

Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land. -Lord Chatham

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The Advantages of the Graded Prize List

A System by Which the Prize Money in a Class is Distributed According to the Number of Entries

Now that fall fair time has arrived, and the entred in the contests of the showing, many of them will be wondering whether or not the aystem by which prices are distributed in the best that can be deviced. That it contains many incongruities all will admit. When a defaits number of primes are given in each class irrespective of the number of animals shown, cases are sure to arise in which there are either inany disappointed exhibiters or some unclaimed primes. A professional breed, thus discutary, an early all classe (of this breed, thus discutary, or early in compared to the prize mome of the to draw his show animals, may succeed in earrying off the built of the prize momey on early all classe (of this breed, thus discutary, or early all classe (of the built of the prize momey

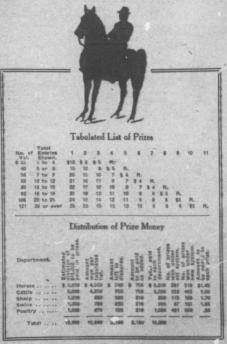
ing anniur because. As to the distribution of the price money between the breeds, one may predominate throughout the district covered by a fair, yet reiceive so more price money than another that is but little known. These and other instances of injustice in the present system may raise the question of the possibility of devising a system by which the prises would be more justly distributed and which would therefore enable the fair to more nearly full its function in encoursafing the breeding of better animals.

The graded prise list has been devised to meet the objections for the old system of distributing money. It appears to be fairer from all standpoints. It is not claused to be perfect, but the claum is made that it eliminates many of the most undesirable features of the day system. Experience my reveal many ways in which it may be improved. It always takes time to fattroduce an innovation, no matter how meritoriogs it may be, and there may be some who would object to the introduction of the bis as ascess.

The main feature of the new system is that the amount of prize money fluctuates according to the number of entries in each class. The larger the number of entries, the more money is distributed. The upper table shows the number of cattle prizes and their value according to the number of entries shown in each class (except champions or specials), as given at the Calgary Fair, where the graded prize list was adopted this year. The prize money for the different classes varies from \$25, which is given when four animals are shown, to as high as \$121, when 26 or more are exhibited. In the first case

three prizes and a reserve ribbon are giver. Where the larger number of entries is made, 10 cash prizes and a ribbon are distributed it will be seen that the value as well as the number of prizes in the class increase, and that there is not such a wide difference between the prizes are in the old system. The object of this provision is to encourage larger clauses, for exhibitors will be interveted in getting other beenders to show when the value of the prizes depends or the number of entries. Thus, instead of the stronser crowling out the weaker, they mutually assist each other

With the graded prize list, prize meney in distributed amongst the breeds in proportion to the



number of entries. They will receive the same amount of money if their entries are equal. If a particular breed is more popular than others in the district covered by the fair, it is reasonable to conclude that more of them will be shown, and is only fair to such a breed that it preserve

Is only fair to such a break mat it receives greater recognition in the distribution of prime money than a break that is comparatively unitportant in the district. On the other hand, breaks which make a smaller number of entries are not discriminated against, as they get their correct lance of the prime money. The encouragement is offered to them that if the number of entries is increased, the prime will also be increased. Judges are also required to place a larger propage

tion of the animals shown, thus carrying the competition for prizes further down the line, giving the exhibitors of the lease excellent animals a chance to find their comparative standing. The educational value of the showring content is therefore greatly augmented.

The manner is which the money is allotted to the different divisions is shown in the lower table. The appropriations are based on previous winnings with due allowance for an estimated increase in entries. Any money that is loft over after the prises have been paid is divided amongst the successful exhibitors on a pro rata basis. An exhibitor is allowed to make eally three entries in one class. This gives him as opportunity of making a good exhibit, but prevents him from rendeying the system unvorkable b' making unimited entries.

The chief objection to the system eems to be that there is some uncertainty amongst the exhibitors regarding the amount they compete for. The importance of this objection is one of the things that will have to be learned by experience. It would be a comparatively easy matter for an exhibitor to total his winnings in each class if the tabulated list of prizes is given in the prize list published by each Fair Association. For instance, if an exhibitor wins third and fourth prizes in a class of 10 or 12, he would receive for the third prize \$11, and for the fourth \$9, or a total of \$20. Most exhibitors keep a careful record of their winnings, and could, with very little trouble, total them all as outlined above.

The matter of graded prize lists is worthy of careful consideration by all Fair Boards, as it should ensure better satisfaction to all parties concerned,

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