

there is, perhaps, some ground for prejudice, considered from the standpoint of profit for the breeder and investor. The combined show and sale seems to be the obvious salvation for the live-stock exhibition. By it the live-stock interest will be given greater dignity and importance, and will be made of larger interest and actual business use and profit. A few sales are usually made at fairs, but they are of over-fed animals, and are at fancy prices, and the work of such animals as breeders often works discredit to improved stock, and creates a prejudice against exhibitions. It should be recognized that show animals are to be regarded as evidences of what can be done in improvement by intensive feeding, and not necessarily what is always wisest to be done with stock in all cases. The bringing out of stock in greater numbers will be a presentation of the general run of stock of a neighborhood, and the affording of wider choice of average breeding animals. It will also fix a scale of just prices, by bringing together a larger number of buyers and sellers, and so making possible the fixing of an average price over a greater number of individual transactions.

SALES DIFFICULT IN SOME PLACES.

It may be the case that it will be somewhat difficult to inaugurate successful shows and sales in all cases where exhibitions are now held, but the fact that these events are intended to bring out not only show stock, but all surplus sale stock of a neighborhood, should ensure the patronage of all who are interested in a particular neighborhood, which is all that can be desired or accomplished by any live-stock event. There seem to be four features that can be made prominent in all such events. These are the live-stock competitions, the sale, the live-stock demonstration lectures by experts, and the stock-judging competitions by students, farmers' sons, and by farmers themselves. In the case of sheep sales and shows, dog trials might be introduced. In the live-stock competitions, more classes can be added, more sweepstake and special prizes can be given, and the prizes made of higher value.

There is just at this time a call for the friend of the agricultural or live-stock show to seize the opportunity and give dignity, interest and profit to his interests, by splitting off the live-stock features from the fall fair.

Fat Stock and Stallion Show for B. C.

The Royal and Industrial Exhibition Association, of New Westminster, B.C., has shown that its members are possessed of enterprise and enthusiasm in the cause of animal husbandry. As may be noticed on another page of this issue, active steps have been taken to have a fat stock and stallion show during the second week of March, 1904.

The encouragement that a show of this kind will give to the live-stock industry of the Pacific Province is sure to be far-reaching in its effects. In the fertile and productive valleys, and amid the hills where good pasturage may be had throughout the entire year, there roams at present large herds of cattle. To foster the growing tendency toward the improvement of this stock is the work of a fat-stock show. In the farming country, too, horse-breeding, although, comparatively speaking, yet in its infancy, is on the increase. The purchase of sires, ever important, is doubly so in a new country. Scrub stock should not be used, and the addition of a stallion exhibit with fat stock should prove a mighty educator to horse-breeders desirous of a better knowledge of his equine majesty.

Not the Real Thing.

A new tenant had leased the farm of Drumbirch, and Donald and Sandy were discussing the question of his desirability as a neighbor:

"Ye wis in his hoose, Sandy," said Donald.

"Iye, Danald, I wis in his hoose."

"An' hoo did ye get on wi' him?"

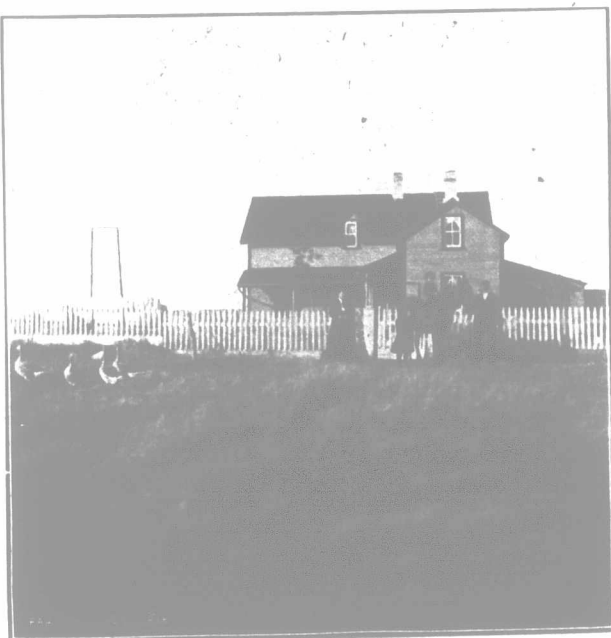
"Oh, I got on nae sae bad, but he's nae the real thing, ye ken."

"Hoo dae ye mak' that oot, Sandy?"

"Well, Donal, he took oot the bottle a' richt, an' a' big enough gless too, an' began to poor oot the spirits a' richt, but I cried oot: 'Stop! an' he stoppit; that's the kin' o' man he is, Donal."

Are the Lumbermen's Methods of Manufacturing Up-to-date?

Interest is added to your editorial on the "Lumber Combine Inquiry" by the report of a recent meeting of the B. C. millmen and loggers, held at Nelson, B.C., at which mills with a total annual output of 600,000,000 feet were represented. Amongst other business and resolutions passed at this meeting was one to memorialize the Dominion Government to prevent the incoming of American rough lumber by placing a duty on it.



RESIDENCE OF A. E. HOLE, MINNEDOFO, MAN.

The intention to milk the agricultural cow is not at all disguised, and might be allowed to pass only that the live-stock industry of the whole Northwest, as well as settlement, by increasing the price of lumber to farmers, would be hindered.

Freight rates have probably hit the Coast lumbermen, as have such rates the farmers, yet before allowing that the lumbermen are being ruined and driven off the markets, as they say they are, it might be well to look into the matter and find out the reasons for such a state of things. The labor problem is said to hamper the Coast lumberman. Perhaps it has; he certainly uses a lot of the cheaper grades (Japs and Chinese) of labor.

As the statement has been made, and not controverted by the millmen, that Canadian rough lumber is being ousted from the Northwest markets by the U. S. product—which quite frequently was bought in the log in Canada, towed to the U. S. mills and there manufactured, then freighted back to the Canadian market—it becomes of more than ordinary interest to readers of the "Advocate" who are about to build, and even has some

with little knowledge of the trade. In that trade (lumber), as in others, there are big and little operators, and it is easy to see that under the plea of fostering the weaker ones, by making a minimum price for all mills to sell at, and by limiting or keeping out competition of the U. S. mills, the stronger mills become still stronger. To this minimum price the smaller men must agree or be frozen out, by being undersold, and therein lies the combination.

Such a combination may be held to be defensible from an economic standpoint, if all the methods of economizing in the manufacture of lumber have been exhausted. A little insight into the prices paid for the raw material by the millmen will aid in arriving at a fair understanding of the matter by the farmer.

A business man informed me that he had sold under contract five million feet of first-class logs, for which he was to get \$5.50 per thousand at the camp, and he remarked, "A higher price than I could get to-day, but I contracted early in the season, before the mills were well supplied!"

The millmen paid the stumpage fee to the Provincial Government of fifty cents per thousand, which, together with the cost of towage to the mill, would bring the price of the logs to nearly \$7.00 per thousand, which after being manufactured is placed on the market as rough lumber at \$13.00 a thousand. Querying the same person re the profit thus made, he said, "\$13.00 is too high a price for rough lumber"! Scaling (measuring of the logs) was mentioned, and as this is a chronic grievance of loggers, I state his answer, "The lumber companies like to get 1,500 feet for 1,000"!

Agitation has been made for the scaling to be done by Government scalers. Giving a man Government employment won't make him honest, if he was dishonest before! Curious then to know where the fault really lies between loggers, millmen and the open market for rough lumber, I hinted that further information would be acceptable, and this gentleman informed me that "the reason, in his mind, that the U. S. lumberman beat the Canadian millman, was because his plant was more up-to-date, and the lumber was handled fewer times"! He sententiously remarked, "Every time a board is handled adds to its cost," a similar reason one often hears advanced for stook threshing. This man stated that he had been in mills south of the boundary line that had only a half to two-thirds of the number of men to be found in many Canadian mills of an equal capacity.

Thinking that it might be well to have further information, I queried another person, interested in a lumber company, about prices paid by his company for logs, and prices obtained for the manufactured article, and whether such prices were paying ones. The price paid for fir logs at his

mill, fairly good stuff, although not the best, was \$5.00 per thousand feet, and for 16-foot cedar bolts at the mill, A1 stuff, clear of knots, \$10 a thousand feet. All the mill run of the cedar was put on the cars at \$18.00 per thousand, without being kiln dried; the fir lumber (rough) was sold at the price made by the Millmen's Association, viz., \$13.00 a thousand, and he is

well satisfied that his investment was a paying one at such prices. He being an interested party, I did not think it fair to ask his opinion re putting a duty on rough lumber.

An economic question such as this, should be out of the domain of politics; if so, the farmer will not suffer, while the millmen can increase their profits, without closing up the numerous planing, sash and door factories in the prairie towns, by the adoption of more up-to-date methods. It is hardly fair to ask the farming community to stand the cost of experimenting as to the best methods of manufacturing—many farmers (unwisely so) gasp at paying for experimental farms!

"NOMAD."



JUDGE EDWARDS AT WORK PLACING RIBBONS AT INNISFAIL, ALTA., FAIR.

interest to those lucky fellows who only need to study the question as one in economics, their farms being already well built.

One statement may be made, and that is that owing to the brisk demand for lumber on the prairies (and the prospective profit to be obtained by manufacturing lumber for that market!), many new mills have been started, both at the Coast and inland, yet prices for lumber on the prairie have not fallen. As is quite frequently the case in other lines of business, some have started with little capital, and doubtless some