

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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the ultimatum to Serbia, which, however, at the urging of Earl Grey conceded practically everything to avert war. Russia was believed to be on the brink of another revolution, which German intrigue sought to foment, as well as sow discord with France. Without faith in anything save perhaps Turkey and her own military powers and preparedness, Germany, in secret, foreordained the catastrophe. This writer combats the current view that Turkey should be wiped off the map and the Straits neutralized, for the reason that in the readjustment more jealousy and trouble would be created than allayed. Though over 80 years old Emperor Francis Joseph is not described as the senile incapable commonly supposed. If possible Austria is revealed worse than Turkey. Having annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina a few years ago, Francis Joseph and his tools secretly stirred up trouble in the Balkans in order to snatch more chestnuts from the conflagration. The assassination of his nephew, Francis Ferdinand, foisted on the Bulgarian throne, was the pretext for war on Serbia, although the old scoundrel denied the nephew a decent burial because he disapproved of his wife. Prince Buelow, the secret agent of the Kaiser, kept Italy from declaring war on Germany though she did declare against Austria, and if in the final crash Austria be dismembered she would deserve richly the fate to which the Kaiser would abandon her.

Princess Radziwill acquits King Constantine of Greece of pro-Germanism, because his country was in no position to effectually intervene on behalf of the Allies. The German Chancellor, Dr. Von Bethmann-Hollweg, is portrayed as clever and brutal but he lacks the brains of Bismarck, who never would have allowed Germany to go to war with Russia. To the wisdom, sincerity and capacity of Sir Edward Grey throughout the whole period, an unqualified tribute is borne and aided by the Rt. Hon. H. H. Asquith, Hon. Lloyd George, Sir Maurice de Bunsen and Sir Edward Goschen would naturally at the Congress represent Britain, which holds the key of the situation and can be the ultimate savior of the civilization of the world from an arrogant and cannon-proud aggressor. Perhaps the most caustic allusion in this illuminating

record appears in the concluding chapter: "About one, the German Emperor, I have said nothing for many reasons. I have known him in youth; I have watched him in his manhood; and have come to the conclusion that dead illusions are like little dead children—they should be left undisturbed in their graves. His name will remain engraved in the annals of the world, but how it is not well to try to think. Nearly all of us weep over the loss of a dear one who but for him would not have perished. I have, therefore, abstained from expressing any judgment about his person, though I have said freely what I thought about his ministers and advisers."

The Rural Fall Fair.

The rural fall fair has filled a distinct place in the agriculture of Eastern Canada for many years. It has done much good work, and there is still room for the accomplishment of considerable that would eventually work for the benefit of agriculture in the particular community in which the fair is held. This really means every community, for no county in Ontario, at least, is without one or more fall exhibitions. Last week we hinted that in connection with the fairs, or with the agricultural societies, some improvement might be made in the method of conducting plowing matches by taking the match to the man's own farm rather than taking the man away from his farm to the contest. There are other improvements which might well be considered.

The rural fall fair has developed largely into a holiday and a social time for the people round about. This is all right, and every farmer who works well throughout the summer is deserving of his day or two at the fair, where he meets his friends from other localities and neighbors engaged in the same business to discuss matters pertaining to their occupation, and to have a pleasant time together. There are those who hold that the fall fair is worth while from the standpoint of sociability, leaving out altogether the quality and educational value of the exhibits made. There are others who believe that unless the fair is of some value in an educational way to the exhibitors and to those who attend, it is not worth while. One thing is certain, there is no reason why the county fall fair should not be educational as well as a promoter of sociability and a good place to visit. Too often the directors scurry around at the last moment and get some of the men in the district to enter and bring out stock. This is not always well fitted, and stock raw from the fields does not make as attractive an exhibit as stock well finished and prepared for the fair. Sometimes a big breeder is encouraged to take his herd to the show in order to fill the stalls, and he walks away with all the money, there being little or no competition. It is competition that brings out the good and bad points of the stock. An animal generally looks well at home, but when placed alongside a better one the defects of the former stand out prominently. This is where the public should get most out of the fall fairs. A campaign should be put on for better fitting, a larger local entry, keener competition, and an all-round better exhibition. We would advise the directors of these fairs to encourage the young men in their counties to exhibit. Twenty young men bring out one or two well-fitted animals, each one of far more use to the fair than one big exhibitor trotting out twenty or forty animals. If necessary get some of the young men on the directorate. They will bring in some new ideas, and some of the vim and aggressiveness generally lacking in the older men who have seen the fair go on the same year after year for a quarter century.

The same thing applies to exhibits of grain, roots, vegetables, fruits and other farm crops, as to the stock. Quality should be insisted upon, and a regular campaign made to get out these exhibitors, and to get them to fit their stock. In fact, we would be in favor of cutting out prizes altogether to stock or any exhibits which were not properly prepared for the show-ring.

We have often wondered whether or not agricultural societies could not run better farming competitions, based not only on the appearance of the farm, but upon profits made as shown by the financial

statement of the owner or tenant. This would serve the double purpose of insuring a more systematic and all-round better method of farming, and also would promote the keeping of accounts on the farm which, in the end, would show the farmer wherein his profits and losses resulted. If necessary the farms could be divided into three or four classes, as for instance, dairy farms with pigs, beef-cattle farms, and mixed farms, or in any more suitable way that the societies might agree upon. Anything of this nature, if it is to achieve its greatest success, should emanate from the agricultural societies or the Boards of the different county fairs. We feel certain, that if suitable prizes were offered and the right conditions imposed that a marked improvement in the farming of the districts trying the scheme would soon be noticed, for one good farm in a neighborhood has an effect upon all the surrounding land, which cannot be estimated in dollars and cents. In this, as with the plowing, we advocate taking a part of the fair to the man's farm, where it is really of most benefit.

Graded Prize List.

At least one exhibition in the West (Calgary) has tried out graded prize lists, and we believe quite successfully. It is claimed that breeders who have exhibited at this fair have not complained to any great extent about the new system. By this system all breeds are placed on exactly the same basis. They receive the same amount of money, provided their entries are equal. Naturally, the breeds which are most popular and which make the largest entries get their correct share of the total prize money, and the prizes increase in number as well as in value as the entries increase in a class, leaving not so wide a difference between the several prizes as under the system followed by most of the fairs. The graded list divides the money according to the number of entries in the class, which looks to be quite fair, because the more animals out the keener the competition, and with this keen competition the winner should get more money. It also insures more money to the animals placed lower down in the list where there are big classes, which should encourage amateur exhibitors. Only three entries are allowed to compete in any class from one exhibitor. An exhibitor can thus make a splendid exhibit, but is not permitted to walk away with all the money and make the system unworkable. Where the amount offered for stock at various ages does not graduate to the same extent as under the old system, this feature is provided for by paying 20 per cent. less for classes under one year, and 50 per cent. more than the list for aged stallions and aged bulls. Some other classes are also balanced by adding 50 per cent. to the list, doubling it, or, as in the case of four-horse teams where the entries are sure to be light, paying three times the list. The total money is first divided among the departments on a percentage basis, then pro rata to prize winners. This permits the departments to share in the prize money according to their total entries. If entries fall off in any department to a large extent part of the unearned money goes to the department which makes a better showing.

Special prizes and championships are simply added to the prizes won in the regular classes.

We are reproducing a table showing a tabulated list of prizes for horses, as it runs according to the number of entries.

Tabulated List of Prizes.

Total value.	No. of entries to qualify.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
\$ 15	1 or 2	\$10	\$ 5									
25	3 or 4	12	8	5	R							
40	5 or 6	15	12	8	5	R						
60	7 or 8	20	15	12	8	5	R					
80	9 or 10	22	18	15	12	8	5	R				
102	11 or 12	24	20	18	15	12	8	5	R			
127	13 or 14	26	23	20	18	15	12	8	5	R		
154	15 or 16	28	25	23	20	18	15	12	8	5	R	
180	17 or over	30	26	24	22	20	18	15	12	8	5	R

We feel sure stockmen in the East will be interested in this system. It has several good features and we invite discussion on the subject at this time. It should be a grand system to encourage amateur exhibitors, and increase the competition and value of the show.