

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine.

"PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED."

ESTABLISHED 1866.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

VOL. XXXVI.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., OCTOBER 15, 1901.

No. 536

EDITORIAL.

Judges and Judging.

The close of another fair season seems an opportune time to review the work of the judges in the live-stock departments at leading shows, and to discuss the general subject of selection and appointment of judges. Fair Boards still find the problem a difficult one to satisfactorily solve, and each year brings its budget of complaints in some classes. We are not disposed to take a pessimistic view of the situation or to conclude that progress is not being made in the system of selection and the quality of the work done. We firmly believe that Fair Directors, almost without exception, are earnestly solicitous that only competent and unbiased men shall be chosen, and we believe that the instances in which, at the suggestion of designing exhibitors, unfit or unfair judges are appointed are exceptional and rare. Taking it as a whole, we are satisfied that better selections of judges are made and their decisions more intelligently rendered than in former times, and quite as impartially. We believe, moreover, that in no country is fairer or more consistent judging done than in Canada. The system generally adopted in recent years, of making selections from the list of judges approved and published by the Breeders' Associations, relieves Fair Boards, to a large extent, of responsibility for appointments that prove unsatisfactory. But it does, unfortunately, happen occasionally that appointments are made of men who prove to be either incompetent or lacking in the manly courage to do the right thing—placing the awards solely on the ground of merit, irrespective of ownership, friendship or other consideration. It is true that no man is infallible, that all are liable to make mistakes, that men honestly differ in opinion and judgment, for all of which facts due allowance should be made; but he who presumes upon these, making them merely an excuse for what is palpably seen to be a leaning in favor of a friend, is out of place in a judging-ring, lowers his reputation and character for fairness in the estimation of all right-thinking men, and he should not again be entrusted with so important a function.

While the Breeders' Associations publish a sufficiently long list of approved judges—perhaps too long, and not sufficiently select—from which Fair Boards may make selections, yet the field is limited by the fact that many of the most capable are by common consent considered unavailable, owing to being themselves exhibitors or so related by family connections or business dealings with exhibitors as to render their appointment inadvisable, though we think this objection is often unduly pressed. A capable man, with a reputation to maintain, may generally be safely trusted to act on his judgment, and is infinitely preferable to one that is incompetent or erratic, no matter how honest in his intentions.

We do not propose in this article to discuss at length the question of one judge versus two or more, though we do not hesitate to affirm our preference for the single-judge system. Observa-

tion at the leading shows this year has doubtless led to the conclusion that neither is always an infallible tribunal, but we are pretty well persuaded that the difficulties and abuses are liable to increase in proportion to the number composing the awarding committee. But whether one or more is decided upon, it goes without saying that it is of the first importance, and essential to the permanent success of the fairs, that confidence in the impartiality of the system of appointing judges be established and maintained. Fair Boards and Breeders' Associations need to exercise more vigilance than ever in guarding the gate to the judiciary by a searching scrutiny of the character as well as the competency of the men entrusted with the duty of deciding on the merits of exhibits on the preparation of which the owners have spent a whole year's work, or it may be more. It is only by this course that new exhibitors will be encouraged to enter the list and the better class of the old retained. It will be regrettable and unfortunate if by lack of vigilance in this regard the impression is allowed to prevail that biased judges are nominated or appointed by or at the instance of interested parties to further their own ends, and that collusion is winked at in a field where only merit should win.

The inherent sense of justice entertained by all self-respecting Anglo-Saxons revolts at the idea of giving honors in a competitive examination on any other basis than that of individual merit, and no one with a fine sense of honor will feel complimented or content to receive them on any other ground.

Weeds and Insect Pests.

As an additional safeguard against the spread of insect and weed pests, the "Farmer's Advocate" would suggest the formation of natural-history clubs or local botanical and entomological societies in every county in the Dominion. These might become affiliated with some of the larger societies, and thus bring the smaller local organization into touch with some of our best authorities upon these subjects. It is a matter that Farmers' Institutes and agricultural societies would do well to encourage, but which can perhaps be best developed through the instrumentality of educationists in the cities and towns, acting in conjunction with the teachers of rural schools. To properly train the youth as observers of the habits of plants and insects will benefit them beyond computation in an educational way, and in time accomplish much for the advancement of Canadian agriculture. If the teachers become actively connected with such organizations, the results will naturally have a decided bearing upon their school work. In several centers we know of local botanical societies that have been for years doing good work by making a scientific study of the plant-life of the district, and we hope that other places will take up the idea and also encourage nature study in the schools by such methods as the offering of prizes at the local shows for named collections of weeds and other plants, or of insects, accompanied by written descriptions of how best to combat those of an injurious character. Prof. Robertson, of Ottawa, is doing good service by calling public attention to the advantages of manual training in the schools, and we should be glad also to see progress made in the directions suggested above.

The Cost and Work of an Agricultural College.

(From our Manitoba and Western Edition.)

The "Farmer's Advocate" of March 5th gave a lucid and comprehensive plan for a School of Agriculture for Manitoba farmers' sons, which was practical in its outline and suited to the needs of the country. Many requests have been made that the plan as outlined be again published, which is done, for the benefit of our large number of new subscribers and those in whom the project of an agricultural college is awakening enthusiasm.

LAND AND BUILDINGS NEEDED FOR EFFECTIVE WORK.

The outlay at the start will undoubtedly be the largest, and considerably greater than what will be needed annually. The necessities would be a farm, which would cost from \$10,000 to \$16,000, depending on its size and location, neither of which, if within reason, would have much to do with the success of the institution. A common error which exists in the minds of many people is, that in order for agricultural-college education to be practical, the students should do farm work, plowing, cleaning out stables, threshing, etc. Right here we unhesitatingly state that every student should be proficient in the ordinary farm work before coming to such an institution. Life is too short and the student's time too valuable when at the College to be spent at the lowest grade of farm work, the purely manual labor.

A building in which to give lectures, having offices for the teaching staff, library, reading room and gymnasium, would cost about \$25,000, for which money a building of three stories and basement could be supplied, somewhat similar in design to some school building. Farm buildings, sheep sheds, hogpens, poultry and implement houses would necessitate an expenditure of about \$3,500 to \$4,000. Elaborate buildings are not needed, neither would they be desirable in a Province whose income is comparatively small. The College should not attempt to board or room students, such necessitating big expense for dormitory, furniture, female helps to provide meals and clean the rooms. In addition, discipline is difficult to maintain in a residence.

THE COST OF THE NECESSARY LIVE STOCK.

For teaching purposes, representative animals of breeds suited to Western conditions would be needed. Two teams of Clydesdale mares, costing about \$800, and one team of lighter horses, at \$250, would be ample for the farm work and useful for instructional purposes. An expenditure of \$2,500 to \$3,000 would be needed to provide the College with a bull and three cows of four or five of the pure breeds suited to our conditions. In sheep, \$250 would be ample to obtain good specimens of the long-woolled and medium-woolled breeds, a ram and ten ewes being sufficient in each case. Swine, of three leading breeds, of each a boar and two sows, could be got for about \$150. In addition, \$100 invested in the utility breeds of poultry would be ample. If valuable pure-breds of varieties not at the College were available in the neighborhood, they might be utilized for instructional purposes by permission of their owners or on payment of a small rent. Farm implements, incubators and brooders, a few skips of bees and miscellaneous