENCOURAGEMENT TO HORSE BREEDERS.

The profits to the farmer obtainable from horse-breeding have of late years been attracting the attention of intelligent agriculturists in Great Britain as well as on this side of the Atlantic, and already propositions are being made for the further encouragement of breeders of hunters and other high class horses. Not long ago we published a letter from a valued correspondent fully explaining the system by which the French Government promote horse-breeding, and more recently we called attention to the fact that some English writers were quite prepared to advocate a similar system for England. Why Canada should be so far behind other countries in fostering an industry so eminently suited, not only to every part of the country, but to every farmer, be he rich or poor, is not easily understood. Our Government offers prizes for rifle shooting, but not a dollar to take the place of the Queen's Plates so numerous in Great Britain and Ireland. Stallion owners pay no license, and therefore the man who pays from \$1,000 to \$5,000 for a stallion has to compete in the price of service with those who put stallions on the route that would not sell for \$150 in any Canadian market. People sometimes croak dismally over the pitifully slow progress we are making in the matter of horse-breeding, whereas they ought to wonder that we produce so many good horses. In fact our farmers are taxed to support the manufacturer, while stock-raising and agriculture are left to take care of themselves. The pitifully small prize list for our Provincial Exhibition is not worth mentioning in this connection, for in nine cases out of ten the man who wins a first prize on live stock is a heavy loser by the operation. The prizes are not large enough to pay the expenses of the prize-winners from the time they leave home till they return again, and it is only the farmer in good circumstances who can afford to fit an animal and send him to the Provincial Exhibition. If a good strong license fee were charged every stallion owner in Canada, the proceeds, after paying a fair share of the expenses of a bureau of animal industries, veterinary inspection, &c., would leave a neat little surplus to augment the prize lists for horses at the Provincial or other fairs. In these days, when all classes of manufacturers are clamoring for, and receiving the benefits of, class legislation, it is only fair that the farmer and stock-raiser should have his share of the good things that are going. As he produces more than can be consumed in the country, he cannot be protected as the manufacturers are, but he can be helped for all that. Let the Minister of Agriculture take the matter in hand,