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AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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The Influence of the Fairs.

The part which agricultural and industrial exhibitions have played in advertising Canada, and the influence they have had in the improvement of her live stock and methods of farming, we believe bulks more largely than many of our people realize. Only those who are old enough to remember, and who were associated with the work of the pioneers in the establishment of competitive examinations in live stock and other farm products in the older provinces a little more than half a century ago, have any true conception of the immense benefits which have accrued to the country as the result of their efforts in this line. The educational influence and stimulus to improvement exercised by these enterprises has been grandly demonstrated in the last decade in the prominent place Canada has filled in the International Exhibition at Chicago in 1893, where our live stock took the lead, and in Paris in the present year, where our agricultural and dairy products, fruit and farm machinery are eliciting the admiration and wonder of the world, and are advertising the Dominion as a field for immigration and investment in the best possible manner. It is gratifying to know that the spirit of the fathers in this regard is present with their sons of the present day, and that the good work is being carried on with undiminished zeal and energy; that where in the Province of Ontario a quarter of a century ago one large provincial fair was held, we have now at least three that are worthy of that appellation, since they are patronized by exhibitors and visitors from all sections of the Province, while each of the other provinces has its one or more strong, vigorous and successful exhibitions which are doing good work in their several spheres.

The Winnipeg Industrial, the first of the summer shows, as will be seen by the extended report published in last issue, auspiciously opened the campaign for the closing year of the century by scoring a record in its short but successful career, and demonstrating by the magnificent display of high-class stock brought out that the Prairie Province is no longer wholly dependent upon wheat for its revenues, but has more than two strings to its bow, and, thanks to the wise foresight of its leading men in instituting the exhibition, and of no small number of its farmers in turning their attention to live stock, is happily prepared to tide over the effects of a season of drought, a contingency to which any and every country is liable. The Toronto Industrial, by common consent the greatest exhibition on the continent, continues to prosper, and promises this year to far excel its past record in the quality, extent and variety of its educational and business features, as well as its special attractions and the beauty of its splendid grounds by the lake shore.

The Western Fair at London, the pride of the farmers of Western Ontario, annually draws from all over the Province hundreds of exhibitors and thousands of visitors who are delighted with the city and the show, the latter being made up largely of the cream of the Toronto exhibits, supplemented by a large contingent of western stock reserved for the home show, which, fresh from the fields, not infrequently wins over the Toronto victors on the parklike exhibition grounds of the Forest City.

The Canada Central Exhibition at Ottawa, the capital of the Dominion, grows in popularity and excellence with the years. Its grounds are picturesque, its live stock buildings the most complete and comfortable, alike for exhibitors, visitors and stock, in all the list of fairs, while the best of the winners in the west are met by the elite of the

studs, herds and flocks of Eastern Ontario and the sister Province of Quebec, while the favorable excursion rates make it easy for thousands of visitors from both east and west to avail themselves of the opportunity to visit the capital. There is, perhaps, no city in the Dominion more full of interest to visitors than Ottawa. The education of no young Canadian is complete who has not seen the capitol and from Parliament Hill looked out upon the Chaudiere Falls and the beauty of the far-reaching landscape view on either side of the Ottawa.

The Maritime Provinces each have their own provincial exhibition, all well equipped, growing in interest and popularity, and exerting an excellent influence on the conditions of the agricultural community. To business men, and to pleasure-seekers as well, a profitable circuit is afforded by the exhibition fixtures at St. John, Halifax, and Charlottetown. For a healthful trip and wholesome associations, for charming scenery and the inhalation of ozone, commend us to a tour of the Maritime Provinces. To those whose preferences lead them to long for a look into the newer and ambitious West and its immense possibilities, the fair fixtures at Calgary, Kamloops and New Westminster are open, and a trip over the trans-continental Canada Pacific is an education in itself. The dates for the holding of the fairs mentioned, and many more, will be found in the list on another page, and we commend them all to the liberal patronage of our people, who in these times of prosperity can well afford to take a few holidays, and have every reason to be thankful that the lines have fallen to them in pleasant places.

The magnificent average of \$836, made by the fifty-six Shorthorn cattle sold at the Platt sale at Chicago last week, in which statement is included four calves, coupled with their dams, though sold separately, may be taken as a pretty good index of the outlook for the beef trade, in which the demand, present and prospective, is greater than ever before. A look through the Chicago packing houses, with their immense capabilities and gigantic operations, serves to strengthen the confidence of breeders and feeders in the solidity of the business and the safety of its future, while the enormous transactions in cattle at the Union Stock Yards there still confirms the confidence entertained.

Poultry Farming in the West.

In reply to W. J. Cochrane, Alta., I would say that the greatest obstacle in the way of obtaining very early chicks in this climate is the lack of fertile eggs during the winter months. We have found that a large proportion of eggs laid in winter and early spring months are infertile. I would therefore hesitate to recommend any great outlay until it was ascertained whether fertile eggs can be secured early enough for this purpose. The question of a warm, tight building can be readily solved by the erection of a brick flue similar to that used by the Mennonites for heating their houses. For safety the furnace can be outside of the building altogether. A flue three feet square will heat quite a large building. Such a flue in a modified form has been built on this farm for greenhouse purposes during the present year, and has given entire satisfaction. The heat is regular and uniform, and almost any kind of rough fuel can be utilized. For the best results this flue will have to be in connection with a warm double-boarded poultry house, and one or more incubators and brooders will be necessary. But before any great expense is incurred the problem of procuring fertile eggs early in the season should be solved.

S. A. BEDFORD, Superintendent.

Brandon Exp. Farm.

[This whole question of raising early chicks for market, including a solution of the problem of infertile eggs suggested by Mr. Bedford, and also the cost, including artificial heating, etc., should make a very practical experiment for the Experimental Farms to take up. Ed. F. A.]

Opportunities for the College of Agriculture Graduate.

We are frequently asked by prospective students, "What are the opportunities of the Agricultural graduate compared with those of Colleges of Science, Literature and Engineering?" It is not the writer's intention to make any comparison whatever, but merely to call the attention of the reader to a few of the many chances for a young man along the line of agriculture.

No agricultural college claims to be able to place all of her graduates in good remunerative positions as soon as they graduate. In the past it would have been folly for them to think of doing so, but the tide has turned, and the importance of education in agriculture has come to be generally recognized. This change is mainly due to the more exacting conditions, and to the influence of the agricultural press, the Farmers' Institutes, the various live stock and dairy associations, and the Experiment Stations and Agricultural Colleges.

It is not the main object of the college of agriculture of the present day to train men for salaried positions. Its main object is the training of students not only to be good farmers, but good citizens and successful men. In this connection I might mention the fact that all of our College of Agriculture graduates during the past two years have returned to manage their fathers' farms, notwithstanding the fact that many tempting offers were made them to accept other positions. But there is another class of young men who are intensely interested in agriculture, that have no farm or capital of their own to start them in life; thus they must of necessity become salaried men, for awhile at least. It is for these young men that this article is written.

During the past few months we have had a great many inquiries from the various States of the Union asking us to furnish trained men along the following lines: herdsmen, farm managers, managers of special dairy farms, creamery experts, specially trained men along crop lines, nursery managers, landscape gardeners, agricultural editors, and requests from seven State colleges and experiment stations asking us to furnish them men in rank from the position of instructor to that of full professor.

The question quite naturally arises, what remuneration do such positions offer to the right kind of a man? The best answer to such a question is to quote from a few of the enquiries along the different lines of work. Just a few days ago we received a letter from one of the leading physicians in good old York State asking us to furnish him a superintendent for his large dairy and stock farm, where pure milk is bottled and sent to New York City for infants' use at fifteen cents per quart. "The man for such a position must be well versed in live-stock breeding, feeding, pedigrees, etc.; he must also understand the care and management of dairy machinery, the care of milk, and superintend eighteen men that work on the farm." The proprietor wrote us as follows: "You know the kind of men I need; if you have such send him along at once, and I will pay him a salary equal to that of your highest university professor, and should he turn out first-class I can pay him much more."

A large land owner in the central part of the State wishes us to furnish him a young man well up in farm crops and live stock, to superintend his farms, and instruct his tenants as to how to increase their yields of grain without having to increase their acreage. This gentleman informed me recently that he would pay such a man \$100 per month and expenses to start on, with good prospects for an increase later. One of our best young men is fitting himself especially for this line of work.

One of the far south States recently wrote us asking if we could recommend them a good man for the position of agriculturist and horticulturist for their college and experiment station, salary \$1,800 a year to start with.

Within the last few months we have had a dozen or more applications for trained men along dairy and live stock lines at salaries ranging from \$25 to \$80 per month to start on.

I might say that this demand is steadily increasing from month to month, and it has been 100 per cent greater this year than any previous year. I might also mention that the most remunerative positions open to any of the university students during the past year were along the line of agriculture.

W. J. KENNEDY.

College of Agriculture, University of Illinois.