

find satisfactory judges? It must be confessed, that on the standing and character of the judges, and on the amount of confidence the public, and particularly the exhibitors, have in their fitness and impartiality, depends in a great measure the success of all such undertakings. How often have we heard exhibitors affirm that, unless better judges were appointed another year, they would not exhibit again.

Our remarks are intended to apply more especially to the Judges of Live Stock.

Let us consider first. What are the qualifications necessary to entitle a man to be appointed to the honourable and responsible position of judge? honourable it should be, as he is specially selected from among his confrères to fill a position of trust, in which his honour and impartiality are relied upon; responsible it certainly is, as not only is he intrusted with the disposal of public funds in the shape of prizes, but his awards have a far more important bearing on the value of the animals submitted to his judgment. In the first place, he should be a man of unimpeachable integrity—a man whose word is as good as his bond—he should be familiar with the class of animals which he is to judge; he should not be an exhibitor, nor the intimate friend of an exhibitor.

A very common popular error exists, that a person who is "a good judge of horses" as the term is generally used, one who knows a good horse from a bad one, is capable of judging any class or breed which may be brought before him, and too often executive committees entertain the same views, and the consequence is that the same judges decide the relative merits of all the different classes, the absurdity of which is apparent to all who are really connoisseurs of the different breeds. Thus we may find a man who, from long experience and careful study, has become an adept in judging Clydesdale horses, with their wide chests and quarters, large hairy legs, thick round shoulder and barrel, who would, were he to carry his ideal of points of excellence to the class of thoroughbreds, make such blunders as would render him ridiculous. The different breeds are so characteristic, and so different from each other, that it is rare indeed to find a man who can correctly and satisfactorily adjudicate between them.

The same remarks hold good in cattle, sheep, swine, and poultry, as well. Thus, what judge of Short-horns would undertake to judge Jerseys? in which the points are so diametrically opposite; each breed has its own peculiarities in conformation and distinctive characters of the breed—and these are subjects of special study—and it is rare indeed to find a person sufficiently well versed on all, and sufficiently free from the prejudices of his fancy, to entitle him to be considered a judge of each breed. So with poultry; the enthusiasm of poultry fanciers, and their predilection for their own special breed, is such that they ignore any good points in others; and it is a fact, that, on the whole American Continent there are only a very few men who are recognized as competent to judge all breeds—and these men make it a study and a business.

How then should judges be selected? If we are right in attaching so much importance to the judges as to look upon them as a very important element in the success of an exhibition, it is clear that nothing should come in the way of procuring the best to be found. If we are right, that they should not be exhibitors, nor friends of exhibitors, then we must invite them from a distance. If men cannot be found to judge all classes correctly, then by all means get men who are specialists for each class, and pay them for their time and trouble. We are not sure but it would be the better plan to have but one efficient judge in each class, a stranger, well paid who would be free from all local, friendly, or poli-

tical leanings. (1) How are such men to be found? very easily! let the permanent Exhibition Committee appoint a standing committee of three, whose special business shall be to discover good judges, and with power to invite them—by communicating with the executive of other exhibitions in Canada and the United States, a list of experts for all classes could be kept, which plan would save an immense amount of trouble, and certainly prove more satisfactory than the present penny-wise system of confining our selection to the province—which of necessity involves questions of friendship and politics, and the appointment, in many cases, of men who have no special qualifications for the positions they are invited to fill.

The position of the judges is by no means an enviable one, and we know of no volunteer service in the public interest which is not only so utterly thankless, but which submits them to so much inconsiderate abuse.

The public should bear in mind that the judges are gentlemen who sacrifice their time to act as umpires; that they are on their honour, and it is very foolish to suppose that three men, who after careful examination and consultation together agree to an award, have any motive but to do justice to the best of their knowledge. If their knowledge is defective, it is not their fault, but the fault of the system under which they are appointed. It should be understood, too, that the executive in no case interferes with the awards of the judges; no one guides them; no one dictates to them; and the only advice they are allowed to take is that of the *Referee* who may be called in in cases of dispute as to age or soundness.

The rule for punishing any exhibitor using insulting language to or interfering with the decision of the judges or referees, by expelling them from the grounds and preventing them from exhibiting for a year, should be enforced in all cases. The judgement of the public collected around a horse ring is far more apt to be erroneous than that of the men who are engaged in a close, critical examination and comparison; more especially when they remember that they cannot know all the circumstances which lead to the decision of the judges: thus we remember assisting as a judge at a Western exhibition, where a very fine pair of carriage horses were competing in the ring, which for style and action were decidedly entitled to the premium, but to the disappointment of the on-lookers, no prize was awarded! It was then explained to the bystanders that one of the horses was ornamented with a false tail, and the other had a white star *dyed*! It will thus be seen that outsiders should not find fault with judgements of which they do not know the moving causes.

A word in closing to the judges may perhaps not be out of place here.

Judges should not themselves discuss the merits of animals with their owners, nor should they allow themselves to be talked to on the grounds by owners or their employés so as to avoid the very suspicion of collusion. They should in all cases insist on the ring, during judging, being kept clear of any but themselves and necessary assistants. In all classes, they should practise arriving at conclusions by comparison of points, age, sex, size, weight, colour, conformation; condition, action, and soundness, being carefully considered, and in all cases of dispute or uncertainty as to age or soundness, they should call in the referee of their class.

The judge with trotting proclivities should distinguish between the six-mile an-hour action of the carriage pair and the whirlwind like rush of the trotter or trotting roadster.

In all cases of mares and stallions, diseases or conformation of a hereditary nature should be specially objected to, as the judges ought to remember that the awarding of a pre-

(1) The plan has answered well in England and Scotland.