

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

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IN THE DOMINION.

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To the live-stock man who is deeply interested in his business, an opportunity to see the best animals in the country side by side, and placed according to merit by competent judges is not "boredom." To this latter class of spectator who has to sit in a stand too far away to see as one should see, to be able to critically follow the work of the judges, and have his attention at the same time drawn to something which is "boredom" in the highest sense of the term, viz: some outlandishly ridiculous trick-horse, clown performance, nothing is more exasperating. Clowns and acrobats may be all right in their place, but it should not be so arranged as to make live-stock judging an adjunct of their work. Country people attending the fair usually take in the evening grand-stand performance. This being the case they do not care to see the same thing in the afternoon and most of them are not there, so the horse judging goes on before a few exhibitors who happen to have passes to see it, and an occasional interested party who has sufficient generosity to part with twenty-five cents, and enough stamina to stand first on one foot and then on the other for three hours at a stretch each day, for seven or eight days.

The cattle ring is little better. Here there is no competition from the clowns or acrobats, but the seating capacity of the small stand is totally inadequate, and the numbers standing around the ring are generally larger than those seated. Besides the ring is open and in a season like this scarcely ever dry enough to escape the term "mucky." A covered arena would answer for all live stock, and the elements would not delay judging nor would the animals be at all discomforted. With it each and every award could be announced through a megaphone, so that the on-looker would know the name and owner of every animal without consulting a catalogue. We believe it is coming. A falling off in this year's entry list has "jogged" the memories of the powers that be. Like wise individuals we hope they will profit by their mistakes. One of the Vice-Presidents of the exhibition expressed an opinion that new cattle sheds should replace the

antiquated structures at the east end of the grounds, and the Mayor of the city went farther and stated that an arena was needed before the next exhibition, and he felt sure the citizens of Toronto would freely donate the money when the directors and city fathers agreed on the matter. The noise is in the air and all that is needed, is for the directors looking after the live stock interests, to make their plea strong enough, stick to their guns, win out, and up goes the best judging arena in America. Will the live-stock men back up the move?

HORSES.

In watching the work of draft horse judges, especially with the Clydesdale breed, one is more than ever convinced that the feet and legs are a very large part of the horse.

The United States has for years been noted for the excellence of its Percheron horses, but this year's importation into Canada by our own breeders would compare favorably with the best. There are more really high-class animals among them than has previously been seen at shows in this country.

Consul E. Muller, reporting on affairs in German South-West Africa, mentions that the number of horses there has lately increased to nearly 13,000, with prospects of a further advance. The number of mares is 3,915, an increase of 878, and the number of foals—they are described as being quite promising—shows an increase of 1,160. Mr. Muller points out that the Government is doing its best to encourage the horse-breeding industry, by purchasing all suitable animals from the farmers for remount purposes at the same price paid for imported animals. The Government has also a stud farm, where horses are bred, and where suitable stallions are kept for the benefit of breeders. Several private farmers, showing considerable enterprise, have introduced well-bred stock, so as to improve their own, and it is expected that not only will the quality of the horses be raised, but their number will be gradually increased. Horse sickness is pretty prevalent in the region under notice, although certain parts are immune.

Royal Dublin Horse Show.

The Royal Dublin Horse Show at Ballsbridge, a penny ride on the electric car from the Nelson Monument, in Sackville street, a very fine business street, not very far behind Princes street in Edinburgh. The buildings at Ballsbridge are permanent and substantial, the partitions of the horse stables being of solid cement, about five inches thick, with wooden posts and cement troughs for the grain, but there are no racks for the hay; the horses have to eat that off the floor. The stables are airy and well-lighted, and the stalls wide. There were exactly 1,088 entries on the secretary's books, with, I think, about 40 of these absent, and several horses were entered for different classes, but I should think that there would be between 800 and 900 horses actually present; I suppose, perhaps, as fine an exhibition of saddle and harness horses as could be seen anywhere in the world, and that is saying a good deal.

The entries were made by a little over 460 exhibitors, 40 of them being ladies, some of whom rode or drove their own horses in the ring, and they did it well, too. All the exhibitors were resident in Ireland, except about 20 from England and Wales and Scotland, and one from the Argentine Republic, who made a few entries. I never saw such a fine exhibit of saddle and driving horses, and never expect to see the like again. There were no heavy draft or coach horses. Owing to the continued heavy rains, the tracks were not in good condition. The tracks were apparently prepared for real dry weather, but were not fit for the wet weather that was then prevalent. There were in all 46 different classes, and I should think that the judges would have a hard task to come to a fair and just decision when there were so very many very fine animals. Ireland is certainly a great place for saddle horses. I was told that there were buyers there from all over Europe, as well as from England and Scotland.

The exhibitors of horses were mostly Irish landlords, large farmers, army officers, veterinary surgeons, a few clergymen, and, as already mentioned, about 40 ladies.

The prizes offered were very liberal, and included thirteen challenge and other cups, valued at from £100 to £10 each. In several of the classes prizes were given as follows: First, £25; second, £20; third, £10, and fourth, £5.

In other classes the prizes were: First, £20; second, £15; third, £10; fourth, £5, and fifth, £3. There were 46 classes in all, so that it must have taken a pretty good bank account to pay all the prize cheques. The cups had to be taken three years in succession before they became the property of the holder. Besides all the cups and prizes, there were two gold and ten silver medals.

In the halls there was a great display of all sorts of riding saddles, and every kind of stable requisite, including all veterinary appliances and medicines, branding instruments, and ear markers, etc. There was also a good deal of very fine furniture, finished in the native Irish timbers, of beautiful designs. There were also Irish girls making beautiful carpets and rugs and laces, the real Irish lace, and looms weaving other sorts of cloth of Irish manufacture, such as poplin, etc. Taken on the whole, I think the horse show is a great institution in Ireland, and was certainly a great success, many of the nobility taking an active part in its management, sitting on the Board of Directorate. D. L.

The Balanced Horse.

Quality and size and substance are the two factors which most horsemen consider in sizing up a horse. These alone are rather vague, and yet a horse judge will say, "Oh, he is a horse of great quality," or "Look at his size and substance." Each of these factors as pertaining to a horse consists of a number of smaller factors, and to be a well-balanced animal each of these smaller factors must be in itself near perfection. It is a mistake to let one's ideas run altogether along one line at the expense of the other. A horse may be brim-full of quality, have the best of feet, the cleanest and flattest of bone, and yet may be so deficient in size as to be undesirable as a breeder and of only average value as a worker. On the other hand, he may have size galore, but be so rough, have such small, ill-developed feet, and such scanty, round legs, that as a breeder his influence is not at all of a desirable character. A combination of size and quality is what is needed in all draft horses. Fads have no place in horse-breeding. We must have horses with good feet and legs, but they must also have sufficient muscling to do the work required of them. They must have sufficient size and weight to pull heavy loads, and they must have a strong, well-muscled back and loin to support them while doing it, and all this comes with the thick, large, roomy-middled horse, with sufficient capacity to digest enough food to keep all the component parts which go to make up his entire body in the best condition possible to withstand the strains which he is called upon to bear. Such a horse is a balanced horse, and such is the horse for the breeder of drafters to use.

LIVE STOCK

Throwing the Bull Safely.

When a big bull must be thrown for any sort of operation, it is well to do it in a safe way. The method used at the Wisconsin College of Agriculture and taught to its students, works effectively on the fiercest bull, and requires but two men. One good man (two if necessary) holds the animal by a staff snapped to the ring in his nose, while the other ties the end of a new half-inch



To throw a bull, pass a half-inch rope tautly around him in three half-hitches, always in the same direction, and pull.

rope securely, so that it won't give, at the top of his head, either around his horns or to a tight-fitting halter. He first passes the rope around the bull's neck in a half-hitch, as shown in the illustration, crossing it just a few inches below the ridge of the neck. Next he passes it around the body back of the forelegs in the same direction, crossing as before, a few inches below