

SEED-GRAIN EXHIBITS AT AGRICULTURAL SHOWS.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The grain exhibit in connection with the agricultural shows was intended to stimulate the production of high-class seed grain. That it has not accomplished all for which its promoters hoped must be clear to nearly everyone who examines into the real situation. The prizes awarded for grain exhibits has already been inviting, and not so good as the importance of this part of an exhibition really demands. The Winter Fair boards and the Canadian Seed-growers' Association, by the prizes they are offering, are setting a pace for better things. As a result, at the Provincial Winter Fair at Guelph recently there was a battle royal between a good many grain exhibitors from various parts of the Province. But what is often true of exhibits at the local fairs was also noticeable at the Winter Fair, and that is, that some exhibits have not only done service for a number of fairs in one year, but have done service for a number of years in succession. A judge may not be absolutely sure that the grain he suspects is old seed, and the exhibitor of whom an affidavit might be requested is not usually present, yet appearances would indicate that it was old seed. Any judge who has judged seed for three or more years in succession at an exhibition knows the truth whereof I speak. There was evidence at the Winter Fair of the presence of old seed, from the dull color of some of it, and from the application of a little oil to brighten things up. There was evidence too, in a few exhibits, that the top of the exhibit was not a true exhibit of the quality of the bottom. Certainly some very good cleaning would be necessary in order that what the seed represented in the bin for sale would be up to the standard of the exhibit. It is some of these things that have been allowed to go by default who does discouraged many a well-intentioned exhibitor that does not believe in taking the trouble to pound all the ends off the oat hulls, or even hand-pick his exhibit to make the seed pure, and to make it uniform and weigh up well.

As all exhibits at the fall shows and seed fairs are judged from the standpoint of their utility for seeding purposes, and as each exhibit at the winter fairs and seed fairs is supposed to be representative of a certain amount in the bin, too much care can scarcely be taken to make a good fanning-mill selection, by screening out dirt, foul seeds and small seeds, so that the seed to be

sown will not only be pure, but plump, and, if possible, well matured. If these precautions are taken there will be fewer disappointments in the crops grown on our Ontario farms. The results of Prof. Zavitz, of the O. A. C., go to show that in most of the cereal crops almost a third more may be obtained in the use of such seed as I have described. To hand-select the plants, as is required in the practice of members of the C. S.-G. Association should give even better results. It will pay to try.

T. G. RAYNOR.

ABERDEEN - ANGUS BREEDERS MEET.

The seventh annual meeting of the Aberdeen-Angus Breeders' Society of Canada was held at the Commercial Hotel, Guelph, December 11th, 1907. Mr. Jas. Bowman, President, in the chair. The following members were present: S. Young (Vice-President), J. W. Burt (Secretary), Jas. Sharp, Jas. McLeod, David N. Dods, John Varcoe, A. McKinnon, P. A. Thomson, Jas. Binnie, Jas. Coke, John Lowe, T. B. Broadfoot, A. S. Forster, G. H. Whyte, A. W. McEwing, R. Murdoch, and others.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed. On motion by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mr. McKinnon, Mr. Varcoe and Mr. Young were appointed auditors. The books being audited, showed a balance on hand from last year of \$31.64, and a present balance on hand of \$36.64. On motion the report was adopted.

The following officers were then elected: President, John Varcoe; Vice-President, S. Young. Directors—Messrs. A. McKinnon, Jas. Sharp, Mr. Davis, and John Lowe.

"The Farmer's Advocate" is as essential to the success of the agriculturist as a good wife." I read the foregoing sentence to the mistress of the household, and she objected, to the extent that I should qualify it by "almost as essential," etc. A. L. C. Oxford Co., Ont.

His Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor of Manitoba has donated a Provincial challenge cup for plowing, to be annually competed for, and open to all members of agricultural societies and institutes in the Province of Manitoba.

PROGRAMME, NATIONAL LIVE-STOCK CONVENTION.

OTTAWA, FEBRUARY 5, 6, 7, 1908.

"British Columbia as a market for pure-bred stock," by Dr. S. F. Tolmie, Dominion Live-stock Branch, Victoria, B. C.

"The Live-stock Industry in Quebec," by Dr. J. A. Couture, Secretary Quebec Live-stock Association, Quebec. Discussion led by Hon. N. Garneau, President Quebec Stock-breeders' Association, Quebec.

"The Live-stock Industry in the Maritime Provinces," by Prof. Cumming, B.S.A., Principal Agricultural College, Truro, N. S. Discussion led by Theodore Ross, Secretary of Agriculture, Charlottetown, P.E.I.

"The Future of the Ranching Country and of the Live-stock Industry in the Prairie Provinces," by R. G. Matthews, Secretary Western Stock-growers' Association, Macleod, Alta. Discussion led by Robert Sinton, President Live-stock Association, Regina, Saskatchewan.

"The Best Means of Retaining for Canadian Breeders the Canadian Market for Pure-bred Stock," by John Gardhouse, Highfield, Ont. Discussion led by F. M. Logan, B.S.A., Secretary Live-stock Association, Victoria, B.C.

"Regulations Governing the Admission to Canada of Pure-bred Stock." Discussion led by Robert Miller, Stouffville, Ont.

"Our Export Trade."

(a) "Pure-bred Stock," by Hon. W. C. Edwards, Ottawa. Discussion led by Hon. John Dryden, Toronto.

(b) "Commercial Live-stock." Discussion led by Thos. McMillan, Seaforth, Ont. (c) "Dressed Meat."

"The Transportation Companies and the Live-stock Industry."

(a) "Commercial Live Stock," by H. C. McMullen, Live-stock Agent, Canadian Pacific Railway Co., Calgary, Alta. (b) "Pure-bred Live Stock," by Geo. H. Greig, Dominion Live-stock Branch, Winnipeg, Man.

"The Health of Canadian Live Stock and its Preservation," by Dr. A. G. Hopkins, Health of Animals Branch, Ottawa.

"The Scottish Premium System of Hiring Stallions," by John Graham, Carberry, Man. Discussion led by Robert Ness, Howick, Que.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

HENS AILING.

1. A large number of my hens are dying from something like rheumatism. They get so they can walk only a few steps at one time, till they have to sit down. This keeps getting worse for perhaps one or two weeks, when they can't walk at all, and, of course, soon die. All summer I have been losing odd ones, but since they have been confined to the house nearly all the time, the number has greatly increased, till today I have about a half a dozen laid up. They are well fed on good barley twice in the day, and ground oats and barley made into a mash at noon. They have also plenty of sand, roots, coal ashes, and good water to drink. I hold of one to-day that was just taking the complaint, and she is in good condition, and I think laying, and seems all right every other way.

2. I also have one or two with a hard growth on their tongue, which hinders their breathing so much that they keep their mouth open nearly all the time to breathe, and now and then seem to choke. H. S. P.

Ans.—1. The fowls in this case have been victims of, and are suffering from one or more of the numerous affections of the liver. All the trouble has been brought about by long-continued over-feeding of a diet with too little variation and want of exercise. The trouble was made more acute when the birds were shut up. As nothing is said as to the variety or age of the fowls, much is left to conjecture; but, whether pullets or hens, they have not been correctly treated. Mark you! it is much easier to manage pullets than hens, particularly if the latter are old. Pullets will stand treatment such as outlined by your correspondent much longer, without showing ill consequences, than older birds. What the remedy? If the hens are old, the best thing they can do is to die off. Treatment is seldom successful. If pullets, reduce and radically change the food. Cut out the barley, or very much lessen it. Give more green food. Variety in rations is more important than anything else. Kill off the old hens, and manage the remaining ones as shown in Bulletin 54, on the care and

management of poultry, which is sent with pleasure and without cost.

2. The latter ailment is probably "pip," due to the digestive organs being out of order. Avoid tearing off the dry, hard part of the tongue, which is frequently done, and is both unnecessary and cruel. A simple treatment is the frequent application of a solution of 15 or 20 drops of boric acid in a tablespoonful of water. The hard growth will probably come off. When coming off, moisten the tongue with a drop or two of glycerine. Pip is frequently a sign of bronchitis, pneumonia, catarrh, etc. Examine carefully. Or, the heavy breathing may be caused by canker, in which case the boric acid will be timely.

A lot of trouble this, is it not? Would it not be far better to prevent disease by proper housing and treatment; in other words, a thorough knowledge of poultry keeping? In the case of properly-kept fowls there is no disease. Disease is a consequence. There should be no disease. A. G. GILBERT.

RAILWAY POSITIONS.

To whom should I apply for a business position with the G. T. P. Railroad, or the Temiskaming and N. O. R. R.?

Ans.—Chas. M. Hays, General Manager, G. T. R., Montreal, and Chairman, Temiskaming and Northern Ontario Railway Commission, Toronto, Ont.

WORK ON BOOKKEEPING.

I shall be glad if you will let me know whether I can obtain "The Simple Method of Bookkeeping for Farmers, Market Gardeners, etc.," by K. W. Kersey, Lecturer in Bookkeeping at the South-eastern Agricultural College, W. of E., Kent, in Canada? If so, give the book-seller's name. SUBSCRIBER.

Ans.—We do not think the book is on the market in Canada, but you can secure a copy through this office, at 50c.

PLANK-FRAME BARN.

Am thinking of building a plank-frame barn 40 x 60 feet, and would like instructions as to size and material of scantlings, quantities; also, if spruce timber would answer the purpose.

1. What has been the experience of your readers with them?

2. Is there a book on the subject?

3. Would a 14 inch concrete wall carry such a barn? J. B.

Ans.—1. Will our readers reply to this question?

2. Yes; "Plank-frame Barns"; price, 55 cents; order through this office.

3. Yes.

GOSSIP.

Some high-class Holstein bull calves are being offered at very reasonable figures in this issue. See advertisement of Mr. W. A. Bryant, Cairngorm, Ont.

Messrs. Lloyd-Jones Bros., Burford, Ont., write: "In your account of the winnings at Chicago, you give Mr. Campbell second prize on ewe lamb, whereas we won second. We also won two fifth prizes on shearing ram and ewe, American bred."

MILK AND BEEF.

In discussing the question of breeding for the combination of the two great qualities of milk and beef, a writer in an English exchange says: "There is no reason why these two qualities should not be combined, not only in individual animals, but in a herd. That there is a difficulty we all agree, but now that the Shorthorn is in a transition state is the time to make the attempt and to fix up a type of cattle that will possess both qualities in a marked degree. There are plenty of non-pedigree Shorthorns that give twenty quarts of milk a day, or more, and are at the same time possessed of superior feeding qualities. Some of the Scotch families have good milking properties, and if crossed with animals of Bates blood, which also have good milking qualities, and then crossing the produce with a good-bred Cumberland sire, a really good dual-purpose Shorthorn should be the result, and by breeding on these lines a really good beef-and-milk herd ought to be maintained. If once a few good cows of that type could be bred, and the greatest of care and best of judgment taken and used in the selection of sires, good results must follow. It is most important for the future welfare of the Shorthorn that the milking properties should be studied. Any man who owns a herd of well-descended, good-milking cattle has a most valuable asset. He has two strings to his bow, and is independent of the foreign demand. He has the opportunity

of making a good return from his milk, either by way of buttermaking or milk-selling, and there is a demand for his young bulls from farmers at home; and the home demand must never be lost sight of, for it is far more to be relied upon than the foreign, and should be given the first consideration. We have more good-milking pedigree Shorthorns now than we had formerly, and the prices they realize in a sale, compared with those of the purely-beef type, provided their pedigree is a good one, is very much in their favor.

DOGS, NO DOB REASON.

The dog is, no doubt, the most intelligent of our domestic animals, and I yield to none in my affection for him. I can almost eat and sleep with a fine dog winter and summer. But I try not to deceive myself about his intelligence. It seems to me that if the dog had the least spark of wit akin to our own—that is, power of reason—his long association with man would have fanned it into a flame, however small. But, after all these thousands of years of human companionship and love, he has less wit in some respects than his wild brothers, the fox and the wolf. Having been spared the struggle to live that falls to their lot, his cunning and sagacity have deteriorated. The same is true of the horse, which has less intelligence than the wild stallion of the plains, and for the same reason. These animals do not grow wiser as they grow less wild. They do not civilize or develop. We train them into certain ways that make them serviceable to us; we humanize them without adding to their mental capacity. In other words, we cannot cross intelligence upon theirs and make it fruitful in them. The germ will not take.

BOOK REVIEW.

"A Study in Health Science" is the somewhat ambitious title of a well-printed little work, written by M. J. Keane, M. D. (Ontario and Alberta), and published by the Telephone City Publishing Co., of Brantford, Ont. It is a long departure from the old "family-doctor book," which often proved so useful before physicians became plentiful, and lays emphasis upon the part played by the will, rational living and abstinence in the preservation of health.