

material in this country to produce the quality desired, and in sufficient numbers, too, if the farmer is given proper encouragement. The trouble has been that prices advance during the spring and summer and drop to a low level in the fall and early winter, when the hogs marketed cost the farmer less to produce than at any other season of the year. There is no better and cheaper way of producing the bacon hog, if properly managed, than on pasture. But even by this economical method prices often drop so low when ready for market that there is little if any profit in the business. Besides, labor is harder to get than a few years ago, and adds to the cost of production. There is a great danger of the hog cholera coming into the country from the importation of so many American hogs, no matter how vigilant the Dominion veterinary staff may be. This should be guarded against, even if the packer's establishment has to remain idle for a time. Besides, there is the contingency that these American hogs may be converted into bacon and go forward as a Canadian product to the injury of Canada's good name.

The whole subject is one of great importance, and it is to be hoped that a frank discussion of it will pave the way for fairer treatment for the producers of the bacon hog. As suggested by one of our correspondents a few weeks ago, the farmers' side of this question should receive special attention at the Winter Fair. It would do good to have the packers present also and let there be a full and free discussion of the whole question.

The Ballot System in Judging

At the Highland and Agricultural Society's show, held at Glasgow the first week of July, the ballot system of judging was followed in awarding the prizes in the Clydesdale section. This system will be followed in awarding the prize for Clydesdales at Toronto exhibition this year and it will be interesting to note how it has succeeded elsewhere. Referring to the ballot system, as used at the Highland show, *The Scottish Farmer* says:

"Three judges were appointed to each section. Two were balloted to act in the first class in each, and two as thus determined acted automatically throughout the day. In this way, while everybody knew beforehand who were the three judges appointed for each section, nobody knew for certain which two of the three would judge any particular class. The system should be continued. Objection to it there cannot be, and it makes for confidence on the part of exhibitors and the public.

"The ballot placed the aged stallions under the judgment of Messrs. Neilson and Taylor, and the result was a piece of good work, educative, and able to be followed by the onlooker who knew a little about a horse."

Mr. Hodson May Resign

There has been some little excitement in live stock circles the past few days over the report in the daily press and elsewhere that F. W. Hodson, Dominion

Live Stock Commissioner, would probably resign in the course of a few months and be succeeded by the Hon. John Dryden, formerly Minister of Agriculture for Ontario. As to the correctness of this rumor that Mr. Hodson will shortly resign we cannot say. Mr. Dryden, however, has given us authority to state that so far as he is concerned he knows nothing about it whatever, and that he has not had the least intimation that such a position would be offered him.

While Mr. Dryden possesses many qualifications for an excellent live stock commissioner, we question whether, at his time of life and after being at the head of Ontario agriculture for so many years, he would be willing to accept a position involving such a strenuous existence as the duties of Live Stock Commissioner for the Dominion involve. He has served his native province faithfully and well, and, perhaps, a better reward than this is due him.

Live Stock Judging at Institutes

A feature of farmers' institute work that has attracted considerable attention this season is that of live stock judging schools held at a number of points during June. Reports from these have been very satisfactory. The farmers, and especially the younger ones, in the districts where the institutes were held, evinced the keenest interest in the proceedings. So satisfactory has this new feature proven that there will, no doubt, be a large demand for similar work in other parts of the province. Supt. Putnam has already announced a series of two day institutes for this fall, at which live stock judging will be the main feature.

This widening of the scope of the institute is quite in accordance with the stand *THE FARMING WORLD* has taken for a couple of years. Our contention has been that the farmers' institute must branch out or it will gradually lose its hold upon the farming community. We are very glad, therefore, that a break has been made from the regular routine of meetings, valuable as they are, and that it has been so successful.

There are other new lines of work that the institute might well take up. One of these is the plowing match. Most of the institutes have a good balance on hand, a part of which could be spent to no better purpose than for prizes at a series of plowing matches in each district. When properly managed the plowing match is a means of educating young men in careful methods of agriculture that has no equal. A good plowman is invariably a good farmer. In connection with the plowing match could be given practical demonstrations in soil culture and the kind of plowing best suited to different soils and the best crops to sow on them. Indeed, there is a wide field for usefulness here and we would very much like to see some institute take up the plowing match idea this fall. If the weather

were favorable there would be nothing to prevent a plowing match and a stock judging institute being held at the same time.

Behind the Scenes in the Fruit Trade

One never knows what is going on behind the scenes until he gets an inkling of the inner working of things. This spring an important branch of work was taken over by the Fruit Division at Ottawa, that of inspecting the fruit sold in baskets and small boxes on the local markets. For years the consumer has taken it for granted that everything was O.K. when he bought a basket of cherries or a box of berries. A little reflection, however, would have shown him that the grower or packer of the fruit has had things his own way in so far as size of box or basket is concerned. A basket might contain ten quarts or twelve quarts, just as the conscience of the packer might dictate.

But there is likely to be a change in this respect before long. The fruit inspectors have been busy the past few weeks and have unearthed some things that do not reflect much credit upon a few of our best-known growers and packers of small fruits. The aim has been to visit all basket and box-makers and induce them to conform to standard sizes in all they turn out. Nothing can be done with this year's output, but it is hoped that next year a different order of things will prevail in the small fruit trade.

The manufacturer is not altogether to blame for not adhering strictly to standard sizes in basket or box-making. He has been guided largely by the wishes of his customers, who are usually the growers. One will order ten quart baskets that will hold ten quarts, another, who is not so scrupulous, will give a hint on the side to the manufacturer to shade them a little so that his fruit crop will go farther. And so it has been that the consumer has been getting all he paid for or considerably less than he paid for, according as he has come in touch with the package of the honest or dishonest fruit grower. It is these mean little things, not very much in themselves, that bring contempt upon any branch of trade. And it is surprising how widely extended they are when looked into carefully. Often a grower, who would despise a man who would cheat another in larger things, will himself not scruple to use "short measure" baskets and boxes when he has fruit to sell.

We do not know whether this kind of thing goes with fruit culture or not. There has, however, been so much of it reported of late that the grower of small fruits will have to take a strong stand for the right pretty soon or his reputation will be entirely gone.

While the harvest is the busiest time of the year, it does not pay to neglect other departments at this time. The milk needs as much care and attention during harvest as at any other time.