

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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narrow withers and spareness of flesh is preferred, and this is not incompatible with a good constitution, since the heart and lungs are situated low down in the chest, and the thick or thin withers are largely the result of difference in the early feeding and training of the two classes. Feed a dairy heifer fat in calfhood and keep her fat till she reaches maturity and her value for dairy purposes will be seriously impaired, as will also her chances of winning in the show-ring. The breeding and training of the dairy cow should tend to produce an animal at maturity having good spring and depth of ribs, thick through the heart, with smooth, sloping shoulders, fine, sharp withers, a moderately long, level back, a broad, strong loin, a strong spine, well-defined and open-spaced, broad and wide spaced ribs, with much space between the last rib and hook point, broad and moderately prominent hooks, long, broad and level hind quarters, thin thighs, soft handling skin and hair, and withal, and perhaps most important of all, since the standard gives nearly thirty per cent. of value to these points, a large and well-balanced, evenly-quartered udder, and good-sized, well-placed teats, the udder running well forward and well up behind, not fleshy, but flexible, elastic and covered with soft skin and hair. Bulls and young females not in milk, of the dairy breeds, are more difficult to judge, than are those of the beef breeds, as in the latter the same standard practically applies to male and female, old and young alike, except that masculinity of appearance and spirit, indicating prepotency, are required in one section, and femininity in the other, while in the dairy breeds the conformation of the bull differs from that of the cow in that the former is relatively lighter in the hind quarters than the cow, the functions of maternity requiring the broader conformation of hind parts in the female.

In judging sheep, the rules laid down for judging beef cattle apply in the main, the principal difference being that of breed character and of the fleece, which has to be considered, and this

should be of fine fibre, lustrous and of even quality on all parts of the body.

Swine are judged with a view to their conformity to the type that most nearly meets the demands of the markets for the time being. Good length and depth of body, a strong, slightly arched and well-fleshed back, smooth shoulders, thick hams and flanks, moderately light head and jowls, muscular neck, deep foreribs, strong, flat bone, and standing well up on the toes, are the most essential points to be considered.

A word as to the course of the judge in the performance of his duties. He should, of course, enter upon his work with the settled purpose that to the best of his judgment the best shall win. It is presumed that he knows his business from experience and close observation and study. It is well after a general look over the animals in each section to draw out a few of those most likely to be in the prize-list, have them walked to see how they look in motion, and after a close and careful examination, viewing them from various standpoints, to place them in the order of precedence, according to his judgment, with a view to usefulness, quality and breed type. It is well, if the class is not too large, that the entries outside the prize-list be placed in order of merit, so that the dominant type may be recognized throughout the class, and the judge's work show uniformity and consistency of aim, in so far as the character of the material will admit. The judges are expected to set the standard of approved type, and if their work is well done it will be an education to those who need to learn what is the best type in each breed.

Harvest Excursions.

[From our Manitoba and Western Edition.]

Reports have been circulated to the effect that no harvest excursions to the West will be run this year. However, we are glad to be able to state that no substantial foundation can be found for such rumors.

This year, as heretofore, it will rest chiefly with Western farmers whether or not an attempt will be made to bring men westward to help harvest the product of the fields. At present the Manitoba Department of Agriculture are busy gathering information from the different municipalities, and just so soon as they get an approximate estimate from the farmers of the additional numbers required, the Government officials will freely circulate in Eastern papers a call for harvesters, and also make provision with the railway companies for bringing them out at such times as will best suit the majority of grain-growers. There is an idea afloat that owing to the heavy tide of immigration which has poured in upon us this season, little if any outside help will be required to harvest the crop of 1903. It is true that many farmers have hired help this year for eight months, who formerly only hired for harvest and threshing, and as numbers have done this there is little doubt but that the amount of harvest help required will be less than in former years. It is also further expected that a great many of the home-seekers who have actually located and commenced breaking this season will be able and ready to take part in the harvest fields. All this is true, but we must not forget that the large army of last year's home-seekers did the same, and they now have changed places, being no longer able to help others, but have themselves joined the ranks of that large army who require additional help.

Although we believe it to be true that owing to changed conditions less additional harvest help will be required this year than formerly, yet we are confronted with the fact that the number of farms has increased amazingly, and that although in many of the older settled districts, where for the last few years most of the soil has been tilled and where to-day less outside help per square mile is required, there are other localities which constitute perhaps the largest portion, and we must not forget them.

Perhaps, taken on the whole, less Eastern help will be required this year, and if such proves true it will be a good thing, for our grain-growers would suffer severely if they had to depend as fully on outside help as they have had in former years. In the East laboring men to-day are about as difficult to get as with us,

and wages are equally high, except, perhaps, during our harvesting and threshing months.

Crop prospects are bright; wages will likely be good, and every indication at present points to a return of the harvester in considerable numbers.

Fiscal Reform.

From one end of the country to the other, says the Farmer & Stock-breeder, of London, England, the subject paramount in the minds of the people at the present time is the question of fiscal reform. All who have observed the trend of public opinion of late years, could not have failed to observe that the Imperial idea, based on the reality of the Empire, and its community of interest at present existing with strange lack of cohesion, left much to be desired in the welding of the separate parts into one cohesive whole. It is no new idea, this Imperialistic enunciation; it has been fostered more within the past ten years than at any previous time in the history of this country, but it has been left to Mr. Chamberlain to bring the question within the range of practical politics. What we as agriculturists have to decide is, whether or not the system of free trade pertaining in this country shall be abolished in favor of preferential tariffs. It is true that the country's greatness has to a very large extent been built up concurrently with the system of free trade, but it has still to be proved that free trade was the making of the country. It has been shown beyond a shadow of doubt that a country protected like the United States can make even greater strides in commercial progress than the history of Great Britain can show. If that is so, it is clear that to a very large extent the inherent qualities of the race must be held responsible for the proud position which this country has attained in the world's commerce.

What is the proposal which has been laid before the country in very bald outline? Briefly, it is to the effect that preference should first of all be given to the produce of our colonies, which in return should afford our manufacturers special facilities for the cultivation of their markets. All raw material for purposes of manufacture shall be admitted free to this country, but food will be taxed and the dream of old-age pensions become a practical reality. The chief consideration from the farmer's point of view is the attitude which he shall adopt towards the principles enunciated by Mr. Chamberlain. What advantages will accrue, not for the agricultural interest only, but to the nation at large? It is necessary when considering this question to take a broad look at the effect which such a policy would have, not upon one section of the community, but upon each integral part. Agriculture is still our greatest industry, and, from a purely selfish point of view, the principle contained in Mr. Chamberlain's proposal—viz., that of taxing food—would undoubtedly receive more support from the agricultural classes than from any other industrial branch of the nation. And yet, unless taxation is tolerably heavy, it is very difficult to see in what particular way the farmer will be benefited, save, perhaps, by the removal of some of the taxes which press rather unfairly upon him. Feeding-stuffs will doubtless be dearer, but by a revision of our system of taxation, as suggested, it would no doubt tend to make the Empire more dependent on its own resources, and agriculture in this country would share in such benefits as are conferred.

A revision of our fiscal system, or our system of taxation, is inevitable. It is clear that the burden is very unfairly borne at the present time, and since the country has become so wealthy, and the wealth has shifted since our present system of taxation was introduced, it is only right that the whole subject should come up in a concrete form before the nation. It is impossible as yet to discuss the question as fully as might be desired, because we are not yet in possession of any succinct proposal; nor are we yet definitely aware of the feeling which exists in the colonies, although preliminary evidence seems to indicate that the proposals of Mr. Chamberlain are receiving very favorable, and, in some respects, enthusiastic consideration. It is clear that if we can preserve our own markets for ourselves, we shall receive an infinitely greater reward than could possibly fall to our lot by the maintenance of the present or even a slightly extended foreign trade. Our own markets, after all, are the principal markets of the world, and as we at present conduct affairs we are completely at the mercy of those tariff-raising countries which do everything to protect themselves and, as far as possible, to ruin us. The moral effect of having a tariff authority to protect ourselves must undoubtedly be very great, and our manufacturers would receive from foreign countries better consideration than they have done within the past fifty years. Agriculture, of course, has a good deal to gain, because it is one of the few