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FORMERLY THE CANADIAN DAIRYMAN AND FARMING WORLD

## EXHIBITING AT FALL FAIRS, AND ITS EDUCATIONAL VALUE

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### The Delights of Victory in the Show Ring.—Small Fairs worthy of the Stockman's Attention.—The Knowledge Gained from Show Ring Experience, and its Value to the Farmer and His Sons

SINCE the fall fair season is approaching our attention may once more be concentrated in that direction. The time will soon be here when wisdom in selection, care in fitting and exactness in finish will be placed in the scale of determinant excellence. A few exhibitors will gain their ambitions, not all will be satisfied, many will be disappointed. Everybody delights in victory, in having an animal good enough to win in strong open competition. The stronger the competition and the less the restriction the more valuable the victory and the greater the honor.

#### GRATIFICATION IN SHOWING.

In many cases it seems a regrettable fact that more than one animal cannot be placed at the top, when so many are worthy of special distinction. However, while the ambition of every exhibitor is to win, there is for every man in the exhibiting of good stock a pride and pleasure which probably furnish the largest measure of gratification, something which only the zealous exhibitor knows. True, there is often a quite different incentive, especially at our large exhibitions. The element of advertisement of the breed (to which the competitor pins his faith), and of his own herd in particular, provides a great drawing card. Not infrequently the exhibit at a fair leads the expectant purchaser to make his final decision on some particular breed and some particular herd. The comparative strength and excellence of a breed as manifested in the display at the exhibitions is sure to make an impression and exert much influence upon the man who is just not quite certain as to which is the best breed. Such men form a very large class among our average farmers. Consequently we are not surprised to see long lines of splendid animals, carefully selected and well fitted, brought out by the various breeders. As a matter of business their interest demands the best that they can supply.

#### SMALL FAIRS ARE WORTHY.

Although the large exhibitions have many features and give many inducements to persuade the breeders to exhibit, which the smaller fairs cannot possibly offer, there is much to be said for exhibiting at even a small country or township fair. Many claims can be made as to why the farmer and smaller stockman should get into the game and support his own fair. For him and his co-workers fair day is a sort of annual celebration, a gala day, a day of wholesome educative entertainment, and the one day in the year, we

might say, when the people who share in common agricultural interests, have a chance to associate, compare notes, and draw conclusions in quite the same way.

#### THE PROPELLER OF THE EXHIBITION.

The show ring is the real propeller of the whole exhibition, therefore the stock owner, whether he have many or few animals to exhibit, should, for the sake of the exhibition as a whole with its social, educational and inspiring influence, consider hearty co-operation his duty, as well as his opportunity. To the stockman who exhibits, the

an injury to their business and to themselves.

#### PREPARING FOR THE SHOW.

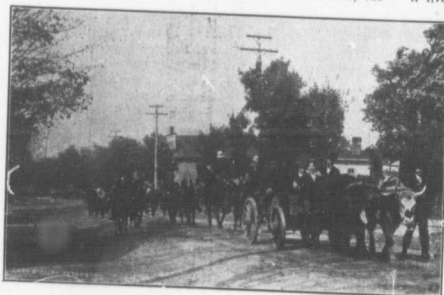
If the fair is looked upon in its proper light the stock will be selected long before the fair, in fact may be bred for it. Pampering is by no means necessary in fitting animals for show purposes; simply a little care and attention for the most part, for some time before, to gradually but surely bring them to that condition and give them that finish which so often turns the balance in a hard fought battle. The practice of fitting and watching animals, managed in such a way, improves and develops in an interest and his boys (should there be any) an interest and attachment which become a mighty inspiration and give farming a new meaning. We hear a great deal these days, about keeping boys on the farm; if live stock held a proper place a great deal of our farming would be a much greater pleasure and a much more attractive business than it is. The fellows who leave the farm to accept worthless positions and small remuneration are those who have not had much on the farm to afford any interest or attachment to it, consequently the farm had no fascination for them. They are not from farms where live stock interest and enthusiasm exist.

#### LACK OF JUDGMENT THE FAULT.

Proper management of live stock and a little show fitting do not mean a great lot of extra labor and expense as many people would have us believe. A surprisingly small amount of attention and feed will make a wonderful improvement. There is no excuse for the poor condition in which we find so much farm stock, particularly horses. Some will tell us less work and more feed will change things. In many cases this is true, but the trouble is not so much excess of work, and lack of feed as it is lack of judgment in working and also in feeding.

#### SKILL IN HANDLING HORSES.

The proper care, working, and driving of ordinary horses mean skill and the great majority of the farmers themselves will do well to make some observations where ability in this direction is displayed. How often we find men on adjoining farms with practically the same work for their horses, frequently on the same feed and yet one man has his horses in elegant condition while those of the other man are a disgrace to himself and to his farm. In many cases the horses had they been given the same usage should have been equally good. It is simply a question of management and judgment. The one man with his horses in respectable condition can and does, with a very little extra touch at the last, fit them in creditable condition, while the other man can neither show nor sell with any credit or satisfaction to himself. The real necessities are not often forgotten but after all, the little extras,



One of the Taking Features of the Bobcaygeon Fair

Possibly no one thing adds more to the success of a fall fair than a well-ordered, well planned procession. Bobcaygeon is noted for making such a distinctive feature of its exhibition. The illustration shows a part of the 1908 procession, with Mr. Louis Parker, driving his yoke of oxen.

fair, be it large or small, has a special significance and value. His interest should be deep, his inspiration great. Above all, the experience and knowledge gained from selecting, fitting, exhibiting and possibly breeding his own animals for the show ring, together with the lessons of comparison learned from his own observation and that of the judge at the fair; these are the things that mean most to the exhibitor; herein is the real pleasure and profit in exhibiting at any fair.

Unfortunately too many who exhibit stock fail to appreciate this special significance. Every one who visits country fairs knows in what poor condition a great many otherwise good animals are brought out every year. How some farmers can allow themselves and their farms to be represented by a herd of poor, miserable looking cattle and probably a string of the shabby looking horses, when a very little feed and attention could have made them a credit and pride to their owners, is a mystery. To such men the fair means comparatively nothing. Exhibiting stock in that shape is not only a waste of time but