

Stock Judging Competition at Fall Fairs. "Easy to Labor for Those You Love."

There is no better means of gaining knowledge of type and conformation, and at the same time acquiring confidence in ability to judge live stock than the actual placing of a few classes of animals in competition. At several of the county fairs in counties where a Representative of the Ontario Department of Agriculture is located, stock-judging competitions for young men have been inaugurated during the past autumn. These have proven of great interest to all stockmen, young or old, who have attended these fairs. At the North York Fair, recently held at Newmarket, such a competition was put on for the first time, and thirty young men, between the ages of fifteen and twenty-five, placed the different classes, which included draft horses, dairy cattle and beef cattle. The competition was in charge of W. E. J. Edwards, the Agricultural Representative, and its success speaks well for him, and goes to show what can be done to work up interest in this important phase of agriculture. Such competitions are very commendable, and there is no reason why every fall fair, whether a large exhibition or only a small country show, should not offer prizes for the best work done by young men in stock-judging. Where there is no Local Representative of the Department of Agriculture to manage the work, some of the stockmen on the Fair Board could handle it very well, and such a move on the part of the management of all our fall fairs would do much to maintain and further the interest in live stock among the young farmers and farmer's sons of the country.

Britain's New Minister of Agriculture.

The Right Honorable Walter Runciman, a photograph of whom appears on this page, who has recently been appointed Minister of Agriculture, or President of the Board of Agriculture, by which name the office in the British Cabinet is designated, is a son of Sir Walter Runciman, Newcastle-on-Tyne, and has represented the District of Dewsbury in Parliament since 1902. In the recent reconstruction of the Cabinet he was transferred from the office of Minister of Education, which he had filled for some years. He was educated at Trinity College, Cambridge, and became Parliamentary Secretary to the Local Government Board from 1905 to 1907, and was Financial Secretary of the Treasury in 1907-8. "The new President," says the Live-stock Journal, "is not known as an agriculturist, but is a brilliant member of his party, and it is quite probable that his work at the Board of Education may stand him in good stead in the new office, as one of the aims of the future is evidently to be to systematize agricultural education." Mr. Runciman's salary is £2,000 a year.

The second annual meeting of the Northern Nut-growers' Association will be held, on the invitation of Director L. H. Bailey, at the New York College of Agriculture, Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y., December 14th and 15th, 1911. Membership in this Association is open to all persons who desire to further nut culture. The cause is worthy, the subject not unimportant, and the meeting should be profitable.

To the Marquis variety of spring wheat, originated by Dr. Chas. E. Saunders, Cerealist at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and grown by Seager Wheeler, Rosthern, Saskatchewan, belongs the credit of securing the \$1,000 gold prize for the best exhibit of wheat at the Madison Square Garden Land Show, New York, as reported in "The Farmer's Advocate" for November 9th.

Two important dairy meetings will be held again this year at the O. A. C. Dairy School during the week of the Winter Fair. The cheese meeting will be held Wednesday, December 13th, at 1.30 p.m., and the creamery meeting on Thursday, 14th, at same hour. Everyone interested in dairying will be welcome.

In the obituary of the late Sir John Carling, in our last week's issue, the date of his decease was inadvertently given as October 6th, whereas it should have read November 6th.

Governor Harmon has offered a gold medal for the best five ears of corn in Ohio exhibited by a young man studying agriculture, to be awarded at the "Battle of the Kernels," the corn and grain show to be held at the College of Agriculture, in Columbus, next January.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been very interested in reading some of the articles touching on the farm-labor question which have appeared from time to time in "The Farmer's Advocate," and have been pleased to notice the kindly sentiment displayed in some of them, but I have felt a fear lest the original end in thus commenting on this subject (which I understand is the solving of the labor question) might be lost, and instead thereof, a controversy arise between farmers and the laborers on a basis which would prove more harmful than good.

I believe it is difficult to write on a subject of the kind now under consideration without the possibility of hurting some person's feelings, but I am sure that such a design is far from the writer's mind. In my opinion, it is a good plan, in a case of the present kind, to keep more to the general condition, rather than instance some rare circumstance. Perhaps, again, the question might be asked what is the "general condition," that it might be known from the "more rare." I do not feel that I am capable to satisfy all minds as touching this, but it does seem to me that the instance cited lately, concerning the Englishman of the "elaborate toilet" is "more rare."

It is, I believe, an undeniable fact that in some districts the labor question is not only getting serious, but is serious. The thought that is before me is not so much about the scarcity of farm labor as the retaining of what there is. Why is it that the farmer cannot (or does not) keep his hired man, and why is it that the hired man does not stay with the farmer? This, I believe, comes very close to our question. Then, what is the answer to it? Perhaps few would care to openly endorse my sentiments, and some may



The Right Hon. Walter Runciman.
Appointed Minister for Agriculture in the British Government.

think that they have no bearing on the subject, but I believe there are more convinced of the truth in them than would care to admit. I believe there is too little love existing between men and masters (and masters and men), and too much bestowed upon the money part of the question. Has it not been truly said that "the love of money is the root of all evil," and can we not trace it out in this matter? The hired man's complaint is (and perhaps it will be admitted as general) that the hours for working are too many; that they do not like the choring at night. Why is it that the farmer has his man choring so late at night? I do not refer to the attention to his team, but the feeding of pigs and the milking of cows after night. Is it not because it brings him in money? Then, again, the fault with the laborer is that he wants too much money, according to the farmer's views. Both would set about to justify themselves on their different points, the one says that, if he has to pay big wages, he has got to get the work out of the man; the other that, if he has got to work long hours, he is going to make the farmer put up the wages. What, then, would the writer say—that the laborer should work for the farmer because he loves him, and not get any wages, and that the farmer should pay the laborer money, and not expect any work from him? No, but is it not evident that, when the two meet on this ground,

they are the better prepared to satisfy one another, for then the laborer will not work "with eye-service as men-pleasers," thinking to do enough to earn his wages, and that's all, but will have that interest in his employer's business which love for him would warrant. And so with the farmer, he would not keep his man to get as much out of him as possible, but the mutual love would create in each a desire to do unto others as they would be done unto. Perhaps the question would be asked, "Suppose that one of the parties was disposed to look at things in this light, what is he to do in his dealings with the other man? Surely he will find the answer if he considers the subject of doing to others as he would be done by.

The writer is a native of London, England, who came to Canada at the age of fifteen years, practically alone, which was about seven years ago, and has worked on the farm for the most of that time, and is now putting in his second term with his present employer, but, although a laborer, he has endeavored to write without any prejudice.

F. C. B.

Unusual Interest Shown in the Horticultural Conventions.

ONTARIO FRUIT-GROWERS' ANNUAL CONVENTION.

It would be difficult to find a more alert, keen, businesslike body of men than those which met at the Canadian Forester's Hall, Toronto, November 15th and 16th, for the annual convention of the Ontario Fruit-growers' Association. There was a marked air of prosperity and firm belief in their business shown by all the large number present. The attendance was perhaps the greatest in the Association's history, and the meetings were an unqualified success throughout. President Donald Johnson, of Forest, reviewed briefly the fruit industry situation of 1911, and prophesied greater strides than ever in the next few years. Much of the progress being made, he thought, was due to the work of the Association in opening up new markets and improving transportation facilities. He dispelled all fear of overproduction injuring the business, and stated that Ontario fruit had now found its place in the markets of the world. Orchard planting is increasing rapidly, and the next few years will see larger numbers of trees set out than ever before. The awakening he traced to demonstration orchards and individual enterprise. "Fruit-growers of to-day are at the threshold of their possibilities," said Mr. Johnson. The Westerners need fruit which they cannot produce, and there is a large market in the home land. The revival has been general from Georgian Bay to the counties bordering on Lakes Erie and Ontario, and to the Eastern counties, as well, where hundreds of thousands of trees are being planted annually.

Spraying and good orchard care, he thought, had been practiced this year more than ever, and yet there was much room for improvement. Mr. Johnson urged the appointment of a committee of thoroughly qualified men to inspect the apples at point of shipment. He did not believe in political appointment of inspectors, and asked the Association to appoint a committee to look into the matter. A very sharp discussion followed, in which the need of standard sizes for the different grades of different varieties was brought out.

LIMIT THE NUMBER OF VARIETIES.

Prof. W. T. Macoun, Horticulturist, Experimental Farm, Ottawa, advised growers not to plant too many varieties. A large number of new varieties are originated each year, but very few are especially valuable. Before planting a new variety, the grower should be sure that it is recommended by the experiment stations. New apples are propagated from seedlings, and the only one of promise during the past year has been the Norfolk Beauty, a dark, orange-red apple, originated in Norfolk County. A number of promising McIntosh Red and Wealthy seedlings have been propagated. A new hardy variety of plums has been found in the Omaha. Few really valuable varieties have been propagated this year, although thousands of seedlings have been grown.

THE RAILROAD WORM.

The Railroad Worm or Apple Maggot is not, as many suppose, a new pest in Ontario, said W. A. Ross, B. S. A., who has been in charge of special investigation into the ravages of this insect during the past summer. It is found in the following counties: Prince Edward, Lennox, Hastings, Frontenac, Northumberland, Durham, Ontario, Wentworth, Lincoln, Welland and Norfolk. The injury is done by the larvae of a small fly,