

A Square Deal in the Show Ring

How often do we hear, at many of our show rings, a number of defeated candidates reviling in the most bitter and unqualified language, the judge who has seen fit to place some other man's exhibit above their own? No matter how wide the margin by which they have been beaten the same language is used, the same invective, and usually with the same result. Everybody who comes within hearing distance is disgusted. Some show it, others do not. But all who have average reasoning powers themselves generally conclude that at any rate there are good chances that he is measuring the other fellow according to his own standards, and the inveterate kicker usually has to sell his efforts in this line for a smaller profit than he does his defeated exhibits.

There is no doubt that above all things desirable in the show ring, honesty and capability in the work of the judges stand pre-eminent, but it is just this class of judges who will first be driven from the show ring by the style of tactics which are becoming so common. The man with a price will not be intimidated, for he knows that other men, of irreproachable character, get just the same kind of medicine that he does, and he has the philosophic justification that he will get it whether he sells himself or not.

On the other hand, how we respect and even admire the man who can take his beating in a manly way, and, whatever he may be inclined to think he lets the others do the talking. We know of a few such, who have gone down the line, or rather up, for years, and who could always acknowledge a fair defeat with equanimity. Even when apparently "cold-decked" their most rabid remark would be that the judge was, in their opinion, mistaken. How soon it was noticeable that their opinion was asked and sought after on other classes than their own, and as judges at other events as well.

But even honest judges, and we know a few, cannot escape the reviling tongue of the "kicker," who calls them crooks, scoundrels, and rogues. Oh, yes, he can prove what he says, the whole thing was fixed, and sometimes the price was some consideration palpably not worth ten cents to the judge, and he rehearses the same old story, always, of course, carefully out of hearing of the party interested, and it is strange he never notices that nobody thinks his story worth repeating.

Of course, the best judge that ever lived is not infallible in the show ring. And certainly the best judges are not always appointed to officiate. Mistakes are common, and it is to be feared actions of a more or less questionable character are not without precedent in the show ring as elsewhere. But after all the show ring is a test not only of the best exhibits and the best exhibitors but of the manliness of the contestants as well,

and the best way to get a square deal yourself is to go right ahead and give what you ask, first to the other fellow.

The British West Indies Trade

Mr. W. J. Thompson, B.S.A., is a Canadian who has had peculiar opportunities for investigating the condition of agriculture in other countries and notably in the British West Indies. Mr. Thompson was brought up on a farm near Barrie, Ont. He is one of the four students who were the first to take the degree of B.S.A. in agricultural chemistry and soil physics from the Ontario Agricultural College. That was in 1896. For several years after graduation he managed a Canadian farm, where he put his knowledge of soils to good account. Later he went to the United States, and is now foreign agricultural expert and representative of Swift & Co., Chicago.

Mr. Thompson has spent the last couple of years in the British West Indies and the other islands of the Caribbean Sea. In an interview in one of the leading papers of that district, he gives some sound advice to the people of that country in regard to trade development. He advises West Indians not to look so much to the mother land for help, but to push out for themselves and develop a market for their products in Canada and the United States. He estimates that these two countries annually import products that the West Indies can grow to the value of \$500,000,000, of which the West Indies supply only \$50,000,000 worth, or about \$25 per head of the population. The increase of imports of this class of goods into North America has averaged about \$10,000,000 per year for the past ten years.

Mr. Thompson might advise a reciprocal arrangement between Canada and that country. We will buy what they can grow and they buy what can be grown in the Dominion.

Chicago Packers in Western Canada

It is reported that one of the big packing concerns of Chicago, said to be Armour & Co., have bought out the pork and beef packing business of J. Y. Griffin & Co., of Winnipeg. This firm has several branches in the West, including Calgary, Nelson and Vancouver, and has built up a large business in supplying the West with meat.

The advent of the Chicago packers into the West by the purchase of this business is of peculiar interest to the live stock trade of that part of Canada. If the same vigor is shown in pushing for business as has been shown to the south of the line, the future of the cattle industry of the West is assured. It is to be hoped, however, that none of the unsanitary methods reported to exist in Chicago will be allowed to develop in Canada.

But what about Eastern Canada?

Will it have to wait for the advent of the Chicago packers to develop a dead meat trade?

EDITORIAL NOTES

The passing away of Provincial Detective Murray is not without interest to farmers. Some of the most important murder cases which he was successful in unravelling happened in the rural districts, notably the Birchall case, near Woodstock, in 1890, and the Findlay murder in Lambton County, in 1875.

For the eight months ending February 28th last, Canada exported canned meats to the value of \$1,296,828, of which quantity \$1,280,780 worth went to Great Britain. While this, is, no doubt, a smug little sum, it does not begin to supply the total needs of the home land in this commodity. There is room for great expansion if the business is only taken hold of properly.

The amount insurance companies will have to pay San Francisco fire sufferers will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$175,000,000, or nearly one-half of the total amount of losses in the United States and Canada estimated for the five months ending May 31st last. The total losses which the insurance companies had to pay in both countries during 1905 totalled \$175,157,800.

Canada's aggregate foreign trade for the eleven months ending May 31st last totals \$483,234,889, and exports to the amount of \$308,233,972. This shows a gain over the corresponding period of 1904-05 in foreign trade of \$74,037,160, and in exports of \$42,135,848. Of the exports agricultural products total \$50,148,583, increase \$22,409,500, and animals and their products \$60,002,343, increase \$3,814,359.

The members of the New Ontario Railway and Municipal Board are Messrs. James Leitch, K.C., Cornwall; A. B. Ingram, M.P., St. Thomas, and H. N. Kittson, Hamilton. They are already sworn in and will commence their duties at once. Though the Dominion Railway Commission has been at work for several years, the new board will find lots to keep it busy. There are a number of minor disputes cropping up all the time, important in themselves, that can be dealt with by the Ontario body.

The provision for meat inspection made at Washington is said to be sufficient to insure that American meats and meat products will be healthful, clean, and in every respect wholesome and fit for food. \$2,000,000 is placed at the disposal of the Government to pay expenses. To secure the Government label, products must in future be handled in accordance with sanitary regulations to be prescribed. For violation, a fine of not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed two years, is provided for.