

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE.*

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EDITORIAL.

The Winter Fair.

The Ontario Provincial Winter Fair, including the Provincial Fat Stock and Dairy Show and the Ontario Poultry Show, to be held at Guelph, on December 11th to 14th, will be an event of more than usual interest this year, because of its being held in the new building erected for the purposes of the show, now nearing completion, and which will be its permanent home. The interest will also be augmented by the fact of the Ontario Poultry Show being held at the same time and in the same building. The business of poultry-raising is becoming one of great importance to Canadian farmers, and is proving one of the most profitable branches of their work, as our home market and export returns amply show. The display of poultry at Guelph will undoubtedly be the greatest ever seen in this country, while the opportunities for gaining information upon the merits of breeds and methods of raising, feeding and marketing poultry will be such as have never before been offered in connection with any public exhibition. The same may be said in regard to the hog industry, which has so rapidly grown in importance to our farmers in the last few years, bringing millions of dollars into the country, and promising to be a permanent feature in profitable farming. One of the most interesting and instructive branches of the show will be the judging of swine in bacon classes, and the comparison of the dressed carcasses with the living animals. This feature will be seen for the first time in cattle and sheep, as well as in swine, liberal prizes being offered for the best carcasses in each department. The dairy industry, which has made Canada famous in the best markets of the world, and is a permanent source of profitable returns to a very large proportion of the farmers of the Dominion, is recognized by the granting of generous prizes for cows of the various breeds, by actual test, in milking competitions, and will be of unusual interest this year, owing to the fact that the food consumed will be valued and taken into account in making the awards. Dairy appliances of all sorts will also be on exhibition, and addresses by experts are promised on various subjects connected with the breeding, feeding, management and marketing of beef and dairy cattle, sheep, swine and poultry and their products.

This is pre-eminently a farmers' fair, under the management of farmers, and free from all distracting side shows. It is an institution designed to encourage farmers to improve their stock on profitable lines, to impart sound, practical and helpful information, and to emphasize the fact, which statistics abundantly show, that live stock and its products, in the form of beef, mutton, wool, bacon, cheese, butter, poultry, and eggs, constitute the financial salvation of the farmers of this country. To farmers' sons especially, the Winter Fair offers an educational opportunity they can ill afford to miss, and as reduced rates have been arranged for on all the railroads, and Guelph is a convenient center for the greater part of the Province, the exhibition ought to be largely attended. Farmers' Institute excursions are, we understand, being arranged for in many counties, and it is hoped that many will avail themselves of these. The Ontario Experimental Union will hold its annual meeting at the Agricultural College during the week of the show, and all its meetings are open to visiting farmers. A public meeting will also be held on Wednesday evening, in the city, at which addresses by prominent men will be delivered. There is every reason to hope and believe that the Winter Fair this year will mark the commencement of a new era in its history, which will grow into splendid proportions in the coming century.

Forward Movement for Toronto Fair.

It is a matter of very great satisfaction to note that the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Association has lost no time in laying extensive plans for its immediate improvement. The very foremost of all the great annual exhibitions held on this continent, it is but fitting that the show should begin the 20th century by putting its best foot forward. We are in the midst of an era of great material progress in Canada, toward which our exhibitions have contributed no little share, but the close of the old century is not a time to rest upon the laurels of the past, but should rather mark the advent of a new era in which we shall rise to higher achievements. The discussion which has taken place in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE since the show in September, amply demonstrates the needs of reform in certain directions and for a genuine forward movement, in order to put the Exposition upon a higher and more permanent plane, so as to lead the van of industrial, agricultural and artistic progress, and do honor to the city in which it is held and the interests of which it has done so much to promote. We are therefore gratified to observe that at a recent special meeting of the Association, with the President, Dr. Smith, in the chair, the report of a special committee on the requirements of the Exhibition was unanimously adopted, as follows:

"Your committee beg to recommend that application be made to the City Council for the following new buildings and alterations, and that the same be submitted to a vote of the citizens at the time of the municipal elections in January next:

New main building, 100,000 square feet of floor space, estimated cost.....	\$106,000 00
New art gallery, 7,500 square feet floor space..	10,000 00
Dairy building.....	14,000 00
Remodelling main building and taking off the tower and repairing the roof, to provide for vehicle exhibit.....	5,000 00
Building for stoves and heating apparatus, 10,000 square feet of floor space.....	10,000 00
Changing music pavilion for women's building	3,000 00
Enlargement of poultry building.....	1,000 00
New horticultural building.....	15,000 00
Enlargement of fruit building.....	3,000 00
New agricultural building.....	8,000 00
New administration building.....	5,000 00
New natural history building.....	7,000 00
Architects' fees.....	10,000 00
Total.....	\$197,000 00

[EDITORIAL NOTE.—Provision should be made for sufficient funds to provide a suitable pavilion for witnessing the judging of the main live-stock exhibits.]

"Your committee would also recommend that the board offer prizes for: New main building, prize of \$250; art gallery, prize of \$50; dairy building, prize of \$75; stove building, prize of \$50; horticultural building, prize of \$75; agricultural building, prize of \$40; administration building, prize of \$50; natural history building, prize of \$50. Total, \$640—for competitive plans, open to Canadian architects only, the plans submitted to show floor plans, elevations, sections and perspective views, with synopsis of specifications showing the material to be used in construction, and estimated cost of the buildings not to exceed the amounts given above. The prizes to be given for one plan for each building only, the designer of the plan selected to get the money prize and the recommendation of the board to the City Council to be given the supervision of the building, the board not guaranteeing that the building will be constructed. The Board of Directors or a committee thereof, with two experts, to be the judges of the plans to be awarded the prizes. The other conditions of competition to be substantially those adopted by the Ontario Association of Architects. This recommendation is made in order that the plans may be prepared and ready for public inspection not later than December 20th. (Signed) Andrew Smith, Chairman."

In the discussion which took place in the consideration of the foregoing, Ald. Leslie and others heartily commended the course being pursued by the Association board. He would support the proposed by-law in his canvass, and he believed every candidate for aldermanic honors and for the mayoralty would do the same. The onus would thus be placed upon the property-owners. Referring to the city investigation into the affairs of the Exhibition,

Mr. W. K. McNaught said he believed it was the best thing that could have happened the board, as the management would come out so clear that the public could not withhold its confidence. While there might be on the part of some a feeling of restiveness over the city authorities looking into the affairs of the Exhibition Association, it should be borne in mind that Toronto as a city is largely interested in the well-being of the Exhibition, and in voting for the \$200,000 by-law—apart from the imperative necessity for the improvements specified—the citizens will naturally look for assurances as to the future. Moreover, the Exhibition is a public affair, in receipt of public funds, and is dependent very largely upon public patronage for its success; hence the wisdom of taking the public into its confidence, thus disarming suspicion and securing hearty co-operation. The "Industrial" has been a drawing card of very great advantage to Toronto, and now is the time to assure its permanence in that regard, and for the special reason that it may be properly equipped for next season, when the circumstances are such as to warrant the completest and in every way the best exhibition ever yet held within the bounds of the Dominion.

Preserving U. S. Timber Areas.

A new professional field for young men is being developed in the United States, which promises employment to many bright, active students, at remunerative wages, in connection with the preservation and improvement of forests. There is a growing demand throughout the country for foresters, and a man versed in this profession can almost command his rate of pay. The Department of Agriculture has opened what may be termed a school for foresters. During the summer season, the Department gives employment to students who have decided to take up forestry, paying them at the rate of \$25 a month while in the field, and defraying their expenses. Owners of vast tracts of timber land are awakening to the necessity of adopting means of preserving their forests so that more than one crop can be cut, and are looking for men who can take charge of their property and produce lumber in abundance without exhausting the trees. A well-trained forester can not only go into a forest and give an accurate estimate of the number of feet of lumber it will yield, but can map out a plan of cutting which will give a regular crop of lumber without lessening the permanent supply. The starting of young trees, the thinning out of old ones, and the selection of trees according to the character of the soil are subjects for scientific study. Several years ago the Department decided to take charge of timber lands for such owners as wished to turn them over temporarily to the Government, and to prepare working plans for the yearly cuttings. Advice was also to be given regarding the laying out of new trees, cultivation, etc. Under this plan, the Department now has control of more than 50,000,000 acres of forest land, scattered through States all over the country. Much of these timber lands are in the Adirondacks, some of the most prominent New York owners of tracts there having asked the Government to handle their timber property for them.

More and more, as the years go by, the importance to Canadian farmers of giving increased attention to the breeding and quality of the live stock on their farms is emphasized by the record of the markets. Animals of good breeding and quality feed more kindly, giving better returns for the food they eat, and selling readily at the best prices, while the inferior class is hard to sell at the lower prices. The need for a forward movement for improvement all along the line is urgent, and the advance should be general.