

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. \*

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Vol. XXXV.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., SEPTEMBER 15, 1900.

No. 510

## EDITORIAL.

### After the Exhibition.

Though not disposed to join in any hysterical clamor regarding the present condition and future of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE considers the present a proper and favorable opportunity to take stock of the situation.

In the first place, it may be set down that the show of 1900, which closed a week ago, was a success, as shows go on this side of the Atlantic; but both in Toronto and among the thousands of home-going outsiders there was not the old-time, cheerful buoyancy over what had been witnessed. Before we forget it, also, let us whisper, as a candid friend, in the ears of Toronto newspapers who are now wading into Manager Hill and the Exhibition Board, that in many quarters we find a sort of feeling that Toronto, collectively and individually, is simply "on the make," grabbing everything on sight, so that there is probably need for a general cleaning up of door-steps in the modern Ontario Jerusalem, if they want to maintain friendly relations with their neighbors. Drop your hog-town policy, friends, and your show will do better.

Now, with regard to the Exhibition itself. We look upon it as a most important event to Canada, from an agricultural standpoint. Consequently, this journal sends, at a very heavy outlay, probably the largest staff of skilled reviewers, making careful examination into all the leading departments, of any other paper represented; and our aim is to give a complete and impartial account of the Exhibition. As we have said, it was a success, though the attendance was doubtless less than in 1899. More money was probably made from the grand stand and side-show percentages than usual. The total receipts are reported at over \$85,000, a decrease of about \$3,000, compared with last year, though the weather was most favorable. In many respects the exhibits were fully equal, if not superior, to those of 1899. We are glad to be able to say this of the live stock, fruits, flowers, agricultural products, poultry, carriages and wagons, musical instruments, fencing, confectionery, art, natural history, and probably the electrical and general machinery. In most of these, where fair management was actively concerned, efficient co-operation was given. But in other departments and in the general appearance of the grounds, evidences of degeneration were all too apparent. In proof, we point to the main buildings, which should be filled from bottom to top with the superb products of Canadian mills and factories and their industrial processes, resembling a bazaar for the sale of pink lemonade, sham jewelry and can-openers, and where the patient sewing-machine exhibitor and others vainly struggle against the shrieks of the graphophone. We do not wonder that all the piano and organ men have got out of this confused bedlam into separate buildings. We point to a depleted agricultural implement building—once the glory of the fair, a help to farmers, a splendid incentive and an opportunity to the manufacturers themselves—now padded out with lunch counters and "hossless" carriages, a spectacle well calculated to make the founders of this great implement industry in Canada turn over in their graves. That it will react unfavorably upon the industry, as well as injure the fair, we have no doubt. One leading manufacturer, on his way home from Toronto, admitted this to us and said he really desired to exhibit. Fair managers can hardly be too liberal in regard to facilities for our manufacturers, who get no awards and show at great expense. Let them have ample space and power, and don't haggle over a few passes for attendants. Years ago, before the grand stand and the side show attained such prominence, thousands studied the implements in operation for

hours; now they rush for the attractions and stay there, and the portly director swells out his vest and bustles around to see that the lady acrobat and the clown in South Sea Island costume begin their educational exercises at the drop of the hat. Not only did the majority of the implement men abandon the Toronto and other exhibitions this year—for all are in the same boat in that respect—but, whoever was responsible for the location of the freak and fake side shows scattered them along one of the principal avenues of the grounds, so that the palace of illusions, the suggestive French pose, the illuminated skirt dance, with their noisy exponents, and the yellow-ochre and lamp-black manufactured savage, who hanged himself with a rope every ten minutes for the edification of the gaping crowd, and the disgusting female snake-swallower—all gave a cheap and nasty flavor to the Exhibition, distracting attention from its meritorious features. The side shows were not all poor. Take the ménagerie, for example, which contained a fine lot of wild animals, interesting and somewhat instructive to the curious youth. Why, in the name of common sense, cannot the disreputable sort be shut out altogether and the better class be arranged by themselves where they would not be obtruded on those who don't care for that sort of thing? Their character tends to grow worse, and the public taste can in time be demoralized and depraved. In all candor, we must confess that there is a revulsion of feeling in the minds of the public, and we would suggest that the Association lose no time in devoting a few meetings to the serious consideration of this subject. Let them heed the warning and turn over a new leaf before the storm breaks, as it certainly will. Some new blood representing our progressive manufacturers and some new ideas would do the Association a world of good at this juncture.

What more can be done to improve the character of the show? For twenty years past the English Royal, without any attractions whatever, has made an annual profit of \$3,000 per year, but it does not follow that our big Canadian shows, under existing conditions, could do likewise, but it does indicate the feasibility of at once beginning the work of reform. People will look at useful exhibits. Witness the throngs in the natural-history building and the packed benches at the buttermaking competition. What an instructive feature that might be made if the great \$20,000,000 industry was given a proper building where products, apparatus and processes could be shown near each other, instead of being shoved in an obscure corner under the grand stand! Multitudes would gladly study and be benefited by the cattle judging if a decent amphitheatre were provided where they could sit in comfort. Why not? The Association assuredly does provide a liberal live-stock prize list annually, but this outlay would be small and a permanent improvement. What an improvement could be made in the main and other buildings by presenting the products and actual processes of our useful arts and manufactures in a truly representative manner! A new dairy building is imperatively needed, more space for fruit, and improved accommodation for the carriage men. If the crowd want a spectacular grand-stand performance—and nowadays they do—all well and good; make it high-class and mainly an evening affair. What the show needs, and what it must have, if its future is to show needs, and what it must have, if its future is to be worthy of and a benefit to this country, is that the constructive energies of the management be devoted with some enthusiasm in the directions indicated, instead of being wholly absorbed in the race for grand-stand attractions; while the stock-man and the manufacturer are left to shift for themselves or have to fight for nearly every inch of extra privilege which they secure. In all seriousness we counsel the management of the Exhibition to institute active effort on the lines we have indicated

because there is reason to fear that other substantial exhibitors, finding the advantages of the exhibition waning, will follow in the wake of the implement men. The interests of both will be furthered, not by a spirit of antagonism, but by a united determination to keep the Industrial in its position of supremacy as the greatest and most beneficial to material interests of any exhibition on the American continent.

### The Farm Water Supply.

Alike from the standpoint of domestic health, the profitable production of meat and dairy products, and the reduction of labor, we are fully satisfied that too few men fully realize the supreme importance of an abundant and a convenient supply of pure water at all times upon the farm.

The shallow, misplaced well, bricked or stoned up and carelessly covered, is easily contaminated by soakage from closets, kitchen slops or barnyard, and is a fruitful source of typhus or typhoid fever and other serious diseases. If the water is not kept low by liberal usage it is also liable to become impure. No wise or right-thinking man will thus jeopardize the health and lives of his family in this way. In many cases it is sheer carelessness or thoughtlessness rather than want of knowledge. If the well lies low extend the wall above the surface and grade up the ground so that the surface drainage will be away from, not into the well, and be sure it has a close cover, to keep out rambling toads and rats. For the upper part of the well wall, cement concrete makes a good, close finish. If you have any doubts about the purity of the water you are using, have it tested, particularly for organic matter. Almost any local chemist will gladly do this for you if you take him a sample in a clean bottle. If you wish a regular analysis made, send a sample to Prof. F. T. Shutt, Chemist at the Ottawa Experimental Farm. In case you find it impossible to secure a proper water supply in a dug well, have one bored. Do not stop short of a plentiful supply for all seasons, and be sure that it is pure.

It is surely hardly necessary at this late date to repeat arguments proving the necessity of an abundance of good water for all classes of live stock. Every man in his senses must know that there can be no profitable growth of meat or production of milk if the fly-tortured, sweltering, dust-choked animals have not frequent access to water to relieve their thirst, to supply the excessive waste that is going on in the body under such circumstances, and to build up the body and its products. If a dairy farmer will only for one moment think that normal milk to begin with consists of about 87 per cent. of water, how can he expect the cows to produce a liberal flow of milk if they have not sufficient water to drink? Want of it is the secret of the summer failure of many a dairy herd. Sheep, as well as cattle and horses, should have access to a flowing trough at will.

The location of the well is another all-important consideration, and the first point is to secure a convenient supply for the house. It is positively lamentable how beggarly cheap most farmers hold the flesh and blood and nerves of women? Why compel that wife or daughter of yours to lug water away across the yard, through heat and cold, mud and snow, year after year, for household use? The dearest possible power—dearest in actual cash if you want to put it that way—with which to raise water is your wife's elbow, whether attached to a pump handle or a old rope and pail, and if you don't know it yet you will some day, to your sorrow and your cost. Where a flowing spring, and a sufficient head can be got, a hydraulic ram makes a grand and simple system to supply both house and barn; but, as a general rule, the cheapest and most effective power is the windmill, with which water can be forced through pipes long distances and