

and the pigs at home squealing for your return! What profit is there in that? It is also impossible for farmers always to feed at regular intervals, which is quite an advantage with all kinds of stock. How many farmers have a proper place for hogs in winter, especially for suckers? I think we can attribute the cause of the greater number of hogs sold in the fall to this cause. It would be more profitable for most farmers to buy young pigs at a dollar and a half each than to raise them.

Those pigs that Prof. Day speaks of must have been bought from the Dominion Government, and even then they must have been looking for support, or they would not have sold them so cheaply. Usually, a sow will have two litters a year. She may have one pig, or she may have a dozen, but the cost of keeping the sow is all the same. He also speaks of the farmer allowing himself to be carried away by a panic. He might well think they had lost their heads when they were selling their hogs at present low prices. He must have been looking into the storehouse bins instead of the farmers' granaries, for they are not as full as he claims. Is Prof. Day not aware that this is a Christian land, and that a merciful man is merciful to his beast, and that it is better to slaughter pigs than to starve them? It is my opinion that packers should shoulder the blame, and not the farmer. If the packer had still paid six and a half or seven dollars per hundred, and rejected all light hogs, the farmer would have had to buy grain and finish them, or suffer the consequence. A man would surely be insane to buy barley at 70 cents a bushel and feed hogs at \$4.65 per cwt. Even if the packers didn't have such great profits for a little while, they might have let the pig-feeder have a little of the spoil; but they have bled him to death, and their profit won't be from fifteen to one hundred and twenty per cent. next year, the same as the statements published in "The Farmer's Advocate" last summer, if my memory serves me right.

Perth Co., Ont.

J. C. T.

THE CONDUCT OF DISTRICT FAIRS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having judged for a number of years at fairs throughout the Dominion, it might not be out of place to give your readers an idea of some of the features seen there.

COMMERCIAL HERD.

One of the best live-stock exhibits was where a substantial prize was given for a grade herd, consisting of a pure-bred sire and four grade females, sire to have the type and characteristics of the breed aimed at in grading; females judged by size, uniformity and grade character. This class, where tried, has always brought out a very strong exhibit. There is no line of animal husbandry that is of more importance than the improvement of our grades. Pure-breds are seed stock, but grades are the commercial money-makers.

STOCK PARADES.

Where there is a two-day fair, a parade of live stock makes a very strong feature for the second afternoon. At the summer fairs, in the West, where the evenings are long, even at a one-day fair there is time for a stock parade. A well-arranged display of stock, when brought out in good condition, decorated with prizewinning ribbons, well marshalled and properly led, makes a very attractive appearance as the closing feature of an agriculture fair. In some prize-lists provision is made on the programme for time of parade, when prizes are given for the best display. Seventy points should be allowed for purity of blood, uniformity of type, condition, etc., and 30 points for ornamentation and classification. This has a tendency to bring out stock well fattened and groomed. Colored ribbons are much better to designate the prize animals with than cards when awards are made, and are much to be preferred for parade decoration.

GIVING REASONS FOR DECISIONS.

Fair boards should insist upon judges making public their reasons when giving their awards. The aim should be to make judging at fairs a very strong educational feature in live-stock work. With nearly four hundred fairs in Ontario, the opportunities could not be better for training and cultivating, through the eye, the mind on all lines of animal conformation than by public demonstration in the show-ring. If farm animals are machines, through which raw materials are to be converted into finished products, we require to know something of the type and conformation of the machines. The ringside should be one of the very best places to receive such instruction.

JUDGING RING.

The most educational exhibition that I have attended this year was a one-day fair. There was neither horse-trot, baseball, nor gimcrack of any kind. The fair was run on a purely agricultural basis. A judging-ring was formed; rough seats were built around the ringside, which made fair-seeing more comfortable. Many of the on-lookers came provided with umbrellas to shelter

from sun and inclement weather. The attention was closely riveted upon the judge's work; the criticism and comment from the ringside was often more intelligent and correct than at many fairs where they had more pretentious surroundings. A well-managed one-day fair often does excellent work on educational lines. The aim of an agricultural society should be to scatter as much useful information as possible. But, in striving to draw large crowds, to swell the gate receipts, expensive attractions are too often engaged, which, if the weather happens to be unfavorable, often helps to drag the society into financial difficulties, and lessen its usefulness.

MARKING JUDGE'S BOOK.

Marking of the awards in the judge's book, if not carefully and correctly done, is often a worry and serious source of annoyance to the secretary and board of directors. At some fairs it is made imperative that the judge mark his own book, so as to avoid any possibility of mistake. But if the classes are heavy and the competition close, and the judge gives a few lucid reasons for his decisions, he will not have much time to attend to the marking of his book. But he should see that the ribbons or tickets are placed on the proper animals. The best help I have had in the ring was a young man engaged in some kind of clerical work, as a bookkeeper or bank clerk. Their methods of keeping and marking are plain, systematic, and always absolutely correct.

SIDE-SHOWS.

Where the management deem it wise to allow fakers, with their side-shows, to build up and erect a "Midway," they should never be allowed to get possession of the most prominent and conspicuous part of the fair grounds, but be separated into a row or corner by themselves, and a close inspection or supervision kept upon them.

POINTS FOR JUDGES.

Judges should discriminate quite sharply in withholding prizes from unsound and unhealthy animals, and, where breeding males are lacking in conformation and decidedly off-type, they should

could make, in the afternoon hours, a very pleasing display and exhibition in the judging of the harness classes. This is a line well worthy of more consideration and cultivation by our rural fair boards. But to convert an agricultural fair into a "racing meet," where professional drivers, with a string of racing horses, get on to and follow a fair circuit; where everything is sacrificed to speed; where the winner is sometimes a loose-jointed rake in conformation, and often not sound; where racing is made the principal fair feature—it impairs the usefulness, and tends to destroy the aim, intention and purpose for which our agricultural societies were created. This class of sport should be kept by itself, held at a time and place altogether clear from that of an agricultural fair.

Simcoe Co., Ont.

DUNCAN ANDERSON.

THE FARM.

FARM MANAGEMENT.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In my last I endeavored to show that if the farmer were freed from tariff and trade restriction, and the combinations which these foster, his condition financially would be much improved; and, although these conditions certainly affect his pecuniary circumstances, yet, apart from these, every farmer holds his destiny in this respect largely in his own hands. As never before, successful farming demands applied and well-directed brain-power. A certain gentleman, whose experience in life entitled him to speak with authority, once remarked that, "the man that could be highly successful as an agriculturist, would be a shining light in any other line he might incline to." Too many of our agriculturists are still disposed to follow the slipshod methods of pioneer days, carry on their work in a slovenly, half-hearted way, and that simply because they do not go at their business with that vim and energy and inquiring turn of mind which will enable them to realize the fascinating interest and substantial

return which lies ready to be revealed in every true phase of agricultural life.

The business of the farmer to-day requires a broad field of vision and a thorough method in every department of his work. In the first place, he must be a tiller of the soil, and have a knowledge of the composition and texture of soils, the principles of under-drainage, of cultivation, the nature and rotation of crops, and the best manner in which the fertility of soils may be maintained and improved. This last consideration leads us to realize the necessity of a judicious system of stock-keeping in conjunction with his operations of

the soil; how unalterably connected are these two departments of the farm; how, in this way, the finished product of one department becomes the raw material of another; and how the farmer is his own best customer for many products of the soil, and thus a manufacturer in the truest sense of the word, by means of the animals at his hand. His business, then, should be the growing and manufacturing of such high-class products as seed grain, live animals (horses, cattle, sheep, hogs and poultry), beef, mutton and bacon; milk, butter and cheese, choosing the departments of stock-keeping of which he seeks to make a specialty. With all this wide knowledge of soils, plants, animals and manufactured products, he must also be a business man. He must know how to buy and sell, how to place his wares upon the market and secure the highest price; in a word, the farmer of to-day must be a wide-awake and many-sided man.

With a system of farming so diversified and specialized, and conducted in such a business manner that the largest returns may be obtained from the labor, there is no reason why labor cannot be profitably employed the year round. The all too current practice of employing hands for six or eight months of the year cannot be too strongly condemned. Such a system will never build up and insure a suitable supply of farm labor, nor yet will it enable the farmer to obtain a satisfactory financial return. The pursuit of farming,



Highmore Corona (imp.) 11031.

Berkshire sow. Winner of three firsts, and included in dispersion sale of herd of H. M. Vanderlip, Cainsville, Ont., January 8th, 1908.

not, in classes where the competition is weak, be awarded the first prize. Firmness and decision on the part of our judges here would do much to eliminate unworthy animals from the show-ring. Also, it would have a very strong tendency to build up, strengthen and improve our breeding stock.

Prizes should be given for the best fitted and groomed animals; also for the animals led, held and shown in best manner for judge's inspection. This class is generally confined to young men under twenty-one. Societies should cultivate and encourage the showing of ponies and under-14-hands harness and saddle classes. It tends to cherish and foster a love for live stock among our young people.

THE RACING QUESTION.

Should there be horse-racing at an agricultural fair? is a question upon which there seems to be a great diversity of opinion. In the roadster, carriage and harness classes, nearly all will agree that style, speed and true action should be clearly demonstrated in the ring, in the interest and to the benefit of the onlookers, for their gratification, pleasure and education, as well as for the inspection and satisfaction of the judge. Many of our judges of light horses can and often do make the judging of the driving classes one of the most pleasing and attractive features of a fair. If they were not crowded so much for time, they