

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Midland Central Fair.

The Fifth Annual Exhibition of the Midland Central Fair will be held on the Crystal Palace grounds, Kingston, Sept. 17th to 21st, and, there being no fair at Montreal this season, it must certainly tend to swell the entries for Kingston, coming, as the Midland Central does, right after Toronto, and just before Ottawa. The inducements contained in the prize list are ample, and should attract a large exhibit in all classes, especially live stock. The poultry department is complete, prizes being offered for all breeds of fowls. The latest varieties of apples, vegetables, etc., have been added to the list. "One change we have noticed in particular, and that is the withholding of prizes for male animals in the General Purpose horse class. The efficient manager of last year, Mr. A. Shaw, having retired, Ald. C. H. Martin was called upon to fill the vacancy, and we have every reason to believe that he will make a capable fair manager. Secretary J. P. Oram will be found at his old post. The President of the Association is the newly-elected "Patron" member for Frontenac, Jos. L. Haycock, M. P. P.

Postal Regulations.

Among the measures of general interest adopted at the past session of the Dominion House of Commons was one emanating from the Postal Department, amending the Post Office Act by repealing section 93 and substituting the following therefor: "93 Every one who encloses a letter or letters, or any writing intended to serve the purpose of a letter or post-card, in a parcel posted for the parcel post, or in a packet of samples or patterns posted to pass at the rate of postage applicable to samples and patterns, or encloses a letter or post-card, or any writing to serve the purpose of a letter or post-card, or encloses any other thing, in a newspaper posted to pass as a newspaper at the rate of postage applicable to newspapers (except in the case of the accounts and receipts of newspaper publishers, and of the printed circulars inviting subscriptions and the printed envelopes addressed to such publishers, which will be permitted to pass folded or enclosed within the newspaper sent by them to their subscribers), or encloses a letter or any writing intended to serve the purpose of a letter or post-card, in any mail matter sent by post, not being a letter, shall incur a penalty not exceeding forty dollars, and not less than ten dollars in each case."

The exception made in respect to the accounts receipts and subscription circulars of newspaper publishers will be very generally appreciated, as it obviates a great deal of needless work, and is a matter of convenience not only to the subscribers of these publications, but to the Post Office service as well. Very few would imagine the amount of trouble and mistakes saved simply by allowing the sending of printed envelopes to subscribers addressed to the publishers of newspapers. The department is to be commended for incorporating this feature in the Act.

Persons would do well to note the strict regulations regarding enclosing any letter or writing intended to serve the purpose of a letter, however short, in newspapers or parcels. Unthinkingly, or in ignorance of the law, some may incur the penalty of a heavy fine for such offences, hence our reason for calling attention to this matter.

We trust the time is not far distant when the department will see its way clear to bring the letter postage down to a two cent rate, as the increasing volume of correspondence encouraged thereby would doubtless soon more than recoup the department for any falling off in revenue that might be apprehended.

Ensilage and Tuberculosis.

Some daily newspaper writers and others, who ought to know better, and could, if they devoted a little rational attention to the subject, have been indulging in a lot of excited and reckless talk regarding tuberculosis in cattle, and its causes. In learned and sweeping terms we have heard it connected directly with the use of ensilage as a food. It will be remembered that, when an Agricultural Experiment Station director in the Western States, Prof. J. W. Sanborn earned a reputation as an original worker, and he was nothing if not outspoken in expressing his views. For the West, at least, he favored dry corn fodder and the "capacious loft," as against ensilage and the silo. We now notice, by the Mirror and Farmer, that he is equally frank in dealing with those who have been ascribing consumption to the silo. He says:

"We draw radical conclusions on insufficient data. Possessed with a new idea, society makes it the consuming theme until it is worn out or tossed aside, as a child does its plaything, or until a new notion usurps the field occupied by the departing guest. It certainly is not shown that tuberculosis—a contagious disease—has its origin for a single individual in the silo or that the silo is the inducing cause. It is not even shown that tuberculosis is on the increase in the bovine family. The presumption is that there is less of it, as consumption is on the decrease in the human family, while it is probable that milk is consumed in larger quantities than ever before. The matter of tuberculosis is practically a new discovery, and the fact that the human family may take it from cows is a just cause of alarm and of agitation. It is a cause of regret that some of our stock papers try to throw discredit upon the matter, especially those that are patronized by the breeders of pure bred stock. It is useless and hardly honest to try to disguise the fact that cattle that are confined in the barns, made warm, and therefore tight, excluding the air in sufficient quantity, are in conditions most favorable for the spread from animal to animal of this dread disease. What we should do is to find the facts, and then we can, in the interest of good animals and their owners, too, create conditions that are favorable to them. *Deceiving ourselves is not the best preparation for inauguration of the right remedial methods.*"

The Canadian cattle sales held at Glasgow, July 3rd, shows a marked decrease as compared with last year's sale of the corresponding week, the number being 782 head, being 652 less than last year's corresponding sale. The cattle offered were of good quality. Bulls sold at from £12 15s. to £20; heifers, £12 15s. to £18, dead weight. No. 1 bullocks, 49s. to 50s. per cwt. (112 lbs.); 2nd grade, 45s. 6d. to 46s. 8d. per cwt.

STOCK.

The Fall Show.

BY J. C. SNELL.

The article in a recent number of the ADVOCATE, by R. E. King, on the above subject, presents food for serious thought, and calls attention to a very interesting theme. There is, no doubt, good reason for his complaint that our agricultural shows fail to give the practical education which they should do as a return for the public money expended upon them. All thoughtful people deplore the tendency in these times to make the agricultural fair a mere holiday occasion, in which special attractions of a light and frivolous nature distract the attention of the people from the useful and the practical.

We confess we are not without hope that this will in time, to a great extent, work its own cure; that the people will gradually be brought to see the mistake they have fallen into, and will seek for better things; but in order to bring about such change without loss of valuable time, thoughtful minds should be at work seeking to devise the best means of remedying the evil as soon as possible.

The time was, in this country, when the people patronized a purely agricultural show in sufficient numbers to make the gate receipts pay expenses. The old Provincial Exhibitions brought representative farmers from all sections of the Province, and the agricultural productions displayed received the undivided attention of all classes of people attending the fair. The Royal and other leading agricultural exhibitions in England are yet largely attended by the people who go to see a purely agricultural show, and there influential people manifest a real interest in the success of the fair. This is seen in the fact that amongst the exhibitors at the Royal Show this year, in the live stock classes, were the Queen, the Prince of Wales, and Lord Roseberry, the Premier. But even in England very little has been done in connection with these exhibitions in the direction which Mr. King indicates—that is, in making known the methods by which superior animals, grains or articles are produced. The nearest approach to this idea that we have known has been accomplished by the managers of the American Fat Stock Show, at Chicago—who are the Illinois State Board of Agriculture—where full information has been required from exhibitors, where animals have been carefully weighed, both before and after slaughter, and statistics have been compiled, showing results, such as gain per day from birth to slaughter, with cost of production, which has served to give a tolerably correct idea of the gain or loss in the transaction.

The practicability of Mr. King's idea has therefore been demonstrated. The difficulties in the way of expanding it and bringing it into more general use are many and somewhat serious, but should not be regarded as insurmountable. The Minister of Agriculture for Ontario has shown a ready willingness to encourage anything and everything calculated to educate the farmers of the Province along the lines of improved methods, as evidenced by the liberal grants given to Agricultural, Stock-breeding and Dairy Associations, as well as by the institution of the Travelling Dairy and the encouragement given to Farmers' Institutes; and we have no doubt that he would gladly assist in carrying out any well-planned scheme to make the agricultural shows more practical and more useful.

Suggestions are now in order, and the man who will propose a plan to meet the needs of the times may prove himself a public benefactor.

It is easier to complain than to propose a remedy, and Mr. King does not say how he would go about the work of reform. One thing is certain, the work must, in order to be successful, be undertaken by earnest, practical men, and the most important thing will be the selection of properly qualified men to manage the scheme.

Whether any of the existing organizations may safely be entrusted with such a work is a question to be considered. Government assistance would, undoubtedly, be necessary to the success of the scheme, as it could not reasonably be expected to be self-sustaining. In that case, the Government would be held, to some extent, responsible for the outlay. The Board of Agriculture would seem to be the proper authority to conduct a Provincial Exhibition, as the State Boards of Agriculture do in the neighboring country. The difficulty seems to be in the plan of election of the members of the Board of Agriculture in Ontario, which renders possible the election of men who are not advanced farmers, nor representatives of the most progressive elements of our agricultural population.

This is a matter which we think should claim the serious consideration of the Minister of Agriculture. A good system of election or appointment of a properly qualified Board, and the selection of an energetic, thorough-going secretary, who should be the general manager of the enterprises of the Board, are the first essentials to success in such a reform; and these we believe can be found, and their services secured, to the lasting benefit of our country. In the meantime, this is one of the most important subjects which can claim the consideration of the agricultural press, of Farmers' Institutes, of Patron Lodges, and of individual farmers who have the best interests of agriculture at heart. Let the discussion go on, and let all who can give expression to such suggestions as they think will bring about the desired result, for in the "multitude of counsellors there is wisdom."