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EDITORIAL.

The plan of assisting in the establishment and maintenance of creameries in the Northwest Territories is being continued, advances to the extent of \$15,000 being provided in the estimates for 1898-9. Loans of various amounts are made the creameries, to be repaid to the Government.

We notice that \$5,000 has been included in the supplementary estimates at Ottawa for a Canadian exhibit at the Trans-Mississippi and International Exhibition at Omaha, Neb., from June 1st to Nov. 1st. The Dominion will be officially represented there and have a building with an exhibit representing the agricultural, manufacturing and mining resources of the country.

A couple of issues ago we discussed the outline of the plan of "Illustration Stations" as prepared by Agricultural Commissioner Robertson, at Ottawa, and approved by the Dominion Minister of Agriculture. It was proposed to include \$5,000 in the supplementary estimates for 1898-9 to give the scheme a start, but, after considerable discussion, it was decided to postpone action for the present, which will allow time for additional consideration and proper maturing of plans.

The farmers of Manitoba and the Northwest have enjoyed a very favorable seeding and have largely increased the area under wheat—probably from 15 to 20 per cent. more than last year's acreage. The favorable crop and prices of 1897 foreshadowed this, and with the latter at over \$1 per bushel the prairie wheat-grower hurried along the drill and dreamed of a golden harvest. Correspondents in our "Farm Gossip" department also report high prices for beef cattle, a natural result of the draining away of stockers to the U. S. last year.

In this issue we commence a seasonable and valuable treatise on the subject of "Fitting Dairy Stock for the Showing," by Mr. F. S. Peer, whose experience as a breeder, exhibitor, exporter, and judge of dairy cattle well qualifies him to advise with authority. For many years Mr. Peer has been a successful breeder of high-class Jerseys and Hackneys, and during recent years he has many times visited England and the Channel Islands, returning with large consignments of animals for himself and other breeders. It will be remembered, too, that for a number of autumns he has officiated as judge at the large Canadian exhibitions, including Toronto Industrial, Ottawa Central, and Montreal, and has many times attended the "Royal" and other leading shows in Great Britain, which has given him a large field for observation, so that it is safe to say that he knows whereof he affirms.

In the discussion of the vote of \$75,000 for carrying on the Dominion Experimental Farms, Hon. Mr. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, stated that there had been no definite change in policy, as he had not been able to give as much personal attention to the Experimental Farms as he was disposed to give, excepting that he had reorganized the work at Nappan, where more attention was being given to dairying. Slight changes had been made at the western farms, but in the main the work was going on at Brandon, Indian Head, and Agassiz much on the same line as hitherto. He also gave an account of the discovery of tuberculosis at the Central Farm at Ottawa last fall, when it was found that out of 55 head 26 were affected. These latter were disposed of, and a small additional amount will be put in the supplementary estimates to purchase new stock. The further announcement was made that as soon as a suitable man is found an Agricul-

turist will be appointed who will take charge specially of the farming operations, the production of crops and the treatment of soils. This will afford the Director (Dr. Saunders) relief from a great deal of heavy detail, and if the right man is chosen it will greatly strengthen the position of the Central Farm from the all-important standpoint of the general farmer and stock-raiser.

A Judging Arena at the Winnipeg Industrial.

One of the most important innovations at the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition this year is the substitution of one large judging arena for the several small scattered rings formerly used. The new ring is to be an oval about 400 feet long by 175 in width, the southern end being near the cattle barns. This large space is to be enclosed with a low, neat fence, and around the outside will be a row of seats for the accommodation of spectators. Light and heavy horses, beef and dairy cattle, will be judged within this enclosure, and with each animal wearing conspicuously a number corresponding to the live stock catalogue number, the animals on parade before the judges and the placing of awards can all be studied intelligently. We feel sure this feature will result in greatly increased interest in this the most important department of the fair. Of course much will depend on the correctness of the data in the catalogue and the proper numbering of the animals. It will be greatly in the interests of individual breeders and exhibitors to facilitate matters by furnishing the information asked for in the entry forms for the compilation of the catalogue, and see to it that the numbers are displayed on their animals while in the ring. Winnipeg is the first Canadian fair to introduce the one judging ring, although since the World's Fair, where the great live stock pavilion proved such a successful feature, several of the large State fairs have adopted the plan with gratifying results. From an educational point of view it is decidedly an advance step, and its success will greatly enhance the interest and value of the showing.

Cash Prizes for Live Stock at Omaha.

As was pointed out in May 2nd number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, it was the intention of the management of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition, to be held in Omaha, to offer medals only as prizes for live stock. On behalf of Canadian breeders who might, with fair treatment, be counted on as exhibitors there, we protested strongly against such a course, as did also the United States breeders and stock journals. Realizing the inevitable result, the Board of Directors of the Exposition have reconsidered their first position, and have now wisely resolved that cash premiums will be awarded. The following letter explains the situation:

OMAHA, NEB., May 13.—The protest of the stockmen of the west against the offer of medals as awards in the live stock department of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition has resulted in a unanimous decision of the Board of Directors to substitute cash for medals. Stockmen declare that this change will result in making the live stock section of the Exposition the greatest show of live stock ever held in the United States.

The matter was considered at a special meeting of the Board of Directors called to consider the matter yesterday afternoon. One of the arguments used in favor of cash premiums was that Kansas City was preparing for a livestock show, at which \$75,000 in cash prizes would be offered, and that at which \$75,000 in cash prizes would be offered, and that breeders of stock would not bring their animals to compete for medals. The stock yards and other stock interests of South Omaha and live stock associations throughout the State were fully represented at the meeting, and all expressed great satisfaction at the decision, saying that the action would result in bringing thousands of people to the Exposition who would not otherwise have come.

The resolution, which was adopted by the directors without a dissenting vote, was as follows:

Resolved, That this board hereby directs the executive committee to reconsider the subject of live stock premiums, and instructs the committee to offer cash prizes amounting to \$35,000 in place of medals.

In addition to the \$35,000 to be awarded by the directors under the terms of this resolution, the Union Stock Yards Company of South Omaha will contribute \$1,000 in cash to be awarded in prizes by the executive committee for cattle, hogs, and sheep. The announcement of this offer was made to the directors by General Manderson, representing the Stock Yards Company.

Constitutional Vigor in Stock.

A strong and robust constitution is the most essential quality in farm animals, for without this the best possibilities physically of any individual or race cannot be developed in a high degree. The great central idea that should dominate the mind and the methods of breeders of pure-bred stock should be by breeding and selection to secure, preserve, and perpetuate a strong and vigorous constitution in their animals of whatever class or breed. This is necessary in order to secure to the highest degree of health, the power to resist the incipient attacks of disease, and to throw off the effects of diseases of an epidemic or contagious character which may have gained a hold of the system. It is necessary to the most economical production of meat and milk, for the reason that the stronger the vital forces of heart and lungs the greater the capacity to consume food and assimilate its component elements in the form of flesh and fat, of blood and milk, of bone and hair of the best quality. These propositions, while they embrace the idea of the theory of natural breeding,—which is that of selection—a selection akin to natural selection, the outcome of which is the survival of the fittest,—are not mere theory, incapable of practical application, but may be carried to a successful issue by an intelligent use of nature's lessons and a determination to eliminate all but those factors and influences which are above the average. The only road to the general improvement of the breed lies through special improvement of the individual by intelligent and judicious mating of parents of the best obtainable quality and character. To this end, it is important in breeding to avoid everything tending to impair the constitution, and it should need no argument to convince any reasonable man that the way to obtain the best results in breeding is to seek to mate the best individual animals, irrespective of family lines or of pedigree, so long as the records show that they are purely bred and descended from healthy, vigorous, and prepotent ancestry. Were this not sound, then the whole idea embraced in the acknowledged law that like produces like would be a delusion. The aim is excellence; the law of nature is that excellence can only spring from antecedent excellence, and, as a consequence, we arrive at the safe rule of practice—that no inferior animal should ever be used, no matter how desirable his pedigree from the standpoint of the herd book, or of fashion or fad, as to color of hair or lines of breeding. A slavish pander to fad in breeding such as those referred to, it is well-known, threatened to wreck one of the best of the beef breeds of cattle a decade or two ago, and did work incalculable injury to the breed as a whole as well as individually, and though, thanks to wiser counsels and reasonable methods, it has largely rallied and recruited, it is a question whether the tendency is not again to drift into the same dangerous channel by a too imperious following of certain lines and families at the expense of size and robustness, and without sufficient care as to individual excellence of form, quality, and constitution. The important question is not whether Scotch or English, Bates, Booth or Orick-shank should predominate, but to breed the best to the best and avoid close affinities.

In some of the dairy breeds the idea of inbreeding and line breeding, and of being in a position to point to an abnormal percentage of the blood of a noted ancestor, is being carried to a dangerous limit, and, unless all the accepted laws of physiology are baseless and unsound, must have a damaging effect upon the physical constitution of the stock, resulting from such a course of breeding. It is well in selecting a bull to secure one whose dam and grandam have made large and well-attested records of milk and butter production, if he has, in addition to this connection, a strong and robust constitution, and comes tolerably near to the ideal