

GUELPH OR TORONTO JUNCTION FOR THE WINTER FAIR?

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Having spent a week at the Winter Fair, Guelph, and the last two days thinking it all over, a few criticisms suggest themselves. The first, touching personal comfort, prompts one to ask was there ever worse hotel accommodation than that in the Royal City; and, then, were not the exhibits seen to a disadvantage, except the poultry, owing to the building set apart for the purpose.

It is habitual for everybody to be congratulatory at such a time, but, on second thoughts, are congratulations and rosy prognostications likely to remedy the undeniable drawbacks mentioned. The writer would wish to be far from withholding praise where praise is due, and the different committees did all that human mind could devise to meet the emergencies as they arose. Then, the Fair management deserves unqualified credit for the zeal and acumen displayed in making the success so marked with the difficulties there were to be contended against.

In years gone by, the Winter Fair visited many cities, but it remained for the city of Guelph to make a success of it—educationally and financially. This success was due to many causes, not the least of which were the intelligent and careful Board of Management and the splendid agricultural district surrounding the Royal City. This brings us, after the foregoing, to a consideration of the question, "Can the Provincial Winter Fair reach its highest standard of excellence by remaining in the city of Guelph?"

The Ontario Government, too, through her ministers, made propositions whereby the Winter Fair building is to be enlarged, or other buildings are to be erected. The people of Guelph promise increased prize money, and the President of the Fair Board, at the chief meeting of the week, gave some reasons why the Fair should remain in Guelph. Do not the promises of increased Provincial indemnity, the promises of higher prizes, and the advancing of reasons why the Fair should remain in Guelph, suggest that the gentlemen interested see a possibility of the Show outgrowing the city, and of its being more advantageously held elsewhere.

Mr. Arthur Johnston, the President of the Winter Fair Board, argues that the absence of theatres and the other city attractions is one of the chief reasons for holding the Fair in Guelph, when live-stock interests are paramount for the week of the Fair. Some argue, backing their assertions on previous experiences, that the Fair would be a failure if held in any place other than Guelph. Others advance sentimental reasons that Guelph, having done so well, should be assisted with the work she has so ably undertaken. Another good reason advanced against moving the Winter Fair from the Royal City is the educational advantage it offers to the students of the Ontario Agricultural College.

The writer contends that the Provincial Winter Fair should undoubtedly be moved from Guelph, and would suggest Toronto Junction as a more suitable location. The reasons used for Guelph, mentioned above, can easily be answered by anyone who has thought the matter out, and with the exception, perhaps, of the last, and in this regard the ultimate success of the Fair should be considered before any advantage it may offer to the student body. The Government, by its promise of money assistance, certainly smiles in favor of Guelph as the Show's permanent home, and we well know that the possession of the ear of the Government is nine parts of the law, so we are striking a blow in what we consider a worthy, but an almost hopeless cause.

Toronto Junction has been suggested as a more suitable place than Guelph for holding the Winter Fair. Anyone who is familiar with the Union Stock-yards of Toronto Junction cannot fail to be impressed with their capacity, convenience, cleanliness, location and general suitability for the holding therein of a winter fair. Not only could the various classes now provided for so poorly at Guelph be taken care of elaborately, but car-lot classes could be added, and there is room for breeding classes, stabling for the competitors in a horse show, and the conveniences for holding combination auction sales should the exhibitors feel so inclined. The work of judging could be conducted in the new Horse Exchange, and an auditorium for the educational features could easily be arranged.

The proposition I would suggest is this, and none can say it is too radical in its tendencies: Before the Government spends money carelessly at Guelph, let the Show, the Provincial Winter Fair, be moved to Toronto Junction for a year. Let the Spring Stallion Show and the Toronto Horse Show managements be consulted, and, if the proper feeling of organization was imbued, a show could be evolved that, though not so large, would outclass the International at Chicago for the quality of its exhibits. It would be a show that would attract the attention of the live-stock world, and would bring many buyers to our Province.

Are we, as Canadians, and more particularly as natives of Ontario, to let the satisfying of certain factions come in when the good of the Province and the country at large is to be considered? Why can we not look to the greater and grander possibilities of a combined "Canadian International" that will make Ontario as famous for her Winter Fair as she is for her Canadian National Exhibition, which is conceded to be the most successful annual fall show on the continent.

Let the different boards of these different organizations unite for one year. There will be plenty

of work for the different executives to do and try this suggestion. But, in any case, don't spend Provincial Government money on buildings in Guelph, unless the hotels are correspondingly enlarged and improved, and unless the Show can be enlarged sufficiently to include car lots, horse exhibits, etc.; unless, in fact, a winter fair can be evolved such as the writer ventures to prophesy. We have the possibilities of a Canadian International; we can try the experiment next year, with no new buildings and little or no additional expense, and, if it is a success, it could be elaborated upon. Give Ontario farmers a chance to show themselves, and they can compete with the world without fear or favor in any class of live stock.

Ontario Co., Ont.

R. E. GUNN.

RHAPSODY ON THE PACKERS' PLIGHT.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Could you inform me, through the columns of your valuable paper, the feeding value of mangels over turnips, from practical tests, for winter feeding of hogs? I feel that we, as farmers, should spare no pains or privileges in informing ourselves of the exact feeding value of all grain and roots, that we may not be so cruel and harsh as to even intimate a disposition to impose on our dear friends, the packers, in their sad hours of affliction, by asking them to accept our products through this awful crisis, which usually befalls them during the month of October and continues until about February, when they usually become convalescent, but, on the contrary, that we might extend to them our deepest sympathy by retaining our stock until the dark cloud passes by, and they are once more permitted to see the morning light.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

A SYMPATHIZER.

[Note.—Our correspondent is very thoughtful. We beg to advise the use of mangels rather than turnips for hogs.—Editor.]



Gentleman John.

Pure-bred Shorthorn steer, two years old. Grand Champion, Birmingham Fat-stock Show, 1907. Weight, 1,847 lbs.; average daily gain from birth, 1.86 lbs.

EXPERT JUDGES AGAIN.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed the remarks made by an exhibitor, Mr. McLean, in one of your recent issues, regarding two judges that were sent out as expert judges in Lambton County. I attended five shows where these gentlemen placed the awards, and I noticed that the exhibitors to whom they had given the first prizes at the first show got them right along. The judges got to know the exhibitor and not the animals. I will give a few instances: One exhibitor had two bull calves; there were four exhibitors; six calves in the ring. The man with the two got first, and nothing. There were first, second and third prizes. At the next show, in three days after, with the same calves, the judge gave the same exhibitor first on the calf that got nothing at the previous show, so it appeared to the public that he knew the exhibitor and not the calves. In sheep at one show, we made a change in the parties who held them, and the awards were placed where they never were placed before, or after, the same sheep competing. The swine judge went up to one exhibitor just before placing the ticket and asked if he was sure these pigs were the same that he had shown at the former show, then he placed them same as before. I think that the Government should be very particular as to whom they send out as experts, for some exhibitors have forgotten more than some of the so-called expert judges ever knew. A man may be a butcher, or an undertaker, and still be a good judge, for I know some men that have retired from farming and gone into other lines of business that were successful farmers and breeders of pure-bred stock; but, in the case referred to, I believe they never were farmers or breeders of pure-bred stock. If they were, they did not make a success of it, and they were never heard of as breeders.

Lambton Co., Ont.

D. A. GRAHAM.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

- Dec. 30th.—Annual meeting of Canadian Jersey Cattle Club, Walker House, Toronto, 10 a. m.
- Jan. 6th to 11th—Eastern Ontario Fat-stock and Poultry Show, Ottawa.
- Jan. 8th, 9th and 10th—Eastern Ontario Dairymen's Association, Picton.
- Jan. 15th and 16th—Western Ontario Dairymen's Association, Woodstock.
- Jan. 28th to 30th—Nova Scotia Farmers' convention at Antigonishe.
- Feb. 4th—Annual meeting Dominion Shorthorn Association, in Toronto.
- Feb. 12th to 14th—Ontario Horse-breeders' Show, Toronto.
- May 4th to 9th—Canadian National Horse Show, Toronto.

PRINCE EDWARD COUNTY NOTES.

We, in common with the rest of Ontario, have had a short crop, more especially in the southern part of the county. There the scarcity of feed is forcing farmers to sacrifice their stock; in fact, they are selling at any price to get rid of them. Prices run as low as \$8 for two-year-old cattle. Pigs, at weaning, have sold as low as 50c.; last spring they were \$3 each. At auction sales last year cows sold as high as \$45 to \$50, now they sell anywhere from \$8 up to \$30. Horses and other stock sell at as great a disparity in prices. Meanwhile, feed of all kinds sells at sky-high prices: hay at \$25 per ton; straw, \$8; oats, 50c. per bushel; barley, 80c.; wheat, \$1; peas, 90c., and everything accordingly.

One regrettable feature of the situation is the great and indiscriminate sale of live stock. There has been at least 100 carloads of cattle shipped, and prob-

ably half that number of hogs, and not half of them fit for the market. A prominent butcher made the remark the other day that in a month there would not be a good beef animal in the country. This is perhaps overdrawn, but not much.

There was a strip through the country that had, on good soil, a good crop. This strip comprised Hillier, Sophiasburgh and part of Ameliasburgh. Here the farmers have enough, on an average, to winter their stock. Hallowell also has a fair crop. One thing worth noting is that emmer has proven that it will stand the drouth better than any of the cereals. The writer had a piece that yielded over thirty bushels per acre. It will pay every farmer to try this coming

season, at least one acre. The canning industry, which is an important factor in the prosperity of the county, is putting up only about half the usual amount. In some cases it has been more remunerative to the grower; some factories paid all its growers, both those who had contracted and those who had not, the highest price, while others only paid those who had not contracted the high price.

Apples were fair, though rather undersized, no doubt caused by the drouth, and prices ranged from \$1 to \$1.25 per barrel, up to \$1.50.

Pears were a good crop, a remarkable feature being the absence of blight on the Flemish Beauty variety. Plums were also a fair crop, and a good price. Cherries were rather small, but a good crop, and were also a good price. Berries, both strawberries and raspberries (red, blue and black), were a very poor crop, and sold at extra high prices.

Potatoes will have to be classed as a drouth-resisting plant after this, as everyone says potatoes are good this year.

A. S. W.

FREE RURAL DELIVERY DISCUSSED IN PARLIAMENT.

In the House of Commons, Ottawa, J. E. Armstrong, M. P. for East Lambton, Ont., took up, in a most comprehensive fashion, the question of free rural mail delivery, the workings of which in the United States he had carefully studied. Statistics were quoted to show that the tremendous postal deficits in the United States were not to be associated altogether with the expenditures for rural delivery. Mr. Armstrong concluded his address by offering the following amendment in reply to the speech from the throne:

"We desire to express our regret that Your Excellency's speech contains no allusion to the importance of inaugurating a system of rural free mail delivery, un-