

Settlers
le of
BIA
NDS

a Short Time.

Investor. British
Good settlers are
acquainted with the
making that these

about 10 acres each
LY ADJOINING THE
wonderful possib-
genery. The hills,
imate in the world.

have already been

lucts of This Rich

British Columbia is
ients that is known

ve secured a surely

you to the Domin-

ticulars to

COMPANY

ancouver, B. C.

NEVER-FAIL" CAN

p to get out of order, no
do not have that dis-
e in your rooms when
xplosion if you use, the
your hands, lamp and
be one-third less when
are air-tight, allowing
oline may be kept with
ail." Take it home and
if not satisfied, take it
Can you ask any more
trial on these terms?
e.
n.
into Can.
d.
i, write us.

MURPHY

a Canada

Bank

osits - \$41,327.87
its - \$56,598.62

ADA

BERTA
J. Okotoks
Olds
Red Deer
Sedgewick
Stettler
Trochu
Tofield
Vegreville
Viking (Meighen)
Wainwright
Wetaskiwin
Williston (Castor)

I COLUMBIA
ey Victoria

ANCHES

ites.

nd New Settlers

Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875

Vol. XLV.

Winnipeg, Canada, August 4, 1909

No. 280

FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL

ESTABLISHED 1866.

Canada's Foremost Agricultural Journal
Published Every Wednesday.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

Canada and Great Britain, per annum, in advance \$1.50
(if in arrears) 2.00
United States and Foreign countries, in advance 2.50
Date on label shows time subscription expires.

In accordance with the law, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE
is sent to all subscribers until an explicit order is received
for its discontinuance, accompanied by payment of all
arrears.

British Agency, W. W. Chapman, Mowbray House,
Norfolk St., London, W. C. England.

Specimen copies mailed free. Agents wanted.
Address all communications to the firm, not to any
individual.

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

OF WINNIPEG, LIMITED.

14-16 PRINCESS STREET

WINNIPEG, MAN.

EDITORIAL

Lessons from the Shows

Exhibitions are not what they should be if lessons are not taught alike to visitor and exhibitor. In every case it is clearly demonstrated that the average product, live stock, grain or other farm produce or whatever it may be, is far below the maximum. What man with the slightest knowledge of live stock but admired the magnificent Clydesdales and Percherons, envied the owners of Shorthorns, Herefords or Aberdeen-Angus or felt like purchasing one from the business-like row of Holstein cows! In all classes of horses and cattle as well as in sheep and swine it was the same at Winnipeg and Brandon. Then in poultry. Hen fanciers stood by the hour discussing the merits of their favorites and making comparisons or contrasts. The casual observer wondered how it was that so many persisted in housing and caring for mongrels, with few or no qualities that make them desirable, when the same expenditure of cash and labor would look after a flock of equal size of any of the pure breeds recognized as being suited to conditions in Western Canada. With the pure breeds they would at least have something pleasing to look upon. In most cases it is not difficult to secure a strain that with proper care and feeding will give a satisfactory egg yield.

Ideals were presented in many departments—not that the specimens on exhibition could not be improved upon, but they were so far above the average that the general farmer safely could by examining the best of a class arrive at what should make an ideal type of the breed under question.

And the shows were not without their lessons for exhibitors. Once more it was forcibly impressed that the man who cannot accept

a defeat without frowning should not be a competitor. Extensive exhibitors who take in both Winnipeg and Brandon fairs are sure to encounter distasteful reverses. Perhaps in some instances insinuations against the judge's competency or fairness are not without foundation but it always is much better not to evince any dissatisfaction unless the error of judgment is too glaring. In many cases exhibitors or the men in charge of animals while in the ring are altogether to blame. Judgment must be passed according to present appearances in comparison with its competitors. Some attendants handle judiciously and cover up defects while others carelessly allow the animal to expose every lack in its make-up. Of course the judge necessarily must not be guided solely by a survey at long range. Careful handling frequently reveals deficiencies.

In regard to show condition, too, it is wonderful the reversals of form that can develop in the period of one short week. Several instances were presented at Winnipeg and Brandon. Animals that were in prime condition at Winnipeg showed to much less advantage in the Wheat City, while in other cases a marked improvement in individuals was noticed.

But the results of this season's fairs show only what has been taught year after year at exhibitions. Special feeding by skilled feeders and careful handling by trained hands will do much to win prizes. But every competitor must be prepared to accept defeat with due grace.

Getting the Most for Stock

It would seem as if we were on the eve of a decided upturn in the livestock business. Prices this year for commercial grades have ruled higher on the average than for some years past, while demand for registered stock of all kinds for breeding purposes, is better than for some time. The advance in prices for commercial stock may be accounted for in part by the increased cost of grain and the consequent increase in cost of production, but it is due also to the fact that market conditions are improving with a better competitive demand than has existed before. Western markets are still far from being all they should be but the continued agitation of stock growers together with a growing recognition of the fact by buyers and packers that the growers interests and their own are common and that one cannot prosper without the co-operation of the other, is working for a better mutual understanding. There is, however, scope still for a good deal of giving and taking on both sides. A frequent reason for low prices is low quality stock. A frequent reason for low prices for first quality animals is that the owner or shipper thereof insists on selling them bunched in with other stuff of another grade. The average shipper—this applies especially to farmers who ship their

own stock—usually wishes to dispose of his whole shipment en bloc. He may have in it a number of individuals that would grade into first quality butcher or even do for export, and mixed in with them to fill out the car, have stuff that will grade into every class the market affords. The buyer strikes an average price for the lot, a price that is considerably below the real value of the first class stuff and sometimes not very much above the price offering for that class to which the remainder of the bunch belong. Culls always decrease the selling price of a bunch of cattle, and the decrease is usually out of proportion to the number of culls in the bunch. It pays in all cases to separate the grades and sell each animal for what it is worth in its class. By so doing the average price of every mixed car lot is raised. Each animal sells for what it is worth, or for what the market is willing to pay for stuff of its class and the sum received for the lot is more, generally, than can be realized by selling at a flat rate.

This criticism of selling methods in our larger livestock markets applies to all stock selling centers in the country. The man who sells locally wants the buyer to purchase everything he has for sale of one species in a bunch and at one price. Some in the offering are fit for market and some are not but all or none go. The buyer generally is wise and takes in the lot at a figure sufficiently low to insure him a good average profit on the turnover, the culls and unfitted ones lowering the average of the bunch and tending little to encourage one remaining in the business.

These are some of the points in which the shipper and producer are short sighted of their own interests. It is well enough to criticize market conditions and the lack of competition in wholesale market centers but selling methods frequently are a cause of the unsatisfactory conditions that prevail. Every shipper and seller of live stock in Western Canada knows that certain conditions surrounding the selling of his stock could be vastly improved upon. Buyers are in a position to take undue advantage if large deliveries glut the market. Prices drop easily when local supplies are large but do not advance as speedily when receipts fall below normal. All of which no doubt can be easily explained by certain interpreters of the law of supply and demand; but they are all hard facts to face by the seller. Shippers should have better transportation facilities, the privilege of feeding and watering at the yards and a number of other rights and privileges not now enjoyed. They will get them all undoubtedly in time if agitation continues strenuously and unabated. For the present, however, it will do no harm for both producer and shipper to consider some of the means that may be operated to their advantage under even the present far from satisfactory market conditions.