

# The Canadian Dairyman AND Farming World

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THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD

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## NEWS AND STATISTICS MONTHLY

The Agricultural Department at Ottawa, are deserving of considerable praise in connection with the Census and Statistics Monthly which is now being issued. Authentic reports of crop conditions are of incalculable value to the country at large. The freeness of trade, and practically all interests are influenced by the condition of the crops. Therefore, it is well that the actual conditions be known at all times. This information the Census and Statistics Monthly supplies.

The people of the United States for years have been supplied with such a service. It has been of great value, and has always been followed with interest. Realizing the value of this service The Canadian Dairyman and

Farming World long ago drew attention to the need for such work being undertaken by the Dominion Department of Agriculture, and, naturally, we are pleased that this service has been inaugurated.

The census report deals with the live stock of Canada as well as with crops. Each month it contains a comprehensive report from each of the provinces. The condition of the live stock and crops in the several provinces, is compared one month with another. Brief notes are to be found from the Dominion Experimental Farms. The Meteorological report for the month also appears. Records from the dairy and cold storage branch, the seed branch, the live stock branch as well as the tobacco division, are published. The publication also gives brief crop reports from other countries. A review of colonial and foreign produce in British markets concludes the publication. Those concerned in establishing the Census and Statistics Monthly are to be commended.

## HORSE RACING SPREADING

The pernicious effect of the legislation passed, a little over a year ago, by the Ontario Government, at the request of Hon. Nelson Monteith, the Minister of Agriculture, in regard to horse racing at the exhibitions of agricultural societies, is already apparent. This year the Norfolk county fair, held at Simcoe, Ont., will hold horse races for the first time on record.

The Simcoe fair, for years, has been held up to the rest of the province as being an example of what an agricultural fair should be. It has been conducted on purely agricultural lines. The Special educational features have always been strongly emphasized. The fair has been a success.

There is a law on the statute books of the Province of Ontario making it a crime to hold a horse race at an agricultural exhibition. The horse racing element, from time to time, has strongly opposed that law. Not daring to antagonize one side of public opinion by rescinding that law, and desiring to placate the advocates of horse racing, Hon. Mr. Monteith conceived the bright idea of amending the law by making it impossible for any person, not excepting officers of the Crown, to enforce the law unless they have been members of the offending society for at least two years. Was ever more farcical legislation passed?

The effect of this legislation has been to throw the door wide open for the holding of horse races at our agricultural exhibitions. When this became known, advocates of horse racing attended the annual meeting of the North Norfolk Society this year, and elected several men on the board of directors. The result is that this society this year has taken the first step, which, if it is not retracted, will in the course of a period of years, lower the society to the level of the ordinary exhibition, at which horse races are the main feature. A number of other societies have done the

same. Gradually, but none the less surely, our agricultural societies are degenerating to the level of the exhibitions held in the United States, where in most of the states more money is spent on horse racing and on debasing special attractions than is spent for all other purposes combined.

It is singular that so many of our better farmers are so slow to recognize the danger of the situation. They believe that horse racing has helped their local exhibition, and, therefore, that it is to be encouraged. They do not seem to realize that in a few years the horse racing element is likely to master them, as has happened in the case of scores of other societies. They think of conditions as they apply only to their own society, and believe that they can control them. It does not strike them that as other societies around them increase their expenditures for horse races, and other attractions, their society will be forced to do the same. They do not recognize the fact that as the horse races are brought more and more to the front, the agricultural features, and with them the farmers, are shoved more and more into the background. And yet such is the case.

It is time that we, as farmers, awake to the danger of the situation and took steps to retain control of our own exhibitions. One of the first steps that should be taken is to make the Ontario Government come down off the fence that it is straddling, and insist that it shall take such action as may be required to ensure our agricultural exhibitions being conducted on agricultural lines, and in an educational manner.

## SEEING THE FAIR

During the next six weeks, thousands of people will visit the exhibitions, large and small. The benefit they will obtain from them will depend upon the motive they have in view in such visits. If the motive be for pleasure only, the benefit derived from the exhibitions will be small.

This is not saying that the pleasure-seeking element should be eliminated. Far from it. The fall fair is the only outing that many of us get. After the hard work of the summer, a little recreation at exhibition time does us good and not harm. We will be better tillers of the soil, and better breeders and feeders of live stock, if we take a little healthy amusement. It may be, however, that not all the amusement side of a fall fair is wholesome. There is, however, always enough of the wholesome kind to be found, if one looks for it.

The fall fair is not fulfilling its mission if it caters only to the amusement side of human nature. Properly managed, the fall fair is a great educational institution, and those of us who fail to get some benefit from it, other than amusement, are not taking advantage of our opportunities. The first purpose should be to obtain information. The pleasure-seeking should be of secondary consideration. A little of it sandwiched in with knowledge-getting, will be beneficial.

For many the chief value is the opportunity it affords to extend a knowledge of live stock. The dairyman, the fruit grower, and the grain and root grower, are benefited by the exhibits in their particular line. Every farmer keeps live stock of some description, and poultry as well, and, therefore, these departments are of direct interest to most. At the larger fairs, especially, the ideals in live stock breeding and feeding are presented. None of us who see these exhibits and observe them carefully, but will be benefited. True, many of the animals shown may be over-fattened, nevertheless they afford a valuable object lesson of what skill and care in breeding and feeding can do. The visitor should compare them with what he has at home, and find the weakness in his own system. He may feel sometimes that he has better animals at home than those shown. If so, he should the following year, make an entry, and measure up his animals with the others on exhibition. If, on the other hand the conclusion is reached that the animals on exhibition are superior to anything the visitor has at home, the lesson is obvious: raise the home standard high, and strive to reach up to the ideals presented.

Many look upon the judging of the live stock as uninteresting and tiresome. To the live-stock student, and to the one who desires to excel, it is not so. There are valuable lessons to be learned in watching the placing of the awards. Placing the animals in a class in one mind, independent of the judging, is good mental training and profits one's knowledge of live stock. At the larger exhibitions such as Toronto, the judges are usually men competent for the work, though one may not always agree with their judgment. They have some good reason for the placing, and the learner watching closely can profit greatly by so doing. He can fix in his mind what the first prize animal is like, and wherein it excels those below it. This should help in perfecting his knowledge, and making him a better judge of what are the good and weak points in the particular class of live stock in which he is interested.

At the larger fairs there are many things outside of the judging ring, and the live stock exhibits from which one may derive useful information. The exhibit of farm machinery is one of these. The improvements made, and the new ideas exploited in implement manufacture, are a study in themselves. Nowhere can they be seen to better advantage than at a big fair. In these days of labor scarcity the implement maker is the benefactor of his country. Of course he is not in business for the fun of the thing. But the impulse to put something new on the market that will enlarge his sales, often leads to the introduction of some new implement that is of the greatest benefit to the agriculturist. The hay loader, the side delivery rake, and others we might mention, are examples of this. Though a farmer may not need