

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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VOL. XXXIII.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., JANUARY 15, 1898.

No. 446.

EDITORIAL.

Early Publication of Prize Lists.

The example set by the Royal Agricultural Society of England in the early preparation and publication of the prize list for their next annual show is worthy of attention and adoption by the directors of the leading fair associations in the Dominion. The Royal Show for 1898 is announced to be held at Birmingham, June 20th to 24th. The prize list was issued in December, and entries at ordinary fees must be made by April 15th. Post entries may be tendered up to May 14th at extra fees, after which no entries will be accepted. It is in all fairness due to intending exhibitors that they be informed at the earliest possible date of the exact classification and of any changes in the prize list, or any new requirements in regard to the preparation of stock. The work of preparing animals for exhibition is not properly accomplished in a few weeks, but should be a gradual process extending over nearly the whole year, so that no undue forcing is resorted to; and since changes are frequently, perhaps too frequently, made in the prize list, these should be made known at an early date, so that exhibitors may govern themselves accordingly. There is, in our opinion, no good reason why these announcements may not be made earlier in the year than has been customary, and those for the winter shows especially, as well as the date and place for holding them, may just as well be decided and published very soon.

The February Breeders' Meetings.

The announcements in this issue of the holding of the annual meetings of the various stock breeders' associations are of special interest to all the members of these organizations and to those who are in any way interested in pure-bred stock. The increasing demand for improved stock of all classes and the substantial advance in prices will doubtless renew the interest in these meetings, and result in a larger attendance, which is a desirable consummation, as in the multitude of counsellors there is wisdom, and full meetings are more likely to produce enthusiasm than are slimly-attended ones. There is inspiration in numbers, and it is hardly possible to mingle with the intelligent, enterprising and practical men who make up these associations without learning something that will be helpful in the prosecution of one's own business, while the intercourse of breeders frequently results in business transactions which more than repay the expense involved in attending the meetings. The Jersey breeders have set a good pace in their annual meeting held last month by attending in larger numbers than for many years past, electing live officers, and resolving to make a strong effort to enlist the interest and co-operation of every man who owns a cow of the breed. This is the spirit which should be shown by each association, and which leads to success. We are glad to know that registrations in the various Canadian herd and stud books have largely increased during the past year, with still better prospects for 1898, as a result of the revival in business, particularly that of the stock-raiser, throughout the Dominion. The demand for horses, particularly the heavy sorts, as well as other classes of live stock, is at present showing a very marked improvement over previous years, one feature being increasing importations of breeding stock from the Old Country, all of which

but emphasizes the importance of preserving our records intact, maintaining them at a high standard, and in accordance with the wishes of the majority of breeders. The Ayrshire breeders will, we understand, discuss the question of the appendix. Business of importance, including the election of officers for the ensuing year, will be transacted at all the meetings, and we trust members will make a special effort to attend.

A Lightning Rod Fakir's Lie Exposed.

Joseph Fee, Maple Hill Farm, Durham Co., Ont., writes us: "I had a lightning rod man call on me and advise me to let him rod my barn. I told him I could make a rod of fence wire the same as described in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. [NOTE.—For full details see our issues of August 2nd, September 1st and 15th, 1897.—EDITOR.] He said he knew the man well who recommended such a rod; in fact, he claimed to have persuaded him to take down his wire rods and rod his barn with lightning rods. Is there any truth in this statement?"

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In reply to your statement of lightning rod agent, would say that he does not exactly stick to the truth. He does not know me very well, whoever he is. I have not been importuned by a lightning rod agent for more than a year, though one operated in the neighborhood last summer. He saw the homemade rods on the barn and did not bother me, and the rods are still on the barn.

The Largest Creamery in Canada.

In the town of St. Mary's, Ont., is situated what is claimed to be the largest creamery in Canada. It is owned and operated by a joint stock company, of which Mr. McLeod, editor of the St. Mary's Argus, is secretary. The concern is managed by Mr. J. Stonehouse, and the butter is made by Mr. F. Dean, brother to Prof. Dean, of Guelph Dairy School. The buttermaking plant is supplied with cream from local patrons, besides six separating stations, the farthest of which is at Bennington, 16 miles distant. There are also others at Kintore, 15 miles distant; Kirkton, 10 miles; Metropolitan, 8 miles; and two others, 5 and 7 miles respectively. The patrons surrounding these various stations have their milk separated each day and return home with the skim milk. A sample of each patron's milk is taken and subjected to the composite test once in three or four weeks. The cream is brought to the creamery on three days of each week and the butter is made the days between. On the day of our visit, January 11th, the make was over 1,300 lbs., but an average day's make is 1,000 pounds, or 3,000 pounds per week.

The creamery opened December 15th, and since then weekly shipments of butter have been made by refrigerator system to England. Manchester has been the market shipped to, but the next lot will go to London. No returns have been made as yet, but about 19¢ cents is looked for. Of this the patrons will get 16 cents, as the company charges 3¢ cents per pound and bears all the expense of skimming stations, hauling the cream, making, etc. The creamery has capacity for making 20,000 pounds per week, which will probably be reached within a very few years.

The butter factory is an imposing white brick structure, modernly fitted and equipped. The ground floor, except in the office, is of Portland cement, and graded and grooved to facilitate drainage, etc. The building throughout is heated with steam. The milk received from local patrons is heated up as received and at once separated by two DeLaval machines having a combined capacity for 5,500 pounds per hour. The skim milk is pumped up to the second flat into a large tank and distributed to the patrons by means of a Buzzell graduated can, which is operated from the ground floor. The skim milk flows out through a pipe and hose into the cans on the patron's wagon. For each gallon of whole milk brought in each patron receives his due proportion. Just below the skim milk hose is the mouth of a tile drain filled in with finely broken stone so that the skim milk, washings, etc., which reach the ground are at once conveyed away below the surface, thus preventing any possibility of foul odor near the creamery from this source.

The cream as separated and received from the stations is at once pumped up to the ripening vats on the second floor. Of these there are four fitted with round bottoms and water jackets, each having a capacity for 400 gallons of cream. Mr. Dean expressed a preference for twice the number of vats, each with half the capacity.

The fresh cream when received into the ripening vats is supplied with a quantity of pasteurized "starter" and raised to 66° Fahrenheit. It remains at this temperature till 9 o'clock p. m. It is then cooled to 60°, and by churning time the following morning is usually down to 56°, when it is churned in large trunk churns in from 40 to 50 minutes. It is washed and then salted—one-half ounce to the pound—and worked for seven minutes in a modern revolving butter-worker which makes about three revolutions per minute. The butter-milk is pumped up into a tank on the second flat and is sold to a farmer for \$2.10 per ton of butter. The cream as churned contains about 40 per cent. of butter-fat.

After the butter is worked it is packed into 56-pound square spruce boxes, coated on the inside with melted paraffine and lined with heavy parchment paper. On the top of the butter and parchment paper is laid a one-quarter-inch scale board, which fills the space between the butter and lid. This scale board is soaked in strong brine for several hours before using. The cover is securely fastened down by screws, and the boxes are placed

First and Fearless.

TO THE EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—I have no hesitation in publicly stating my opinion of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I consider it the very best agricultural paper published, not only in Canada, but in the United States as well. The manly and outspoken tone of its editorials, without fear or favor (those of December 1st, 1897, for example), would alone commend it to all lovers of right and justice. Canadians should feel proud of the ADVOCATE. "Hew to the line, let the chips fall where they may," is apparently its watchword. May it still further prosper.

J. A. MACDONALD.

King's Co., P. E. Island, January 3rd, 1898.

My confidence in them has been much strengthened by the very favorable opinions of authorities which appeared in the ADVOCATE. I not only think that they will do, but that they are much superior to the rods generally put up. My brother is just now getting similar ones put up on his buildings. The statements of that agent give us some idea of the kind of characters that prey upon farmers. Middlesex Co., Ont. THOS. BATY.

Where Agricultural College Graduates Go.

TO THE EDITOR FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—In reply to your correspondent, I beg to state that it is not true that "a large percentage of the graduates of the Agricultural College, instead of going back to the farm, use the scientific knowledge obtained in a semi-professional capacity." The great majority (about 90 per cent.) of those who come to us from the farm and remain long enough to get a fair knowledge of our course of study and apprenticeship return to the farm with an increased liking for farm life and farm work. A few of those who take the advanced options of the third year engage in various kinds of professional work, generally, however, on agricultural lines or in pursuits closely allied to agriculture; but such graduates are only a very small proportion of those who leave the institution from year to year. Most of our students take only the two years' course, which is intended to fit young men for the farm; and farmers' sons who do so generally return to the farm. I may add that the Ontario Agricultural College is sending to the farm a far larger percentage of its students than any other college in existence.

JAS. MILLS, President.

Ontario Agricultural College, Dec. 28, 1897.